

# Yad Vashem Jerusalem

QUARTERLY MAGAZINE, VOL. 73, April 2014

## **Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day 2014**

**Jews "On the Edge"**

**1944: Between Annihilation and Liberation**

Published by:  
**Yad Vashem** 

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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 

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# Jews “On

## Prof. Dina Porat

■ Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day 5774 (2014) is marked by the situation of the Jews in 1944 – exactly 70 years ago. The expression “on the edge,” taken from Nathan Alterman's poem “Joy of the Poor,” very aptly expresses the feeling which prevailed that year among the Jews of Europe, who were in the throes of a double race on which their very lives depended. On the one hand, cities from east to west, such as Vilna and Minsk, Warsaw and Riga, Belgrade and Sofia, Paris and Rome, were

It was a year in which everything depended on the scales of time, and the Jews remaining in Europe were asking themselves: will the Red Army from the east and the Allies from the west arrive before the Germans come to murder whoever is still alive?

being liberated from the yoke of Nazi Germany; the Red Army was advancing, and the western Allies continued to bombard Germany, their landing in Normandy tipping the scales still further. On the other hand, in the same year, the Jews of Hungary were sent to Auschwitz, the Lodz and Kovno ghettos were liquidated, the last of their former inmates were deported and murdered, and death marches were initiated from the liberated territories to the heart of what remained of the “Third Reich.” It was a year in which everything depended on the scales of time, and the Jews remaining in Europe were asking themselves: will the Red Army from the east and the Allies from the west arrive before the Germans come to murder whoever is still alive? Or, as Alterman wrote, which ending will come first? Events were occurring fast, one after the other, raising serious questions in their wake.

# the Edge”

## 1944: Between Annihilation and Liberation

The Central Theme for Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Day 2014



■ Selection on the ramp, Birkenau, Poland, 27 May 1944



■ The crowds greet the liberating armies, Paris, France, 25 August 1944

In March 1944, the Germans invaded Hungary and immediately commenced preparations for the swiftest and most organized deportation any Jewish community had ever witnessed: from the middle of May, over 430,000 Jews from Hungary were sent almost exclusively to Auschwitz, where the vast majority was murdered in the space of two months. A ray of light that year was the beginning of the return of the remnant of those exiled to Transnistria, a region in southern Ukraine where conditions were among the most horrific. At around the same time, Zionist youth, other Jewish activists and neutral diplomats stepped up their rescue activities in Budapest, ultimately contributing to the survival of over 100,000 Hungarian Jews. However, in June, Jews from the Greek island of Corfu were rounded up and deported, and in July, the Kovno ghetto in Lithuania was liquidated. Nazi ideology, which was centered around the burning desire to kill every single Jewish individual, dictated such efforts even in the final year of the war, when the Germans needed every means at their disposal to fight at the front, including the urgent requirement for trains to bring them equipment and arms, and for every pair of hands that could still work to produce weapons that would turn the tide of the war in their favor.

Nazi ideology, which was centered around the burning desire to kill every single Jewish individual, dictated such efforts even in the final year of the war, when the Germans needed every means at their disposal to fight at the front

In June, the “Auschwitz Protocols” were disseminated around the world. This detailed account, written by Rudolf Vrba and Alfred Wetzler, two young Jews who managed to escape from the infamous concentration and death camp, exposed for the first time the central role of the camp in the extermination system. Shortly afterwards, with the liberation of Majdanek, the hard labor and death camp near Lublin, actual gas chambers were revealed for

the first time. The industrialization of murder, the technology that acted in the service of Nazi ideology, the ability to commit crimes of such enormity in secret and over such a long period of time – all of them still deeply disturbing – were finally exposed. Following these events, the Jewish jurist Raphael Lemkin coined the phrase “genocide” in 1944, and participated in the drafting of a UN resolution for its prevention, approved in 1948.

In October, an uprising in Auschwitz was staged by the *Sonderkommando*, the group of Jewish prisoners tasked with the unspeakable job of handling the bodies of the murdered victims. They blew up one of the gas chambers with the help of explosives smuggled in to them by a group of young Jewish women. The question we must ask ourselves is, from where did these men and women, imprisoned in this indescribable place, draw the strength to organize, band together, choose the right moment, and actually hope to succeed?

These events are at the heart of the tension between annihilation and liberation, a tension that was literally a question of life and death for the Jews at that time, who were living on the very edge.

*The author is Yad Vashem’s Chief Historian.*

# Torchlighters 2014

Compiled by Ehud Amir

## Zvi Michaeli

■ **Zvi Michaeli was born in Thessaloniki (Salonika) in 1917, as Simantov (Saby) Mahel.** His father Shimshon was a trader and building contractor, his mother Esther a homemaker. Zvi had three older sisters as well as a younger brother, Tsadiko. Zvi attended a French school; his knowledge of French would eventually save his life.

On 11 July 1942, a fateful day later known as “Black Sabbath,” all Jewish men aged 19–45 were ordered to appear at Freedom Square in downtown Salonika. Zvi was among the 9,000 Jews made to stand in his Shabbat clothes under the blazing sun, sustaining humiliation and beatings from German soldiers. Salonika Jews were then ordered to wear yellow badges on their clothing; they were forced out of their homes and their property was confiscated.

On 7 April 1943, Zvi’s family was deported to Auschwitz. It was the last time Zvi saw his brother Tsadiko. Although he never gave up hope of finding Tsadiko, in 1997 Zvi filled out a

Page of Testimony in his memory. At Auschwitz, Zvi was separated from the rest of his family; his parents and two older sisters, Myriam and Eleonora, were murdered that day. His sister Julie was killed some four months later. Zvi was transferred to the Buna Monowitz camp (Auschwitz III) and put to various kinds of backbreaking labor.

In February 1944, Zvi fell ill and was sent to the hospital in Auschwitz. Thanks to his knowledge of French, he befriended Dr. Shymon Lubitz, a Polish Jew who had studied medicine in France and who saved him from the gas chambers.

In January 1945, Zvi was sent on a death march. He and other prisoners were marched on foot to the Gleiwitz train station in eastern Germany and then rode in open train carriages



for nine days to Dora-Mittelbau. Zvi had managed to preserve some 20 photographs of his family and friends, but in March 1945, when he was imprisoned at the Ellrich camp in Germany, the photographs were discovered and confiscated.

On 8 April 1945, Zvi arrived in Bergen-Belsen in a state of severe malnutrition. On 15 April, the camp was liberated by the British army: “I had no strength to cheer. I was too weak to rejoice and too tired to be excited.” Zvi was hospitalized in Celle, and then taken to Sweden for rehabilitation. On the ship to Sweden he met his future wife, Elvira, a fellow Auschwitz survivor. In November 1949, the couple arrived in Israel.

In the early 1990s, Zvi began accompanying groups of schoolchildren traveling to Poland to tell his story. He also gives lectures to students and IDF soldiers about his life during the Holocaust.

Zvi and Elvira, z”l, raised a daughter and have three grandchildren.

## Hinda Tasman

■ **Hinda Tasman (née Nachamchik) was born in Minsk, Belarus in 1929, the middle of seven siblings.** Her father Eli owned a bakery and worked as a builder and metalworker. Her mother Taybe (Tova) ran the small family farm, and on market days sold fruit, eggs and milk.

In July 1941, after Germany invaded the Soviet Union, the Jews of Minsk were incarcerated in a ghetto. Almost every night Germans entered the ghetto and murdered entire families. One night in November, German soldiers entered the Nachamchik family home and shot every member of the family. Hinda survived because her father concealed her with his body.

For some time, Hinda hid in the home of her cousins and neighbors, the Rubenchiks. She collected various items from the homes of murdered Jews and smuggled them out of the ghetto for food, bringing back supplies at enormous risk to her life. When the ghetto was

struck with a typhus epidemic, Hinda fell ill but somehow survived.

In April 1943, following in the footsteps of her aunt Yocha (Yocheved), Hinda escaped from the ghetto and went into hiding in one of the villages near Minsk. Several weeks later, she was recruited by a partisan unit under the command of Shalom (Simcha) Zorin, which operated in the nearby forests. As Hinda was considered to look non-Jewish, her first mission was to return to the ghetto and, together with her friend Ida Zukerman, smuggle people – including entire families – out to the partisans’ camp some 30 kilometers away. Hinda would infiltrate the ghetto, either slipping through the barbed wire or concealing herself among workers returning from the various factories beyond the fence. Each time she brought out dozens of Jews, among them doctors, who brought medications and medical equipment into the partisans’ camp, as well as younger people who became

fighters. In addition, Hinda smuggled out medicines, bandages, food and valuables to be exchanged for food in the nearby villages. She also collected “loose” weapons and ammunition at German army encampment sites, as well as Soviet weapons left behind during the Red Army’s rapid retreat in the summer of 1941.

After the war, Hinda returned to Minsk and enrolled at a night school while working at a local sewing factory. In May 1947, during Victory Day festivities, she met Boris Tasman – a war veteran and machine technician – and married him two months later. The couple moved to Poland, and then immigrated to Israel in 1959.

Hinda and Boris have two sons, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



In 1944, Itzchak was sent by train to Botoșani, Romania, and placed in an orphanage. Later, he was adopted by a Soviet artillery battalion. When the soldiers were ordered to turn him away, Itzchak made his way to Czernowitz and found his father Benjamin, whom he had never met before, as well as his half-sister, Tova (Gita)

## Asher Aud

■ Asher Aud was born in 1928 in Zdunska Wola, Poland as Anshel Sieradzki, to Shmuel Hirsh Sieradzki, a tailor, and his wife Jocheved. Asher had an older brother, Berl, and a younger brother, Gabriel.

In the spring of 1940, a ghetto was established in the town and Asher's family was ordered to move there. At first, Jews were allowed to go outside the ghetto for two hours every day, but in September the ghetto was fenced and sealed. The Germans carried out a number of *aktionen* in the ghetto; in one of these, Shmuel and Berl were taken away.

In August 1942, the ghetto was liquidated and the remaining Jews sent to the Jewish cemetery; some were murdered en route, including many babies. The Germans held the Jews at the cemetery for two days without food or water. Asher stayed close to his mother and brother. The Jews were forced to walk between two rows of German soldiers who took turns beating them. At the end of the row, the stronger

ones were separated from those who were weaker. "Instinctively, I told my mother, 'Here is where we part,'" Asher recalls. The 14-year-old was directed to a group set to work at the Lodz ghetto. Jocheved and Gabriel were deported to Chelmno and murdered.

In Lodz, Asher foraged for food in garbage heaps and worked at a factory making straw shoes. He fell ill with typhus but recovered.

In August 1944, the Lodz ghetto was liquidated and Asher was deported to Auschwitz. After "selection" and "disinfection," Asher found his brother Berl, who helped him procure food. Berl and his friends helped Asher survive two *aktionen*, and he was put to work disassembling airplanes and cars.

In January 1945, Asher was sent on a death march. He survived Mauthausen and



Gunskirchen. After liberation, he reached Italy with the assistance of the Jewish Brigade.

In November 1945, Asher immigrated to Israel. He studied at an agricultural school, joined the Haganah, and took part in the War of Independence. After being discharged, he moved to Jerusalem and began working for Israel Military Industries. Asher is now retired, but volunteers within various frameworks assisting Holocaust survivors.

Following his visit to Poland in 1993, Asher became involved in commemorating the destroyed Jewish community of Zdunska Wola. At the unveiling ceremony of a monument in their memory, he told his life story for the first time. He now shares his experiences with educational groups, students and soldiers. To date, he has accompanied dozens of youth and IDF groups traveling to Poland.

Asher and Chaya Aud have three children and 13 grandchildren.

## Itzchak Biran

■ Itzchak Biran (Birnbbaum) was born in 1935 in the Romanian village of Drăcineț. His mother, Clara Held, and his father, Benjamin Birnbbaum, divorced around the time of Itzchak's birth. In June 1941, Itzchak was staying with his uncle, Zelick Held, in the town of Bobivtsi. The night after the Soviet troops retreated, the locals murdered all of the Jews in the village, among them Itzchak's aunt Etel. Itzchak and Zelick hid in the corn fields near her house. The next day, Zelick was also captured and murdered.

As Itzchak was being deported by cart to Transnistria, he ran away in Czernowitz and made his way to his mother's house. In late 1941, Itzchak and Clara were deported to the Mogilev-Podolsk ghetto near the Dniester River, where Itzchak fell ill with typhoid fever. Clara nursed him to recovery, but contracted typhus herself and died in January 1942. Itzchak joined up with a group of Jews hiding in the forests, and helped them by stealing food and goods

from the villagers, as well as from factories and trucks loaded with sugar beets. He was sometimes caught and punished by Ukrainian policemen.

In 1944, Itzchak was sent by train to Botoșani, Romania, and placed in an orphanage. Later, he was adopted by a Soviet artillery battalion. When the soldiers were ordered to turn him away, Itzchak made his way to Czernowitz and found his father Benjamin, whom he had never met before, as well as his half-sister, Tova (Gita), born in 1941.

In late 1945, the family moved to the city of Bytom, Poland, where Itzchak joined the Dror youth movement and received a strong Zionist education. After attempting to immigrate to Israel in 1947 on the famous *Exodus* ship with peers from the Dror youth movement, Itzchak eventually arrived in April 1948. He was sent to Afula and then to Kibbutz Ein Harod, where he was integrated among children born at the kibbutz.

In 1953, Itzchak joined the IDF. He became a pilot in the Israeli Air Force, commanded a squadron during the Six Day War, and took part in numerous secret missions. After retiring from the IDF, Itzchak



worked as a pilot and aircraft inspector for El Al. In 2000, he went on his last flight – to Warsaw and back: "For me, this was a kind of closure." In recent years, Itzchak has been working for a new project entitled "From Survival to the Skies," aimed at collecting testimonies from IAF veterans who are Holocaust survivors, and integrating their life stories in the teaching curriculum at the Air Force Academy.

Itzchak and Zlila Biran have three daughters, five grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

# Torchlighters 2014



## Dita Kraus

■ Edith (Dita) Kraus (née Polach) was born in 1929 in Prague, a single child of law professor Dr. Hans Polach and his wife Elisabeth. When Germany occupied and annexed de facto the Czech lands (calling them “the Protectorate of Bohemia-Moravia”) in March 1939, Dita’s father was fired from his job. In September, as Germany invaded Poland, Dita’s parents sent her to the countryside, “till the storm blows over,” but in 1940 brought her back to Prague and set up private tutors for her.

In November 1942, Dita and her parents were deported to Terezin. Dita was placed in a separate block for young girls and assigned to agricultural work. At the end of the working day she would often visit her grandmother, Katharina.

Despite extremely crowded living conditions, sparse food and heavy workloads, the ghetto maintained a broad variety of educational and cultural activities, including lessons and lectures. Among the teachers was Fredy Hirsch, a charismatic sports instructor, whom she had met in Prague. Hirsch organized sporting

events and educated his students in the spirit of human values, mutual responsibility and pride in their Jewish identity. Among other activities, Dita sang in an opera production staged in the ghetto and took classes with Friedl Dicker-Brandeis, a talented painter who encouraged the young girls to express their feelings through art.

In December 1943, Dita and her parents were sent to Auschwitz and placed in the camp for Czech families at Birkenau. Dita’s mother soon took ill and was put in isolation. Six weeks later, Dita’s father died, and it fell upon Dita to notify her mother by “shouting the bitter news to her through the wall.”

Dita served as librarian in the block set up for children in Birkenau, with only a handful of books. Fredy Hirsch ran the children’s block, creating a network of Zionist instructors who



filled their young charges’ time with educational and cultural activities. One of these young educators was Otto (Ota) Kraus, Dita’s future husband.

In March 1944, half of the children living at the children’s block were murdered, and their beloved Fredy Hirsch also died. In May, Dita and her mother were sent to Hamburg, Germany, where they were put to back-breaking labor. From Hamburg, the two women were transported to labor camps, and then in March 1945 to Bergen-Belsen, which was liberated several weeks later by the British Army.

Following her mother’s death in June, Dita returned to Prague, where she was reunited with her aunt, her grandmother (who had survived Terezin), and Otto Kraus. The two married and began a family, and in 1949 immigrated to Israel with their eldest son. For some 30 years, both Otto and Dita taught at the Hadassim Youth Village.

Dita and Otto raised three children. They have four grandchildren.

## Chayim Herzl

■ Chayim Herzl (Salgo) was born in 1937 in Budapest, Hungary, the only child of Reuven (Rudolf) and Eugenia (Geni) Salgo, née Herzl.

In 1943, Reuven was taken to a labor camp outside Budapest. “My mother and I went to visit my father at the camp,” Chayim recalled. “My hand was small, and I was able to pass some food to him through the fence. That was the last time I saw him. Years later I learned that he had been taken for forced labor as part of the Hungarian army fighting on the Eastern front. He died just days before the end of the war on a POW death march.”

When Ferenc Szálasi came to power in Hungary in October 1944, gangs of Arrow Cross militias began murdering thousands of Jews in the streets of Budapest. In December 1944, some 100,000 Jews of the city were concentrated in a ghetto. Chayim and his mother remained outside the ghetto. One night, Arrow Cross men came to their house and took his mother

away. Chayim hid under the bed. He never saw his mother again.

Several days later, his aunt Zerel arrived. She and her husband Simson had been given safe haven at the Swiss Embassy in Budapest. Zerel managed to procure documents that allowed Chayim to be admitted to an orphanage, but he refused to go and instead moved with Simson’s mother, Golda Gruber, into one of the homes that enjoyed Swiss diplomatic protection through the efforts of Righteous Among the Nations Raoul Wallenberg and other diplomats.

In January 1945, some of the Jews living in these protected homes were murdered. “They took us out into a large garden on the bank of the Danube and arranged us in two rows. I was standing in the row closest to the water’s edge. The Hungarians and the Germans shot every person standing in that line... An old man told me: ‘You are still young, try to run,’ and that is what I did... I ran quickly... They shot at me but I managed to get to the back row.” The next day,

another *aktion* occurred, but Chayim was placed in the back row. That night, the Soviet Army entered Budapest and liberated the city.

After the war, Zerel and Simson Gruber adopted Chayim. In 1947, he immigrated to Israel and was adopted by his uncle, Simcha Herzl. He became a rabbi and married Dvora, and the couple settled in Kibbutz Sa’ad in southern Israel. Chayim became editor of the Bnei Akiva magazine, and served as the European emissary of the global Bnei Akiva movement, helping new immigrants come to and settle in Israel.

Chayim and Dvora have six children and 19 grandchildren.



*The author works in the Commemoration and Public Relations Division.*

# Locket of Love: Transnistria, 1944

Michael Tal

■ Seventy years ago, in March 1944, Mișu Wolf, a Jewish inmate at the Râbnița prison in Transnistria, made a locket for his girlfriend Sali Buium. The locket was inscribed with the date, 8 March 1944, and adorned with a drawing expressing his hope for a speedy liberation. Wolf managed to send his gift to his beloved, but 11 days later he was murdered. Sali gave the precious locket, among other mementos, to Yad Vashem during a meeting with Haviva Peled-Carmeli, z"l, then-Director of Yad Vashem's Artifacts Department in the Museums Division.

Peled-Carmeli had been on a trip to Romania to collect Shoah-related artifacts. Among those recovered were items made by inmates at the Vapniarca camp in Transnistria, including a unique album of drawings by Gabriel Cohen illustrating daily life at the camp and portraits of the camp's inmates. Upon returning to Israel, Peled-Carmeli met with former Vapniarca inmates in order to learn more about the camp and identify the people portrayed in the album. The survivors described the terrible conditions there: Jews were punished for "participating in communist activities," and the food contained a poisonous legume that caused paralysis and severe kidney disease among many prisoners. In the wake of the first meeting with Vapniarca survivors, a series of other interviews were organized. It was at one of these meetings that Peled-Carmeli met Sali Abramovitz, née Buium.



■ Pendant made by Mișu Wolf while in Râbnița prison as a gift for his girlfriend Sali Buium, who was incarcerated in the Vapniarca camp. Yad Vashem Artifacts Collection. Gift of Sali (Buium) Abramovitz, Haifa

Born in Botoșani, Romania, Buium joined the anti-fascist movement before WWII in reaction to the increasing antisemitic actions of the fascist Iron Guard. In September 1942, Buium was deported to Vapniarca among a large group of Jews accused of communism. During her incarceration, Buium and Wolf fell in love, and dreamed of raising a family in a better world. However, in late 1943 the two were separated as Wolf and other Vapniarca prisoners were sent to Râbnița.

In early 1944, as the Russian front approached, Wolf began working on the locket. The small wooden box, engraved with the name Sali, holds a medallion portraying a prison inmate and bears the date, 8.3.1944, and the word "Râbnița." On the back of the medallion is a watch showing the time – five minutes to twelve, symbolizing the approaching day of freedom.

Wolf managed to send the precious memento to his beloved from prison, and the gift made it into Buium's hands. On the night of 19-20 March, as the Germans began to retreat, Râbnița prison guards murdered all of the young inmates, among them Mișu Wolf. Buium was transported from camp to camp until she was liberated in August 1944. In 1945, she married Sandu Abramovitz, and they immigrated to Israel in 1977.

*The author is Curator, Deputy Director of the Museums Division and Director of the Artifacts Department.*

## Silent Witnesses: New Book on Yad Vashem's Artifacts Collection

■ *"The violin is the soul of a person. If you take a person's violin, you take their soul. The boy perished and the violin remained. I am certain that you will take good care of this child's soul."*

Violinist Shlomo Mintz, who played the violin that belonged to Motele, a young boy murdered in the Holocaust

For many years, most survivors were unaware of the national value of the simple items they kept at home from the war years: a comb, a scrap of paper, a doll, a drawing or a sewing kit. To them, these items were milestones of their personal journey, tiny mementos of family members murdered and of communities destroyed. Some survivors came to Yad Vashem



of their own accord, offering to donate the items in their possession in order to protect them and allow them to be shared by future generations. Other artifacts were sought out, painstakingly gathered and lovingly restored.

That is how Motele's violin, a Chanukah menorah that stood on a window sill in Nazi Germany, a recipe book put together by women inmates at Ravensbrück

and thousands of other personal items from the Holocaust period became symbols of the victory of the human spirit.

*Silent Witnesses: The Stories Told by Artifacts in the Yad Vashem Collection* (Heb.), published just weeks after the untimely passing of Artifacts Department Director Haviva Peled-Carmeli, presents the stories behind the artifacts – seemingly mundane and unimportant objects, whose importance is magnified far beyond their personal, psychological and historical value. They are indeed "silent witnesses," communicating the fragments of lives cut short and shards of memory crying out to be preserved, which together tell the myriad stories that make up the Shoah.

# Education

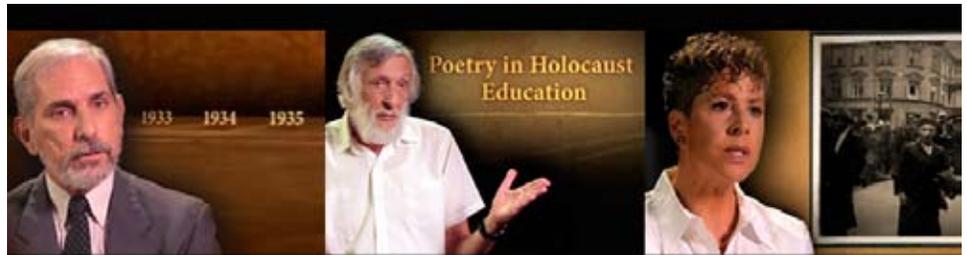
## New “Video Toolbox” Offers Range of Lessons on the Holocaust

### Jonathan Clapsaddle

■ The Holocaust Education Video Toolbox (HEVT), due to be officially launched this July at the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Holocaust Education, is the first video portal designed specifically for Holocaust teachers and educators as well as interested learners, offering short, hands-on videos on how to teach the Holocaust.

The video portal, an integral part of the Yad Vashem website, went live in December 2013 in advance of International Holocaust Remembrance Day in order to maximize exposure to educators worldwide. Ranging from introductory topics like “What is the Holocaust?” to more advanced subjects such as “Poetry in Holocaust Education,” the Toolbox provides practical videos for educators who might have a wealth of information available to them, but feel unsure where to begin. Throughout the development of this project, staff at the International School for Holocaust Studies continuously tried to answer the question: What specific tools do teachers in this field need?

Starting from the fundamentals of Holocaust education, the HEVT features videos on the basics of Holocaust history and on Yad Vashem’s pedagogical approach, alongside practical videos on existing online and print materials, using



testimony films in the classroom, and more. Each video is accompanied by a brief description and outline of its pedagogical objectives, so teachers can tell at a glance whether a video is relevant for them. Each video page also features a variety of related teaching aids, including lesson plans, lexicon entries, testimonies, additional videos, articles and online exhibitions. All videos are around 10 minutes in length, and each video is divided into short, two- to three-minute chapters, so they can be easily shared and referenced for later use. As much as possible, these chapters were designed to operate in a modular fashion, allowing them to be viewed on their own as well as in the context of a full Toolbox item.

The HEVT is an ongoing project, currently in its second year. The first pilot year saw six specially-produced videos, and the website is



expected to include several new videos by the end of 2014.

Visit the Holocaust Education Video Toolbox at: [www.yadvashem.org/videotoolbox](http://www.yadvashem.org/videotoolbox)

*The Holocaust Education Video Toolbox is supported through the generosity of Jan and Rick Cohen, USA.*

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

## New Holocaust Program for Israeli Educational System Yael Richler Friedman

■ Each year, in advance of Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Day, as well as 10 Tevet (the day on which Jews mourn those with unknown dates of death) and International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Israeli children, from kindergarten to twelfth grade, are exposed to a range of Holocaust-related materials and images at school and in their communities. Unfortunately, even with the best of intentions, some of these materials are unsuitable for the child’s cognitive and emotional abilities, and can often leave traces of trauma and distress that may take years to reverse.

In advance of this year’s Holocaust Remembrance Day, Israel’s Education Minister Rabbi Shay Piron called for a new, comprehensive syllabus in Holocaust education. Based on the decade-long experience of the International School for Holocaust Studies in creating age-appropriate and historically accurate materials for school-age children, staff at the International School and the Education Ministry’s

Pedagogic Section have worked together to build a nationwide program in Holocaust education for Israel’s school system. The manager of the project is Director of Teacher Training at the International School, Sarit Hoch-Markowitz.

“The new program is founded upon our innovative ‘spiral’ scheme,” explains the International School’s Pedagogic Director Shulamit Imber, Fred Hillman Chair in Memory of Janusz Korczak. “The younger students are introduced to the topic through the experiences of an individual child and his or her surroundings. As they mature, the children learn about the encounters of the family, the community and then the entire Jewish people during the Holocaust, and finally the narrative of humanity as a whole during those terrible years. This program not only ensures that the children are only taught in a manner suitable for their age with no danger of trauma, but also that the teachers can tackle fundamental educational questions on the topic with the knowledge that

their students have a firm basis of accurate information and understanding.”

The program is centered around four main topics: the Jewish world, in all of its differing communities, before the war; Jewish efforts to deal with the events and maintain their human dignity during the *Shoah*; the actions of the Righteous Among the Nations, the bystanders and the Nazis and their collaborators; and the survivors’ return to life after liberation. Both content material and pedagogical guides will be made available to all teachers via the Yad Vashem website, with a range of plans for interdisciplinary lessons that will ensure a relevant and accurate learning experience for all age groups.

Plans to expand the program to other sectors – such as special education and the Arabic-speaking community – are already underway.

*The author is Head of the Educational Materials Development Section, Teacher Training Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.*

# Lily Safra Chair of Holocaust Education Promotes Outreach and Initiatives Worldwide

■ In July 2013, Yad Vashem announced the establishment of the Lily Safra Chair of Holocaust Education at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies. This generous additional contribution to Yad Vashem by Mrs. Lily Safra further emphasizes her commitment to Yad Vashem, as well as to Holocaust commemoration and education.

"Yad Vashem stands as an eternal memorial to those who perished, but with the International School for Holocaust Studies, it is also a beacon of hope," said Mrs. Safra. "It is only through education that we can hope to prevent future generations from repeating the tragedies of the past. We are privileged to support this important work."

The first incumbent of the Chair is Dr. Eyal Kaminka, Lily Safra Chair of Holocaust Education and Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies. "The 21<sup>st</sup> century has set before us many difficult challenges in Holocaust education," explains Dr. Kaminka. "For example, we see a number of conflicting trends among the younger generations: on the one hand, waning attention and interest in historical events, and on the other, a clear continuation in the search for meaning and human values. We are also faced with finding ways to harness newer technologies in order to disseminate our information and knowledge. The Lily Safra Chair of Holocaust



■ Mrs. Lily Safra

as well as those that attend the broad range of educational activities the School conducts worldwide – are committed to the highest level of teaching about the Holocaust, and to keeping the memory of the *Shoah* and its meanings relevant to the coming generations."

In addition to the dedicated work of Dr. Kaminka, the Lily Safra Chair of Holocaust Education will also generously support unique educational projects and new initiatives under the mandate of the School Director, beyond what had previously been possible: a guest visit by the School Director or a representative of his to an audience abroad who are unable to come to Yad Vashem; support for educators who would otherwise be unable to participate in Yad Vashem activities to come and study at Yad Vashem; a special seminar on Holocaust education

Education is clearly one of the pillars of the International School as it faces these and other challenges. The groups that come to the School, to international conferences and

teachers' seminars – as well as those that attend the broad range of educational activities the School conducts worldwide – are committed to the highest level of teaching about the Holocaust, and to keeping the memory of the *Shoah* and its meanings relevant to the coming generations."

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at Yad Vashem to allow people to acquire the skills they need, in their given profession, to teach about the Holocaust in a pedagogically effective manner; a guest speaker to present at Yad Vashem on their area of expertise; and a Yad Vashem staff member to travel abroad to conduct outreach activities, such as a pre-seminar, post-seminar, or meetings to create foreign educational partnerships.

"Yad Vashem has prioritized its educational activities, enriching the knowledge of educators and youth around the world by providing them with the latest methods for Holocaust remembrance and the tools for transmitting its significance," says Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. "Mrs. Safra's generosity and her support for the International School for Holocaust Studies is a testament to her belief in the transformative power of education, and her patronage enables us to continue this vital work."



■ Dr. Eyal Kaminka, Lily Safra Chair of Holocaust Education and Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies

## Visit by French Minister and Leaders in Holocaust Education

■ On 30 January 2014, French Minister of National Education Vincent Peillon visited Yad Vashem during his trip to Israel and met with Director General Dorit Novak. The Minister and his delegation toured the Holocaust History Museum and then attended a special presentation by Dr. Eyal Kaminka, Lily Safra Chair of Holocaust Education and International School Director, about the School's work with educators, soldiers, clergy, jurists and other groups. European Department Director Richelle Budd Caplan emphasized the goal of building partnerships with European education ministries and deepening ties in the future.

With a view to continuing and strengthening his ministry's relationship with Yad Vashem, Minister Peillon pledged to send a senior representative to a forum for French leaders in Holocaust education to be held at Yad Vashem at the end of February.

The following month, a high-ranking inspector attended the forum, joining several colleagues from various organizations, including the *Mémorial de la Shoah*, the Camp des Milles Memorial, and the Struthof Camp Memorial.

Over the course of the proceedings, Yad Vashem signed an agreement with the Association for *Shoah* Research and Education (ARES).

"We're honored to host colleagues from France and we appreciate the frank discussions on the challenges facing us," said Budd Caplan. "We look forward to strengthening our relationships and pursuing our common goals."



## New at the Virtual School

### Special Subsite for Holocaust Remembrance Day Dr. Na'ama Shik

■ Marking Holocaust Remembrance Day 2014, the International School for Holocaust Studies has created a special subsite containing a wealth of educational materials on this year's theme. In focusing on the events of 1944, the subsite includes historical background articles on these events; a special educational e-Newsletter on the *Shoah* in Hungary; a feature on the diary of Eva Heyman, a young Hungarian Holocaust victim; and an interactive map containing short film clips about places illustrating the events of that year.

The interactive map is a pedagogical tool that allows teachers to illustrate the unfolding events of 1944: the areas under German occupation are colored red, and the regions liberated by the Soviet army are in green. Seven locations (both cities and countries) are highlighted: Hungary, Budapest, Ungvar and Auschwitz illustrate the height of the murder campaign, and Stanislaw, Radun and Nowogrodek, which were liberated in the spring-summer of 1944, represent the liberated areas. Stories from these

places are presented by film clips that tell of the historical events that took place there, accompanied by testimonies, photographs and archival material. The films allow the students to become acquainted with the vibrant and rich Jewish communities highlighted on the map, as well as their fates during the *Shoah*.

*The Virtual School is generously supported by the Claims Conference and the Adelson Family Foundation.*

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

## Graduate Spotlight

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

## Barbara Simoncelli Italy

Richelle Budd Caplan and James Joseph McIntosh



■ Graduate Barbara Simoncelli

■ **Barbara Simoncelli teaches art to 13-year-old students at the Dante Alighieri School in Venice.** Upon her return to her school following an educational seminar at Yad Vashem in August 2013, Simoncelli shared the methods and pedagogic materials

she had acquired with her fellow teachers. In preparation for International Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January this year, she set about developing a special project entitled, "Possa il tuo ricordo essere un filo d'amore" (*May Your Memory Be a Thread of Love*), involving two colleagues: Carlotta Ballarin, who teaches Italian language and history, and Giuseppa Bongiovanni, who also teaches art.

The program Simoncelli and her partners developed is interdisciplinary: The students studied the rise of the Nazi party in Germany; read selected texts written by Holocaust victims and survivors, such as Primo Levi, Inge Auerbacher and Etty Hillesum; conducted research on the Yad Vashem website; reflected on the concept of memory; and viewed Roman Polanski's film *The Pianist* and Yad Vashem's

filmed testimony of survivor Ovadia Baruch from Salonika, *May Your Memory Be Love*, with Italian subtitles. The film is part of "Witnesses in Education," a joint project of Yad Vashem and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, generously supported by the Adelson Family Foundation and the Claims Conference.

The students were asked to choose between quotations from existing texts and their personal reflections, with a view to creating a personal graphic composition on the concept of memory. They then received pieces of burlap and other recycled materials to create their artistic works, inspired by their studies.

"Through the embroidery, the students created a conceptual link between thread as a material and 'the thread of memory' between generations," explained Simoncelli. "They welcomed the project with enthusiasm, but their emotional involvement grew day by day. For most of them, this was the first time they were exposed to this subject matter. Historical events are often too distant in time for young people to feel their effect on their lives but the story of a Holocaust survivor made a strong impact on them. After viewing *May Your Memory Be Love*, they found the project more meaningful."

Yad Vashem regional representative Rita Chiappini saw the works of art and was deeply



■ Simoncelli's students work on their "Threads of Memory" project

impressed. "This project is hands-on, which requires concentration, attention and deep thought, and its outcome is most original. It clearly demonstrates the validity of Yad Vashem's pedagogical approach, and its suitability for the needs of students of various ages and cultural backgrounds."

*Richelle Budd Caplan is Director of the European Department, International School for Holocaust Studies. James Joseph McIntosh works in the European Department.*

## Increased Cooperation with Italian Ministry of Education James Joseph McIntosh

■ **On 2 December 2013, during a government-to-government meeting in Rome, Yad Vashem and the Italian Ministry of Education, Universities and Research signed an agreement in the presence of Rabbi Shay Piron, Israel's Minister of Education.**

This contract extends a previous memorandum of understanding which the Italian Ministry of Education and Yad Vashem signed in Rome in 2011. In the new agreement, the Ministry will recognize and accredit all Yad Vashem seminars for Italian educators. The formal relationship between the Italian educational authorities and Yad Vashem is set to continue for another three years.

The International School for Holocaust Studies of Yad Vashem has worked intensively with Italian educators since 2000, years before

formalizing its cooperation with the Ministry of Education. Over the past two years, Yad Vashem has developed new resources in Italian, and trained teachers across Italy to use them.

■ **On 9 February 2014, then-Italian Minister of Education, Universities and Research, Maria Chiara Carrozza (pictured, left), visited Yad Vashem with her delegation, including Italian high school students.** She was guided through the Holocaust History Museum by Dr. Iael Nidam-Orvieto, Director of the International Institute for Holocaust Research, followed by a ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance. In addition, she met with Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev as well as Dr. Eyal Kaminka, Lily Safra Chair of Holocaust Education and Director of the International School for

Holocaust Studies. During their discussion, Minister Chiara Carrozza pledged her ongoing commitment to promote Holocaust education and remembrance in cooperation with Yad Vashem over the course of 2014.

*Italian educational activities are carried out in the framework of the ICHEIC program, generously supported by the Adelson Family Foundation.*



## Educational Activities for 27 January

■ **Marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the International School for Holocaust Studies' subsite featured a portal in ten languages with special resources and materials.** This date represents one of the peaks of traffic to the educational pages of the Yad Vashem website, and as such it was important to provide relevant and accessible resources which were viewed by hundreds of thousands of individuals in multiple countries across the world.

Director of the European Department Richelle Budd-Caplan (pictured, center) attended consultations in Chişinău, Moldova, in cooperation with the OSCE/ODIHR, the Moldovan Foreign Ministry and the Bureau

for Interethnic Relations of Moldova, as part of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's multiyear project on Holocaust Memorial Days.

Dr. Na'ama Shik, Director of the School's Educational Technology Department, attended the Israeli opening of the "Keeping the Memory Alive" international poster design competition at Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Additionally, School staff members participated in conferences, seminars, exhibitions, ceremonies, lectures and government meetings around the world to mark 27 January, including in South Africa, Singapore, Vietnam, Ghana, Senegal, Czech Republic, Ukraine, Croatia, Denmark, Lichtenstein, the UK, Germany,

Venezuela and Canada. Several of these initiatives were implemented in cooperation with the Department for Combating Antisemitism at Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



## First-Ever Seminar for South Korean Educators

■ **At the beginning of this year, a 12-day seminar for South Korean educators opened at the International School for Holocaust Studies.** A group of some 20 educators, among them teachers, principals and administrators, participated in the comprehensive program designed specifically for them. This was the first time the School has hosted a South Korean delegation.

While at Yad Vashem, participants attended lectures and discussions on Holocaust history and pedagogy, met with Holocaust survivors and heard their testimony, experienced extensive, in-depth tours of the campus, and had the opportunity to partake in classes taught by top educators and historians about various topics related to the Holocaust.

"Over the past few years, we have seen growing interest in the Holocaust around the



world, including in countries geographically far from the events themselves," said Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. "The seminar for educators from South Korea joins others we have held recently for Asian educators from China and India. I welcome the increasing significance of Holocaust education in Korea, and am pleased that we are able to

### Stephanie McMahon-Kaye

host this first group of Korean educators at our School."

Among the issues discussed at the seminar were: the rise of modern antisemitism, the representation of the Holocaust in literature, the "Final Solution," cultural and spiritual resistance, the Righteous Among the Nations, the "unprecedentedness" of the Holocaust, and the International School's pedagogical approach to Holocaust education and presentations of specific educational resources. Participants also toured Jerusalem and other areas in Israel.

*The seminar for South Korean Educators was made possible by the generous support of the Adelson Family Foundation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel.*

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

## Gandel Seminar for Australian Educators Nurit Davidson

■ **In January 2014, thirty-two Australian teachers came to Yad Vashem as part of the Gandel Holocaust Studies Program for Australian Educators for an 18-day intensive educational seminar.**

Before arriving, each participant took part in an online course, which provided them with a background on Jewish life before the Holocaust. The seminar continued from this point, creating a common ground of deep and broad knowledge and understanding about the Holocaust and Jewish history.

During the seminar, the participants met with 16 scholars from a range of disciplines, including modern antisemitism, Nazi ideology, Jewish leadership, psychology and art, as well as with Holocaust survivors, whose stories made a tremendous impact on the entire group. The participants were then given the opportunity not only to learn the pedagogical philosophy and

age-appropriate approach of the International School for Holocaust Studies, but also the tools to implement this approach. As the seminar unfolded, they began to brainstorm and consult with International School staff regarding the educational projects they are obliged to create under the program. As in previous years, all the educators received the "Echoes and Reflections" multimedia pedagogical curriculum as a gift from Yad Vashem, with three of the ten lessons presented by staff at the International School.

"It's great to have the opportunity to discuss teaching using Yad Vashem resources with fellow educators," wrote one participant at the seminar's conclusion. "I gained some innovative ideas about how to use these materials in the classroom." "I've learned so much and realize how much more I have to learn," wrote another. "I can only hope that the knowledge I leave

with is effectively shared with others and that I do this program justice."

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

*The author is the educational supervisor of the Gandel Holocaust Studies Program for Australian Educators, International School for Holocaust Studies.*



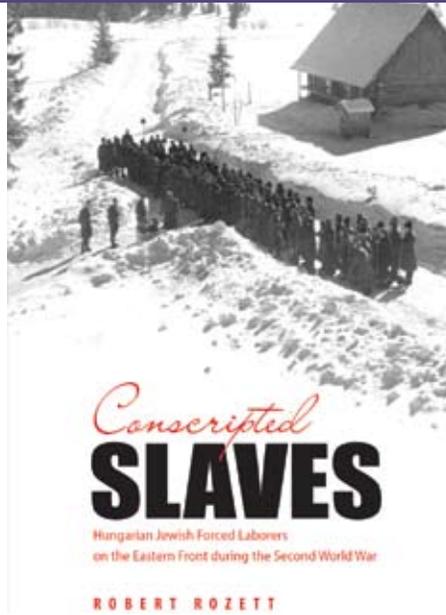
# Conscripted Slaves

## Hungarian Jewish Forced Laborers on the Eastern Front

■ For the vast majority of Hungarian Jews, their family history includes the story of their fathers, sons, brothers and husbands who were drafted into the Labor Service to perform forced labor from the spring of 1942 until the summer of 1944. Subjected to grinding brutality on the front, the Jewish forced laborers' suffering was often increased exponentially by the treatment they received at the hands of the Hungarian officers and soldiers who controlled their lives. Some 80 percent of the Jewish forced laborers never returned home, falling prey to battle, disease, Soviet captivity and outright murder at the hands of Hungarian soldiers.

Earlier this year, Yad Vashem published a fascinating new book on the topic of Hungarian Jewish forced labor during WWII by Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries Dr. Robert Rozett. *Conscripted Slaves: Hungarian Jewish Forced Laborers on the Eastern Front during the Second World War* constitutes a unique and invaluable chapter in the tapestry of Holocaust history. It builds on the earlier and seminal publications by the authority on Hungarian Holocaust research Prof. Randolph Brahm and the groundbreaking Hungarian scholar Elek Karsai, but focuses on the laborers themselves, presenting the panoply of their experiences at eye-level.

In the wake of the book launch, and as Yad Vashem marks 70 years since the deportation and murder of the majority of Hungarian Jewry, Dr.



Rozett gave a special interview for this volume of *Yad Vashem Jerusalem*:

**This book is unique in that it tells the story of Hungarian Jewish forced laborers from their own experiences. How did you achieve this, and what else does the book cover?**

The thrust of this book is indeed an attempt to tell the story of the men of the Labor Service through their own personal testimonies, although

it also sets out the establishment of the Labor Service System, the attitudes of those who set it up and operated it vis-à-vis the Jewish forced laborers, and their behavior toward them. But mostly, it seeks to convey what the laborers themselves were undergoing and, as much as possible, what they were thinking and how they were responding.

The main documentary basis for this monograph is personal accounts – testimonies and memoirs, and a few diaries and letters, of those who endured, including my own father. These personal accounts were supplemented by a unique set of documents from the war itself that is held by Yad Vashem: the Hungarian military's card index of casualties among the forced laborers on the Eastern Front, with varying degrees of detail about those who fell, was an integral instrument for corroborating information gleaned from personal accounts and for adding details and statistics.

**Bound up in the saga of the Hungarian Jewish forced laborers on the Eastern Front are nearly unimaginable, gratuitous hatred and cruelty, interspersed with occasional humanity and even heroism. How is this reflected in the book?**

The laborers were made to work very hard in generally exacting conditions and frequently with the cruel harassment of the Hungarian

## Recovery of Shoah Victims' Names in Greater Hungary Dr. Kinga Frojimovics

■ Nearly 600,000 Jews from Hungarian territory were murdered in the Holocaust. In other words, about every tenth victim of the Holocaust was from Hungary. Every third victim killed in Auschwitz-Birkenau was deported from Hungary by the Germans with the efficient help of the Hungarian authority that remained intact and operational after the German Army occupied Hungary on 19 March 1944. The Hungarian Project of the Yad Vashem Archives aims at commemorating the Jewish victims from Greater Hungary.

When the project began in 2007, Yad Vashem knew only 262,000 (about 40 percent) names of Hungarian Holocaust victims. Today, we know close to two-thirds, or more than 400,000 names.

Moreover, we know not only their names, but also information about their histories and their fates. By constructing the victims' curriculum vitae, we not only commemorate them, but record their lives as part of Jewish history as well. The almost 600,000 Holocaust victims of Hungary will not be merely an astoundingly long list of names, but close to 600,000 individual life stories.

Our efforts have been successful due to an intensive and well-planned program operating on three tracks: mapping and collecting all related material from archives and Jewish communities in Hungary, Romania and Serbia (to date approximately 1.5 million pages); cataloging the copied material (some 100,000 files so far);

and indexing and entering the personal data of the Holocaust victims into the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names.

The holistic approach has become a model for other projects: two years after the commencement of the Hungarian project, another similarly ambitious project was launched across the former Soviet Union alongside Yad Vashem's ongoing names recovery efforts with communities and individuals, and, more recently parallel projects in Poland and the Netherlands.

*The Hungarian Project is generously supported by la Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah, France.*

*The author is Director of the Hungarian Section, Archives Division.*

## Unlike the industrialized, dehumanized, anonymous murder that has become the paradigm for the Holocaust, the story of the Hungarian Jewish forced laborers on the Eastern Front is a tale of intimates

officers and soldiers in charge of them. Even work like cutting trees could be made to be terrible when the men had to run many kilometers with the freshly cut wood on their shoulders, run back, and do it all over again several times in a given day, all the while being subjected to curses and blows. Some jobs were simply dangerous, such as burying the dead on the forward lines without any kind of protection while bullets from both sides of the

### The book seeks to convey what the laborers themselves were undergoing and, as much as possible, what they were thinking and how they were responding

lines flew past the forced laborers. Other jobs were outright murderous, like clearing minefields without previous training and wielding only sticks to dig out mines that were discovered. The underlying idea was that the men would reveal mines by stepping on them, with the obvious consequences to life and limb.

As cruel as their treatment was in general, however, there were exceptions. A few Hungarian soldiers and officials did their best to help the forced laborers, treating them like human beings and trying to better the conditions of their service. Among them, several have been recognized as Righteous Among the Nations.

### How aware were the forced laborers of what was developing in their own country, as well as across Europe?

The forced laborers were direct and indirect witnesses to the destruction of the Jews in the areas in which they were stationed. Yet despite this and their own suffering, they did not usually see themselves as part of the unfolding Holocaust. Still, they were not simply passive participants in events. At times they tried to help local Jews they encountered, especially

early in their service, by giving them food. They sometimes banded together to help each other within their companies as a whole, or in smaller support groups. A few sought to escape to the local partisans, but unfamiliarity with the terrain and language, as well as the expected punishment for attempting escape, deterred most from following this path. When Soviet forces drew near, many intentionally became prisoners of war, hoping their trials and tribulations would soon end. The Soviets, however, regarded them as Hungarian soldiers, and as a result they entered the Soviet prisoner-of-war system. Tragically, only about a quarter of those who became prisoners survived.

### Cruelty and murder are well-known elements of the Shoah across Europe and North Africa. How does the story of Hungary differ in the relationship between persecutor and victim?

Unlike the industrialized, dehumanized, anonymous murder we associate with the extermination camps that has become the paradigm for the Holocaust, the story of the Hungarian Jewish forced laborers on the Eastern Front is a tale of intimates. The men of the Labor Service sometimes knew one another from before the war, and the great majority, in the crucible of the war, spent intensive weeks, months and even years together in the same company. In other words, the victims were not merely abstract constructs to the perpetrators – the “other” – but real people. This intimacy raises many issues regarding the nature of the Shoah, the responsibility of the perpetrators and their society, how one can be an intimate and an “other” at the same time. The message to be taken from this important part of Holocaust history is that we must always strive to create societies in which there are no “others” – where we all live and work in pursuit of a common, accepting society.

*This publication was made possible through the generous donation of The Eden Fund, endowed by Batsheva and Joseph Eden in memory of their parents Sara and Itzhak Jakobovics from Munkács and Eliahu and Matel Einczig from Kaszony.*

*The research for this publication was conducted with the assistance of the Fund for Research of the Holocaust in Hungary and Hungarian Jewish History endowed by Dr. Laszlo N. Tauber in honor of his daughter, Dr. Ingrid D. Tauber.*

## 70 Years since the Destruction of Hungarian Jewry

■ On 18 March 2014, Yad Vashem hosted a March of Remembrance for dozens of Holocaust survivors from Hungary and IDF soldiers to mark 70 years since the mass murder of Hungarian Jewry. Following the march, a memorial ceremony was held in the Hall of Remembrance as well as lectures in the Auditorium. Speaking at the event



were Chairman of the Association of Hungarian Jews in Israel Meir Gal, Chairwoman of the Organization of Hungarian Jews Esther Miron, Director General of the Memorial Museum of Hungarian Speaking Jewry Roni Lustig and the Hungarian Ambassador to Israel, H. E. Mr. Andor Nagy. In addition, Dr. Na’ama Shik, Director of the Educational Technology Department at the International School for Holocaust Studies, delivered a lecture about Esther Goldstein and her experience as a Jewish Hungarian woman in Auschwitz-Birkenau.

■ The following day, on 19 March, a symposium was held at Tel Aviv University on 70 years since the Nazi occupation of Hungary. The event, initiated by “Moreshet” and other Israeli memorial institutions, included discussions of the activities of the Zionist youth underground, the Hungarian Jewish forced laborers and teaching the Holocaust in Hungary. Among the lecturers were Yad Vashem Chief Historian Prof. Dina Porat, Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries Dr. Robert Rozett, and Dr. Hava Baruch, Head of the Central European Desk at the International School for Holocaust Studies.

■ On 3 April, the International Institute for Holocaust Research held a symposium on the Holocaust of Hungarian Jewry, which included the official launch of Dr. Rozett’s new book *Conscripted Slaves* (see main article). The first session dealt with the Hungarian forced labor battalions and the second with special aspects of the Shoah in Hungary.

## Remembrance Day Subsite Features the Fate of Jewish Families in 1944

■ *“‘Stay together,’ my mother said... We wanted to stay together, like everyone else. Family unity is one of our important traditions, as the enemy well knew. And he now used that knowledge, spreading the rumor in the ghetto that the Jewish population would be transferred to a Hungarian labor camp where – and this was the essential thing – families would remain together. And we believed it. So it was that the strength of our family tie, which had contributed to the survival of our people for centuries, became a tool in the exterminator’s hands.”*

Elie Wiesel

This year, the Holocaust Remembrance Day subsite on [www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org) contains a special exhibition exploring the fate of Jewish families in 1944. “Stay Together!” highlights the struggles of individual family units from across Europe during the final death throes of the war; a year in which they continued valiantly to strive to protect one another from deportation and death while hoping somehow to survive until liberation. Only a very few managed to do so: the Chanoch family, having miraculously survived life in the Kovno ghetto, was deported to Germany on 8 July 1944, where most of them were murdered – a few weeks before the ghetto was liberated by the Red Army; Samuel Horwitz was transported from Amsterdam to Auschwitz in April of that



year and did not survive – his young nephew Meir remained in hiding in the south of the country and Samuel’s parents, siblings and their children had already been murdered at the infamous death camp; and Pinchas Drimer, his wife and son were able to find shelter in Siberia while his entire family was sent from Sighet to Auschwitz in May 1944, and only one member survived. The stories of all of these families, along with others from across Europe, and their fates in the pivotal year of 1944 are followed in the new online exhibition.

As always, the subsite also contains photos and video from the official events and

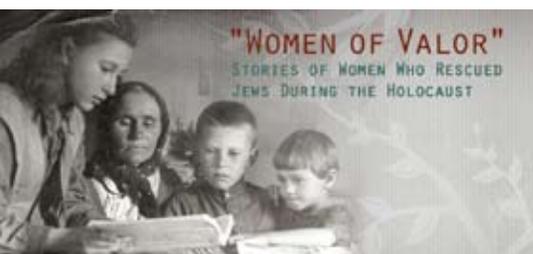
ceremonies that take place at Yad Vashem throughout Holocaust Remembrance Day. Photos capturing the informal commemorative moments experienced on the campus can be

**“Stay Together!”** highlights the struggles of individual family units from across Europe during the final death throes of the war; a year in which they continued valiantly to strive to protect one another from deportation and death while hoping somehow to survive until liberation

viewed in “Snapshots of Memory.” Useful resources such as names for name-reading ceremonies, information about the “Unto Every Person There is a Name” project, and links to related exhibitions and other subsites are also available.

## New Online Exhibition: “Women of Valor”

■ International Women’s Day is increasingly an event of international interest, particularly on social media. As part of Yad Vashem’s efforts to ensure that Holocaust memory stays



relevant to younger generations, a special online exhibition called: “Women of Valor: Stories of Women Who Rescued Jews During

the Holocaust” was promoted on its social media outlets in advance of International Women’s Day (8 March). The exhibition presents a few of the moving stories of the women recognized to date as Righteous Among the Nations (a little over half of all those to receive the honor). While many of them acted in cooperation with other family members, some of these courageous women were the initiators of the rescue and acted independently to save Jews.

The exhibition generated much attention and gratitude on behalf of all those who encountered it.

## New on the German Website

■ Two new “Through the Lens” mini-exhibits were recently launched: “A View of Wielopole,” rare color footage depicting Jewish life in the *shtetl* before the Holocaust; and “Postcards to a Little Boy Sent on the *Kindertransport*,” an

exhibition of the colorful illustrated postcards (written in German and later in English) sent by Max Lichtwitz to his beloved son Henry Foner, one of 10,000 children sent on a *Kindertransport* to England. Max was later transported to Auschwitz, where he was murdered.

## New on the Spanish Website

■ A new online exhibition entitled “And You Shall Tell Your Children” displays photos and artifacts that illustrate some of the ways the Passover holiday was observed by Jews across Europe prior to the Holocaust, during the war years, and in DP camps and children’s homes following liberation.

*The Spanish website is generously supported by anonymous donors, Spain.*

*The author is Director of the Internet Department.*

# Detective Work Completed

## Families of British POWs Receive Righteous Medal

Irena Steinfeldt

■ The preparation of files for the Commission for the Designation of the Righteous requires extensive historical research. Righteous Department staff members look for testimonies and documents in Yad Vashem's vast repositories and collections, and consult with archives and historians in many countries. Often, however, this work also involves finding people who deposited their testimony decades earlier, or searching for second, third and even fourth generation members of both rescuers and rescued by using the Internet, social networks and online directories. Last year, help in this endeavor came from an unexpected source. Anthony Davis, a British private detective who had read about Yad Vashem's efforts to locate



■ Anthony Davis visits the tree planted in honor of the courageous POWs, December 2013



■ Families of the POWs and other Righteous Among the Nations at a ceremony in the House of Lords, London, October 2013

After liberation, Sarah found out that she was the only survivor of her family. She eventually settled in the United States. To commemorate her sister, she added her first name, Hanna, to her own. She never forgot her rescuers, and 25 years after the end of the war she renewed contact with Stan Wells, George Hammond, Tommy Noble, Alan Edwards and Roger Letchford; they were recognized as Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem and a tree was planted in their honor in the

The group of ten POWs gave the starving girl some food, wrapped her in an old army coat and smuggled her into their prisoner-of-war camp, where they hid her in a hayloft

Avenue of the Righteous. In 2011, the other five, Bill Keable, Bert Hambling, Bill Scruton, Jack Buckley and Willy Fisher, were also recognized, but all attempts to find their next of kin failed until Davis volunteered to help. Within several months he had found relatives of all five, and in October 2013 a ceremony in their honor was held in the House of Lords in London. Israel's ambassador to the UK H. E. Mr. Daniel Taub presented the relatives with the Righteous medal and certificates of honor. In December 2013, Anthony Davis visited Yad Vashem and was moved to see the tree planted in honor of the courageous POWs.

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



■ Sarah Hanna Rigler reunited with her rescuers in London, 1972

the next of kin of five former POWs, wrote to the Department of the Righteous and offered his help free of charge.

Yad Vashem had recognized five POWs in 1988 for having rescued Sarah Matuson, a 16-year-old Jewish girl, originally from Shavli in Lithuania. Sarah was among the inmates of the Stutthof concentration camp who were taken on a death march in January 1945, headed towards the Baltic coast. The group of 1,200 starved women, including Sarah's sister, Hanna, and her mother, Gita, staggered in the snow, dressed in rags and wooden clogs, under the heavy blows of the SS guards. By the time they reached the village of Golebiewo, south of Gdansk, only 300 had survived.

Seeing the hopelessness of their situation, Sarah's mother pleaded with her daughter to escape. It was a painful decision to leave her mother, but finally Sarah decided to try and find



■ Sarah Matuson and her older sister Hanna before the war

some food for them. She slipped out of the line of prisoners and collapsed in a nearby barn. It was here that she was found by a group of British prisoners of war. They had been captured in 1940 in France, and then transferred to a camp close to the Baltic coast, where they were engaged in various tasks on German farms in the area. The group of ten POWs gave the starving girl some food, wrapped her in an old army coat and smuggled her into their prisoner of war camp, Stalag 20B, where they hid her in a hayloft. Despite the great danger – the police housed their horses in the very same barn – they took turns in caring for Sarah: they brought her food, tended to her frostbite, treated her for lice and bathed her, and nursed her back to health.

As the Allied front drew close, the POWs were evacuated westwards. Before leaving, Sarah's British benefactors arranged for a local woman to take care of her until the arrival of the Red Army.

# A Source of Living Memory

## Names Database Inspires Global Commemoration



Deborah Berman

■ When Ari DeLevie submitted Pages of Testimony in 2002 for his aunt and uncle, Bernhardt and Frieda DeLevie, he did so in order to ensure that their names would be recorded for posterity. Unbeknownst to him, a decade later those very Pages would capture the curiosity of German high school student Sabrina Fichter, and launch her on a passionate mission to commemorate the Jewish victims of the small town of Meissen where both she and DeLevie's family had lived. Ultimately the trail she followed using the "clues" at her disposal on the Pages of Testimony led Fichter to contact DeLevie, who travelled to Meissen to play a personal part in a ceremony commemorating his family that he considers a "symbolic burial and unveiling."

Fichter's journey began after her mother, a social studies teacher, participated in a seminar in 2009 at Yad Vashem's International School for

From all Fichter heard, it was the personal commemoration on the Pages of Testimony that inspired her to research the fates of the 80 Jews of Meissen who were murdered during the Shoah

Holocaust Studies. On her return to Germany, she shared what she had learned with her daughter. From all Fichter heard, it was the personal commemoration on the Pages of Testimony that inspired her to research the fates of the 80 Jews of Meissen who were murdered during the Shoah. Her diligent research efforts culminated in a town-wide ceremony in honor of the victims in December 2013, which DeLevie attended. The moving event included the installation of *stolpersteine* (stumbling stones) – concrete blocks covered with a brass plate on which the name, date of birth, and the date and location

of death are engraved – at the site of DeLevie's family's former residence.

"It was the culmination of a process that began 11 years earlier by filing out two Pages of Testimony at Yad Vashem," recalled an emotional DeLevie. "Almost 75 years since these people were robbed of their lives under unimaginable conditions of fear, hope, fleeing and finally being deported and murdered, this was a moment I could never have imagined: commemorating their lives with memorial plates in front of the very home from which they began their desperate and fateful attempts to survive. I was there, to say their names and



■ The "stumbling stones" commemorating Bernhardt and Frieda DeLevie, z"l, outside their former home in Meissen, Germany

pray for their souls, hoping they would, at last, truly rest in peace."

"Without the Pages of Testimony I would not have known that the DeLevie family existed in Meissen, because there are no documents attesting to their existence in the town archive," Fichter explained. "I would also never have gotten in contact with Ari. This story is just an example; these Pages are my first step in ensuring that this tragic event is never forgotten."

Twenty-year-old Sabrina Fichter's efforts illustrate the fertile ground offered by information in the Names Database for research efforts, but the Database also provides the basis for commemorative ceremonies year round, most specifically on Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day. "Unto Every Person There is a Name," now in its 25<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, coordinates public readings of the names of



■ Ari DeLevie (front, right) and Sabrina Fichter (front, second from right) are joined by local residents at a memorial ceremony for the Jews of Meissen murdered during the Shoah

Holocaust victims in Jewish communities around the world. In Israel, members of the public are invited to Yad Vashem's Hall of Remembrance to read out loud the names of loved ones who were murdered in the Holocaust, or of other victims listed in the Database. In the Knesset, Israeli lawmakers take part in a similar names-reading ceremony on Holocaust Remembrance Day. Other commemorative projects that make use of the Database include the increasingly popular bar and bat mitzvah "twinning" ceremonies, whereby a Jewish child marks his or her coming of age by commemorating a victim who was murdered before they had a chance to celebrate their own.

"The names of the Holocaust victims remain physically safeguarded in the Hall of Names on Jerusalem's Mount of Remembrance, and thanks to Yad Vashem's advanced digitizing program they are also accessible for use by anyone seeking to shed light on their fates, or to honor their memory," explains Shoah Victims' Names Recovery Project Manager Cynthia Wroclawski. "We strongly encourage members of the public to delve into the Names Database and find an innovative way to remember another Jewish soul."

Sabrina Fichter is still seeking relatives of former Meissen citizens. To submit information, please contact: [names.outreach@yadvashem.org.il](mailto:names.outreach@yadvashem.org.il)

## Worldwide Activities Mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day

■ From Jerusalem to Paris, Ghana to Singapore, Yad Vashem educators, researchers and historians traveled throughout the world at the end of January for various events, lectures, seminars and ceremonies commemorating International Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January 2014:

### Yad Vashem, Jerusalem

■ On 26 January, Secretary General of the Israeli Commission for UNESCO Dr. Dalit Atrakchi (second from right) presented Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev (second from left), Archives Division Director Dr. Haim Gertner, Fred Hillman Chair for Holocaust Documentation (right), and Director of the Hall of Names Dr. Alexander Avram (left) with a Certificate of Recognition marking the inclusion of the Pages of Testimony Memorial Collection in the UNESCO Memory of the World Register. The presentation took place in the Hall of Names and was followed by addresses in the Yad Vashem Synagogue.

Yad Vashem also uploaded a video clip describing its ongoing efforts to collect the name of every individual murdered during the Holocaust. The clip was promoted on YouTube and Facebook, and reached out to supporters and friends to submit names and raise awareness of the monumental names collection task that Yad Vashem has been pursuing since the 1950s.



■ On 27 January, the annual ceremony commemorating the deportation of Italian Jews during the *Shoah* was held in the Hall of Remembrance and Auditorium. In addition, heads of various UN agencies in Israel participated in a memorial ceremony and visited the exhibition “I Am My Brother’s Keeper: 50 Years of Honoring Righteous Among the Nations.”

### Israel

■ On 26 January, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev and Chief Historian Prof. Dina Porat spoke at a special Israeli Government cabinet session marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

■ In cooperation with Yad Vashem’s Visual Center, Claude Lanzmann’s new film *The Last of the Unjust* premiered in nine cities across Israel, with the director attending the premiere at the Jerusalem Theatre. Other guest lecturers were present at screenings elsewhere.

### Europe

■ On 27 January, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev guided some 60 Members of Knesset, six ministers and 24 Holocaust survivors through the New Permanent Exhibition “*Shoah*” in Block 27 at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, curated by Yad Vashem. Shalev then addressed the joint Israeli-Polish parliamentary forum on the topic “Reflections on Auschwitz: Remembering the Past, Looking to the Future.”

■ In Paris, Dr. Eyal Kaminka, Lily Safra Chair for Holocaust Education and Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies of Yad Vashem, led a panel discussion on pedagogical research in Holocaust education at a conference sponsored by UNESCO.

### On the Web

■ A great deal of new material was made available on Yad Vashem’s website for International Holocaust Remembrance Day, including special new mini-sites and exhibitions. The mini-site for the New Permanent Exhibition “*Shoah*” at Auschwitz was launched in German and Spanish. On Facebook, the “I Remember” Wall offered users an opportunity to remember individual victims of the Holocaust, by linking personal profiles with names of victims from the Central Database of *Shoah* Victims’ Names.

The Internet Department also launched a web app accessible to all mobile devices containing relevant resources.



■ In Vienna, Jane Jacobs-Kimmelman, Director of International Relations at the International School for Holocaust Studies, attended the official opening ceremony of the “Keeping the Memory Alive: Journeys through the Holocaust” International Poster Design Competition at the UN Headquarters, and participated in panel discussions. The posters were displayed in 40 countries worldwide.



■ Winners of the “Keeping the Memory Alive” 2014 international poster design competition at the UN Headquarters in Vienna

■ At the UN Commission of Human Rights in Geneva, Prof. Dan Michman, Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research and Incumbent of the John Najmann Chair for Holocaust Studies, took part in a panel discussion.

■ In Liechtenstein, Yad Vashem’s traveling exhibition: “With Me Here are Six Million Accusers: The Eichmann Trial in Jerusalem” opened at the National Museum.

■ In London, Dr. David Silberklang, Senior Historian at the International Institute for Holocaust Research and Editor-in-Chief of *Yad Vashem Studies*, presented a number of lectures.

### Asia & Africa

■ Lectures and ceremonies with Dr. Joel Zisenwine, Director of the Yad Vashem Deportation Database Project, were held in cooperation with Israel’s Foreign Ministry in Myanmar (pictured), Singapore and Vietnam; with Nannie Beekman of the Righteous Among the Nations Department in Ghana; and with Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries Dr. Robert Rozett in South Africa.



## Presidential Medal of Distinction Awarded to Avner Shalev

■ On 30 January 2014, Avner Shalev, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate, received the Presidential Medal of Distinction from Israel's President Shimon Peres in a ceremony held at the President's Residence. Shalev was recognized for his public service as Chairman of Yad Vashem over the past two decades. During the ceremony, President Peres said: "Thanks to your life's work, I feel Yad Vashem is not only a place of memory, but you have also made it a warning bell for the world."

"The decoration strengthens and encourages me and all my colleagues at Yad Vashem in our mission to ensure meaningful, relevant and enduring Holocaust remembrance for the Jewish people and for all of humanity, now and for future generations," said Shalev at the conclusion of the event.

The certificate presented to Shalev notes that the medal was awarded "for your public endeavors over numerous years in the fields of education, culture and the arts, and for your unique contribution to a productive commemoration of the *Shoah* and its legacy in Israel and around the world. Your activities in the area of Holocaust commemoration are a shining example of creativity and vision."

The prestigious Presidential Medal of Distinction, first awarded in 2012 at President Peres' initiative, is bestowed upon rare individuals who have made unique and extraordinary contributions to *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) or to Israel's society, culture and international status, and who personally exemplify the traits of entrepreneurship, innovation, creativity and vision. Among the elite group of the Medal's



recipients to date are: US Presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton, Henry Kissinger and Zubin Mehta. This year's awardees include Prof. Elie Wiesel and director Steven Spielberg.

## Germany Marks 60 Years of Yad Vashem

■ On 4 March 2014, the Deutsche Oper Berlin hosted an event honoring 60 years of Yad Vashem and marking 50 years of the Righteous Among the Nations Program, which was attended by Holocaust survivors, government ministers, members of the Bundestag and dignitaries from Germany, Austria, Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

Chairperson of the German Friends of Yad Vashem Hildegard Müller welcomed German Federal President Joachim Gauck, who addressed the gathering: "For us, the German memory of the Holocaust will always have a special meaning. For it was Germany who bore the blame for the extermination of the Jews, and thus it is Germany which today has a special responsibility for the fate of the Jews today

including in relation to the State of Israel... But the memory of the Holocaust also includes a universal meaning. The extermination of the Jews has become the symbol of evil par excellence."

Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev concluded the event, explaining "a very basic question remains unanswered: 'How was it humanly possible?' It is that question... that Yad Vashem is committed to pursuing through thoughtful, meaningful education, so that future generations may gain a deep understanding of what their commitment should be: To battle for the essential moral values that were so weakened by the *Shoah*."

The government of Germany, along with German funds and institutions, support a wide variety of projects at Yad Vashem.



■ Left to right: German Friends Association Chairperson Hildegard Müller, Director of Yad Vashem's German-Speaking Countries and German Swiss Desk Arik Rav-On, Daniela Schadt, German Federal President Joachim Gauck, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, Director of the Deutsche Oper Berlin Dietmar Schwarz

## New Benefactors: David and Sharon Halpern

■ David Halpern, son of Yad Vashem Benefactors Sam, z"l, and Gladys Halpern, who were among the founders of the American Society for Yad



Vashem, was born in December 1949 in New York City. In 1972, David graduated from Long Island University with a Bachelor's degree, majoring in finance. That same year, he married Sharon, who pursued a career teaching French to

high school students. After raising their children, Jeremy and Mindy, Sharon joined David in the real estate development and design field.

For David and Sharon, who are actively involved in several charitable organizations, Holocaust remembrance and education is paramount, and their support of Yad Vashem's activities steadfast. David is a treasurer on the Board of Directors of the American Society for Yad Vashem, and both he and Sharon have been actively involved with Yad Vashem for more than 20 years. Recently David and Sharon became Pillars of Yad Vashem, generously endowing The Children's Terrace. "Our family's experience in the Holocaust has taught us that humankind is capable of both remarkable achievements as

well as the most heinous crimes imaginable," they recently expressed. "The murder of six million Jews and millions of other innocent souls serves as a lesson for all people of all faiths. Yad Vashem is the repository of that lesson and the keeper of that memory for the entire world. We believe that the mission of Yad Vashem to preserve the names, artifacts and memories of such a unique tragedy is worthy of our support, and we encourage others to do the same."

David and Sharon's son, Jeremy Halpern, and his wife, Abbi, have three children: Brianna, Jasmine and Ashton. Their daughter, Mindy Halpern, and her husband, Alan Schall, have four children: Emily, Sophia, Brandon and Zoe.

# New at the International Institute for Holocaust Research

## Gertner Lecture on the Yiddish Press in the DP Camps

■ On 20 February 2014, researchers, Yad Vashem staff and members of the public gathered for the Danek Gertner Research Scholarship annual lecture on the subject “*Far vos a Jidisze Cajtung? – The Yiddish Press in Displaced Persons Camps in Germany.*” The lecture, which took place at the International Institute for Holocaust Research, was presented by Dr. Ella Florsheim, Editor-in-Chief of Yad Vashem Publications (pictured).

The address dealt with newspapers published in Yiddish by survivors during the first years following the *Shoah*. These newspapers were printed in DP camps in Germany, and were an important means of communication and social

interaction among the residents. One lively topic in the newspapers was Yiddish literature and culture, expressed in different ways, including



the publication of chapters from classic Yiddish literature and commemoration pieces dedicated to Yiddish poets and authors murdered during the *Shoah*.

The Yiddish newspapers inspired the survivors to pen new literary works, and were a platform for reports and discussions regarding Yiddish theater, another popular cultural phenomenon in the DP camps. They were also used to create new connections with the world of postwar Yiddish literature outside of Europe. Thus it was through literary and cultural activity in Yiddish that the survivors began to process their wartime experiences in these first crucial years.

## Bankier Memorial Lecture on German Society during Nazi Rule Prof. Dan Michman

■ The first annual lecture and workshop in memory of former Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research Prof. David Bankier, z”l, took place on 10 March 2014, an initiative of Yad Vashem and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem where Prof. Bankier was also a member of faculty. Addresses in memory of Prof. Bankier were given by Prof.



Uzi Rebhun, Head of the Hebrew University’s Institute of Contemporary Jewry; Prof. Reuven Amitai, Dean of the Hebrew University’s Faculty of Humanities; Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev; and Prof. Dalia Ofer of the Institute of Contemporary Jewry. The guest speaker was Prof. Ulrich Herbert (University of Freiburg, Germany), one of the leading researchers of Nazism and the Holocaust worldwide.

Prof. Herbert, who was acquainted with Prof. Bankier for many years, lectured on “The Murder of the Jews and Popular Consent: German Society during the Nazi Dictatorship.” Prof. Herbert emphasized that most research on the topic dealt – rightly – with the leaders of the Nazi regime and the many people who worked for it, but claimed that they were only

a part, albeit more recognized, of German society. In his opinion, non-Nazi Germans and even those that opposed the regime played an important part in its success – both in general and in terms of the murder of the Jews. This is because they naturally benefitted from being part of the “superior race” as defined by the Nazis, as opposed to those who didn’t fit into this category and were thus subjected to persecution and exclusion from society.

The day after the lecture, Prof. Herbert conducted an academic seminar with a group of Ph.D. students from universities in Israel who are conducting Holocaust-related research.

*The author is Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research and Incumbent of the John Najmann Chair for Holocaust Studies.*

## Recent Events at Yad Vashem Inbal Gezehan-Deutch

### 70 Years Since the Transnistria Orphans’ Train

■ Some 300 Holocaust survivors and members of the next generations took part in a gathering



at Yad Vashem on 5 March to mark 70 years since the departure of the “orphans’ train” from

Transnistria and the children’s immigration to *Eretz Israel*. Addressing the audience were (pictured, front row): Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau (second from left), Ambassador of Romania to Israel H. E. Ms. Andreea Păstărnac (right) and Chair of the Centre of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel Colette Avital (left).

### 71 Years Since the Deportation of Macedonian Jewry

■ On 11 March, Holocaust survivors and their families gathered at Yad Vashem to mark 71 years since the deportation of Macedonian Jewry.

The Ambassador of Macedonia in Israel H. E. Mr. Pajo Avirovic was among those who addressed the audience. He and Yugoslavian Holocaust survivor Miriam Aviezer also rekindled the Eternal Flame and laid a wreath in the Hall of Remembrance (pictured).



During January–March 2014, Yad Vashem conducted 188 guided tours for more than 2,270 official visitors from Israel and abroad. These guests included heads of state, governmental and NGO representatives, diplomats and industry delegates. Following is a small selection of our honored guests over these three months:

■ **Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper** and Mrs. Laureen Harper (center left), and Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Mrs. Sara Netanyahu (center right) toured the Holocaust History Museum on 21 January, guided by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev (right) and accompanied by Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau (second from left) and Canadian Holocaust survivor and Yad Vashem Benefactor Joe Gottdenker (left).



■ **President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz** toured the Holocaust History Museum on 11 February.



■ During his visit to Yad Vashem on 17 February, **President of Peru Ollanta Humala** visited the Holocaust History Museum.



■ During his visit to Yad Vashem on 12 March, **UK Prime Minister David Cameron** (left) met with members of the Holocaust Commission he formed in 2013, who advise him on all issues of Holocaust remembrance and education in the UK.



Calling Yad Vashem a “beacon for the world,” the Prime Minister explained that he had brought the Commissioners to Yad Vashem so they could “draw inspiration from all you have done and help make sure those dreadful events are never forgotten.” A joint letter of intent between Yad Vashem and UK Holocaust centers called for greater cooperation between the bodies, including seminars for British educators at the International School for Holocaust Studies and at UK universities, as well as research exchanges, joint academic workshops and fellowships.

At the conclusion of the visit, Avner Shalev (center), who accompanied the visit, presented the Prime Minister with *Postcards to a Little Boy*, the *Kindertransport* story of Henry Foner (right), who was sent to England from Germany when he was six years old and now lives in Israel.

■ **Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Garibashvili** (right) visited Yad Vashem on 28 January and toured the Museum of Holocaust Art, guided by Senior Art Curator and Deputy Director of the Museums Division Yehudit Shendar (left).



■ **President of Romania Traian Băsescu** (left) visited Yad Vashem on 20 January, and toured the new exhibition marking 50 years of the Righteous Among the Nations program as well as the Yad Vashem Synagogue, which displays Judaica from destroyed synagogues in Europe, including many pieces from Romania. The President then participated in the signing of a declaration with Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, pledging Romania's commitment to effective Holocaust education, research and commemoration and to combating expressions of antisemitism, racism and xenophobia.



■ **President of Sri Lanka Mahinda Rajapaksa** (right) toured the Holocaust History Museum on 9 January, guided by Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries Dr. Robert Rozett (left).



■ **President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies Laura Boldrini** toured the Holocaust History Museum on 14 January.



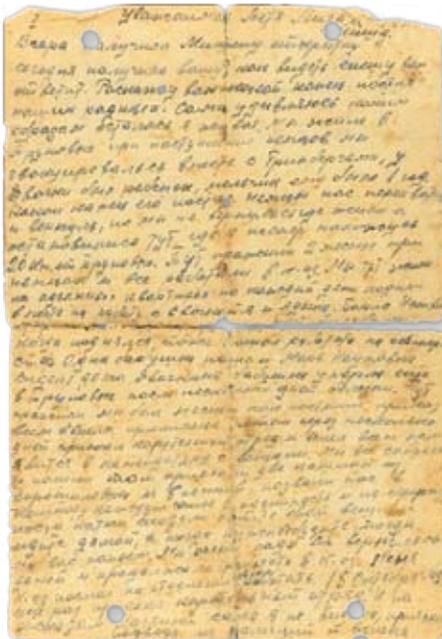
# News from the Archives

## Gathering the Fragments: Letter from 1944 Tells of Family's Tragic End Miriam Urbach-Nahum

■ As part of the “Gathering the Fragments” campaign to rescue Holocaust-related personal items, Rachel Shapira Dotan donated to Yad Vashem a letter that was sent to her father, Moshe (Misha) Shapira, in 1944. The letter, from a 16-year-old relative named Nura, details how Moshe’s parents, Rachel and Yitzchak Shapira, and his brother Gershon (Grisha) were murdered together with Jews from their neighborhood in a gas van in Tarnow, Poland on 18 October 1943.

When the letter was sent, Moshe, who was born in 1913 in Sculeni, Bessarabia, and his two younger siblings, Leib-Aryeh and Sara, had fled to Russia. The letter was received by Sara, as Moshe was by then en route to *Eretz Israel*.

In the letter the young girl writes: “I will tell you how our relatives’ lives ended... A sealed iron van arrived, everyone was ordered to undress and enter the van but people resisted and refused to board. Then the police called the Germans to help, and they started hitting people with braided whips in order to force them into the van. Just six men were left outside to bury everybody. Those in the van screamed at first, but when the doors were closed, the voices slowly died down. They were taken two kilometers from the village and thrown into a pit like dogs, one on top of the other. I was told all of this but I didn’t believe it, and I waited for them in the hope that I would see them or hear something about them. But much time



■ The first page of Nura’s letter, describing the family’s murder in a gas van



■ Gershon (Grisha) and Eva Shapira, who were murdered together with their one-year-old baby in the aktion described by Nura in her letter

passed and I didn’t hear anything...”

With the liberation of the region by the Red Army, the bodies were exhumed from the pit and buried in a grave. Nura identified her family members amongst the corpses, and the faint hope that had kept her going was shattered. She finishes the letter by explaining that she

will visit their grave, and that she has “finally accepted they are no longer alive.” Nura was later taken for forced labor and survived the war. Sadly, the surviving Shapira siblings lost all contact with her.

*The author works in the “Gathering the Fragments” Campaign.*

## Contract Signed with San Marino for WWII Documents Dr. Anat Kutner



■ Giuseppe Marzi (author of *The Rose Avenue: Stories of Jewish Refugees in the Republic of San Marino during WWII*) and Dr. Anat Kutner. In the background is one of the Three Towers that symbolize San Marino. Two Jewish families lived in the lower part of this street during the war.

■ In January 2014, the author of this article visited the Republic of San Marino. The republic is the oldest sovereign country in the world, retaining its independence for over 1,500 years.

It is also one of the world’s smallest nations, with only 35,000 citizens. Throughout the centuries, San Marino stayed out of conflict with other countries, striving for neutrality. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the last of San Marino’s Jews left the country for larger Italian cities.

During the war years, San Marino served as a safe haven for nearly 100,000 Italian refugees, mostly from Rimini, who were fleeing air raids. At the same time, many Jews also arrived in San Marino, despite official claims that there were no Jews in the Republic. Governed by the Fascist party, San Marino passed racial laws – albeit relatively mild, merely stating that Aryan citizens were not permitted to marry non-Aryans. Nevertheless, citizenship was awarded to a Jewish girl who had married a San Marino citizen in Paris.

The January visit included meetings with government ministers and local researchers,

and culminated in the signing of a contract allowing for the transfer to Yad Vashem of scanned copies of documents from the San Marino State Archives. These documents include information on the concealment of Jews, minutes of parliamentary discussions concerning race laws, and the issuance of passports to Jewish refugees who found safe haven in the country. A meeting was also held with people who remember Jewish refugees in the country, as well as with a Jewish man who hid in San Marino as a child.

The visit, initiated and coordinated by San Marino Ambassador at Large H. E. Mr. Yosef Gershon, is just the first step in cooperation between Yad Vashem and the Republic of San Marino, which will help make known the unique story of Jewish life in the ancient republic.

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

# Friends Worldwide

## USA

■ The American Society for Yad Vashem proudly hosted its Inaugural Florida Tribute Dinner in honor of the Bielski Brigade – the partisan group that saved over 1,200 Jews in the Naliboki Forest in Poland during WWII. American Society Chairman **Leonard Wilf** presented awards to honoree **Aron Bell**, the last surviving Bielski sibling, and Yad Vashem Trustee **Brenda Weil Mandel**. Keynote speaker **Senator Marco Rubio** and Consul General of Israel to Florida **Chaim Shacham** spoke at the event; Yad Vashem Benefactor **Jack Pechter** and Builder **Jimmy Resnick** also participated in the program. **Mickey Bielski**, son of Bielski Brigade leader **Tuvia Bielski**, and Bielski Partisan **Leah Johnson** provided insight into the partisans' experiences. American Society Board Member **Shelly Pechter Himmelrich** was the Master of Ceremonies.



Left to right: Jack Pechter, Brenda Weil Mandel, Senator Marco Rubio, Shelly Pechter Himmelrich, Chaim Shacham, Leonard Wilf



Among the Bielski survivors and their descendants that sang the Partisan Hymn were: **Alan Bell** (right), Aron and **Henryka Bell** (second and third from right), Leah Johnson (fifth from right), and Mickey Bielski (tenth from right).

■ On 27 February, the American Society for Yad Vashem Young Leadership Associates (YLA) held their Winter Gala. Gala Chairs and Committee members present included: Front row, left to right: **Michele Kamali**, **Nicole Lieberman**, **Caroline Massel**, **Alexandra Leibovits**, **Jessica Glickman Mauk**, **Jaci Paradis**, **Rachel Anfang**, **Mindy Schall**, **Abbi Halpern**, **Rachel Shnay**,

**Daniella Pomeranc**, **Serena Azizo**, **Abigail Fisch**, **Margaret Fisch**, **Jordana Altman**, **Erica Distenfeld**, **Michael Distenfeld**; Back row, left to right: **Elliot Pines**, **Avi Lieberman**, **Boaz Zborowski**, **Jonathan Hanus**, **Barry Levine**, **Jeremy Halpern**, **Michael Shmuely**, **Joey Zimet**, **Susie Nussbaum**, **Jennifer Gerut**, **Andrew Draznin**.



■ **Moses Libitzky** (left) recently visited Yad Vashem with his mother **Eva Libitzky** (center), a Holocaust survivor of the Lodz ghetto and Auschwitz concentration camp, as well as one of her grandchildren. They toured the Holocaust History Museum and Yad Vashem's new exhibition "I Am My Brother's Keeper: 50 Years of Honoring Righteous Among the Nations."



■ **Jacqueline Goldman** (third from right), a Holocaust survivor originally from France who lost most of her family during the Holocaust, recently visited Yad Vashem with her grandson **Daniel Engelhardt** (second from right), his fiancée **Cordelia Ross** (right) and her parents **Len** and **Phoebe Ross** (left). Their visit included a tour of the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial.



■ During their recent trip to Yad Vashem, **Larry** and **Kim Heyman** (left) and **Rabbi Levi** and **Chanie Stone** (right) toured the Holocaust History Museum and Yad Vashem Synagogue.



■ Last November, **Pennie** (third from left) and **Gary Abramson** (third from right) and friends visited Yad Vashem. Their visit included a tour of the Holocaust History Museum, Children's Memorial and Hall of Remembrance.



■ **Randy Kertesz** (second from right) recently visited Yad Vashem with his family. Their tour included the Holocaust History Museum, Yad Vashem Synagogue and Hall of Remembrance. During the visit, Mr. Kertesz was presented with archival information about his Hungarian family members during the war.



■ **Jeff** (left) and **Suzi Mikutis** (right) recently visited Yad Vashem with their daughter **Amanda** (center). They toured the Holocaust History Museum and Yad Vashem Synagogue.



■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of **Edgar M. Bronfman**. As Chairman of the American Society for Yad Vashem's International Board, Mr. Bronfman championed Holocaust remembrance, and was instrumental in winning the fight for financial restitution of Holocaust victims and their heirs.



Edgar Bronfman was born in Montreal on 20 June 1929, the third of four children to Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe who had moved to Montreal from Winnipeg, Manitoba. Edgar became a major philanthropist through the family foundation, with a focus on Jewish educational and social programs in the US and Israel. As President of the World Jewish Congress from 1981 until 2007, he turned a cautious federation of Jewish groups in 66 countries into a focused, proactive organization. In 1999, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Clinton for his philanthropy, much of which focused on Jewish causes. "I would like every Jew to be as comfortable in his skin as I am in mine," Mr. Bronfman explained.

Yad Vashem sends its sincerest condolences to Mr. Bronfman's wife, Jan Aronson; to his children, Samuel II, Edgar Jr, Matthew, Holly, Lev, Adam, Sara Igtet and Clare; to his brother, Charles, and his sister, Phyllis Lambert; and to his extended family.

■ In December 2013, **Tzippy** (third from left) and **Jack Gruber** (left) toured Yad Vashem with three generations of their family. Their visit concluded in the Valley of the Communities, of which Tzippy's parents, **Paula** and **William Mandell**, z"l, were Guardians. Their granddaughter **Alexis** (third from right) gave a moving speech displaying pride in the heritage of her family.



■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of American Society for Yad Vashem Board member **Abraham Zuckerman**, a Supporter of the Valley of the Communities. Born in Poland, Abraham survived most of the war by working in Oskar Schindler's factory. However, in 1944, he was taken to the Mauthausen concentration camp. He was eventually liberated by American soldiers.



Abraham met his wife Millie in a DP Camp in Austria before immigrating to the US in 1949. He was a founding member, along with two fellow survivors, of LPZ Associates, a real estate development company that he headed for over six decades. Mr. Zuckerman authored *A Voice in the Chorus*, a tribute to his many friends and relatives who did not survive. He devoted himself to memorializing Oskar Schindler's noble acts by naming streets in more than 25 communities throughout New Jersey and the tri-state area after Schindler.

Abraham Zuckerman is survived by Millie; his daughter Ann and son-in-law Bernard Sklar; his daughter Ruth and son-in-law Steven Katz; his son Wayne and daughter-in-law Deborah; 12 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, to whom Yad Vashem sends its sincerest condolences.

■ **Laila** and **Yuda Doron** (right) and **Raul Cesan** (center) came to Yad Vashem in January for a special behind-the-scenes tour of the Archives with Raul's daughter **Michelle Cesan** (second from left), who is currently investigating the issue of media during the Holocaust. They were accompanied Archives Division Director **Dr. Haim Gertner**, Fred Hillman Chair for Holocaust Documentation (left).



■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of American Society former Board member **Ellis Krakowski**, wife of former Executive Board member Israel Krakowski, z"l, and mother of Board member and Secretary Lili Stawski.



Ellis and her husband were founding members of the Society and generous supporters of Holocaust remembrance and education.

Ellis Krakowski was born in Vienna, Austria and was seven years old at the outbreak of the war. Her family fled from Vienna while her father made his way to *Eretz Israel*. Ellis and her mother managed to board on the last legal boat from Italy to *Eretz Israel*. They lived there for ten years before moving to the US.

Ellis and Israel Krakowski were among the founders of the American Society and the first fundraising meeting for the Society was held in their home. Ellis is survived by her children, Lili and Harry; her granddaughters, Ariella and Ilana Stawski, Rachel, Sarah, Sophie and Leah Krakowski; and a sister, Shirley Boyarsky. Yad Vashem extends its condolences to the entire family.

■ In January, Yad Vashem Sponsor **Avi Katz** (right) toured the International School for Holocaust Studies with International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (left). Mr. Katz supports courses for Holocaust survivors that empower them with the tools and confidence they need to retell their stories of survival to groups visiting Yad Vashem.



# Friends Worldwide

■ In December 2013, Yad Vashem Benefactor **Ruta Zandman** (left) took a special tour of the campus and met with Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** (right). Mrs. Zandman's visit of the Archives included a visit to The Family Plaza at its entrance, which she and her husband **Felix Zandman, z"l**, dedicated in honor of their family members murdered in the *Shoah*.



■ **Angelica Berrie** (standing, fourth from right), President of Yad Vashem Builder The Russell Berrie Foundation, came with a group of clergy from Italy for a visit in January 2014. Their tour included a visit to Yad Vashem's new exhibition "I Am My Brother's Keeper: 50 Years of Honoring Righteous Among the Nations."



■ In January, **Stewart Rahr** (left) toured the Holocaust History Museum with International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (right) and met IDF soldiers who were on the Yad Vashem campus for a special seminar on leadership during the Holocaust.



■ In February, **Lisa, Peter and Alex Ripka** toured various sites of Yad Vashem's Mount of Remembrance campus, including a special behind-the-scenes visit to the Conservation Laboratory with International Relations Division Deputy Managing Director **Sari Granitza** (right).



■ **Rene Lerer** (right) and **Anthony Pollak** (center) toured various sites of Yad Vashem's Mount of Remembrance campus in February, including a special behind-the-scenes visit to the Yad Vashem Archives with International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (left).



■ In January, Yad Vashem Guardian **Steve Russo** (left of the plaque) visited Yad Vashem with three generations of the **Kurtz** and **Heaney** families as they marked two bnei mitzvah in the Yad Vashem Synagogue and learned more details of their families' journeys through the Holocaust via documentation found in the Yad Vashem Archives.



## CANADA

■ Prime Ministers **Stephen Harper** and **Benjamin Netanyahu** met with **Canadian Society for Yad Vashem** supporters at Yad Vashem during Prime Minister Harper's trip to Israel in January. Left to right: **Faye Minuk**, Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev**, International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda**, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, **Honey Sherman**, **Sara Netanyahu**, Canadian Society Executive Director **Yaron Ashkenazi**, **Julia Koschitsky**, the Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, **Sara Zagdanski**, **Israel Schwartz**, **Barry Zagdanski**, **David Posluns**, **Joe Gottdenker**, **Lauren Harper**



■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of Yad Vashem Guardian, Holocaust survivor and partisan **Willie Moll**.

Willie Moll was born in 1930 in Lida, Poland (now Belarus), to Meyer



and Henya Molczadski. The middle of five children, Willie lived a contented life until Germany invaded Lida in 1941, decimating the entire town. Willie later became a member of the Bielski Partisan Brigade. He was the sole survivor of his family.

Mr. Moll rebuilt his life in Canada after the *Shoah*, working first as an apprentice in the jewelry industry and then establishing a jewelry factory. He married Rachel in 1959 and together they had three children and four grandchildren. Mr. Moll's belief in Holocaust education, evidenced through his generous support of Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies and the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem, will leave an indelible mark for generations to come.

■ The Canadian Society for Yad Vashem presented the family of Righteous Among the Nations **Angelo Chalikias** with a special medal and certificate at a moving ceremony in Montreal's City Hall on 27 January 2014 in recognition of Angelo's heroism in saving the life of **Niso Moustaki** during the Holocaust. Left to right: Consul General of Greece in Montreal **Thanos Kafopoulos**, Consul General of Israel in Montreal **Joël Lion**, Angelo Chalikias' wife **Filomeni Chalikias**, Angelo's daughter **Olga Chalikias**, Mayor of Montreal **Denis Coderre**, Ambassador of Greece to Canada H. E. Mr. **Eleftherios Anghelopoulos**, Angelo's son **Dimitrios Chalikias**, Canadian Society Executive Director **Yaron Ashkenazi**



■ **Zacharia and Shira Chazen** of Toronto (pictured with parents **Lynne and Lloyd Chazen**) participated in a bnei mitzvah "twinning" ceremony at Yad Vashem in November 2013. They were presented with certificates linking them with two child victims of the Holocaust in order to commemorate their short lives.



■ **Isaac and Judy Thau** of Vancouver, Yad Vashem Builders and longstanding supporters, toured Yad Vashem in August 2013, including the Hall of Remembrance.



## UK

■ **Jack Livingstone** (center) visited the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial on 22 December together with his wife **Janice**, son **Terence**, daughter **Vanessa** and friends **Jonny** and **Rachelle Arnon**.



## SPAIN

■ To mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the film *The Angel of Budapest* was shown in Yad Vashem's Visual Center on 28 January in honor of the Spanish Righteous Among the Nations **Angel Sanz Briz**. The event was attended by the Righteous' daughters **Pilar** and **Angela Sanz Briz** (left), the Ambassador of Spain in Israel H. E. Mr. **Fernando Carderera** and his wife **Victoria Carderera** (right) and Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** (center).



## PERU

■ Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** met with Peruvian President **Ollanta Humala** during his visit to Yad Vashem on 17 February.



## MEXICO

■ During their visit to Yad Vashem, **Rebeca** and **Jacobo Mischne** (back row, center) were joined by **Toby** and **Ruben Mischne** (back row, third and sixth from left), **Joseph** and **Ivette Woldenberg** (right) and **Dina** and **Solomon Waisburd** (bottom row, third and fourth from left) with their families, and Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** (front, center) on the occasion of the bar mitzvah of their son **Moisés Mischne** (center).



■ **Salomón** and **Marlyn Ison** and **Alfredo** and **Dalia Ison** were joined by family members to celebrate the bnei mitzvah of their sons and nephew (front row, from right), **José** and **Alfonso Ison Nehmad** and **José Ison Mizrahi**.



■ **Charlotte** and **Elias Mizrahi** (currently residing in California) were joined by their family and Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** (right) on the occasion of the bar mitzvah of their son **Mark Mizrahi** (center).



# Friends Worldwide

## AUSTRALIA

■ New Chairman of the **Australian Friends of Yad Vashem** **Joey Borensztajn** (second from left) visited Yad Vashem on 26 December with his wife **Julie** and daughter **Jordana**, accompanied by the Director of the English Language Desk **Searle Brajtman** (right). Mr. Borensztajn toured the exhibition “I Am My Brother’s Keeper: 50 Years of Honoring Righteous Among the Nations,” while Julie and Jordana visited the Holocaust History Museum and Children’s Memorial.



■ **Geoff** (center) and **Valmae Morris**, together with Geoff’s cousin **Gideon Tiktin**, visited the Holocaust History Museum and Children’s Memorial on 24 December. Following their tour, they viewed their plaque in the International School for Holocaust Studies.



■ **Eli Alster** (right), together with his wife **Kim** and children **Ari** and **Jaimee**, visited Yad Vashem on 14 January. They met with Senior Historian at the International Institute for Holocaust Research **Dr. David Silberklang**, and received a behind-the-scenes tour of the Archives from Archives Division Director **Dr. Haim Gertner**, Fred Hillman Chair for Holocaust Documentation (left).



## LIECHTENSTEIN

■ Yad Vashem’s traveling exhibition dedicated to 50 years since the Eichmann trial opened at the National Parliament Principality of Liechtenstein in Vaduz on 27 January. Historian **Dr. Gideon Greif** gave a lecture on curating the exhibition. Left to right: Chairperson of the Society of **Friends of Yad Vashem in Liechtenstein Florian Marxer**, Israel’s Ambassador to Switzerland H. E. Mr. **Yigal B. Caspi**, Director of Yad Vashem’s German-Speaking Countries and German Swiss Desk **Arik Rav-On**, Liechtenstein Minister of Foreign Affairs, Education and Culture **Aurelia Frick**, Dr. Gideon Greif



## FRANCE & BENELUX

■ **Serge Klarsfeld**, French historian and Holocaust researcher, was invited to speak at Yad Vashem on 9 December 2013 by the International Institute for Holocaust Research, within the framework of the Deportation Database’s French section. Klarsfeld was a pioneer in researching and listing the transports of French Jewry during the Holocaust. The subject of the conference at Yad Vashem was “How to Pursue Nazi Criminals and Trace their Victims at the Same Time.” Klarsfeld is also the Vice President of the *Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah* (French Foundation for Holocaust Remembrance). He was accompanied during his visit by **Miry Gross**, Director of the French, Swiss and Benelux Desk, International Relations Division.



## AUSTRIA

■ On 27 February, **Gunther** (center) and **Ulrike Schuster** (left), were honored with the award “Das Große Goldene Ehrenzeichen für Verdienste um die Republik Österreich” (Grand Decoration of Honor in Gold for Services to the Republic of Austria). Speaker of the Austrian Parliament **Barbara Prammer** (right) presented the award in the Austrian Parliament.



## RUSSIA

■ On 11 February, Yad Vashem devoted friends and supporters **Alexander** and **Marina Dobrovinsky** visited the Mount of Remembrance and toured the Holocaust History Museum. They met with Special Advisor to the Chairman of the Directorate Adv. **Arie Zuckerman** (center).



## CHRISTIAN DESK in partnership with ICEJ

■ Yad Vashem was the main focus of a prestigious international Envision 2014 Conference for global Christian leaders held by the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ) during International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Directors of various Christian ministries and church leaders participated in a comprehensive program, which included a guided tour of the

Holocaust History Museum and a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance, during which **Rev. Paul** and **Mrs. Nuala O'Higgins** laid a wreath on behalf of the group.



■ During a visit to Israel, a group of Norwegian pastors and Christian leaders, led by **Pastor Terje Iverod** (right) and accompanied by **Mr. Dag Juliussen** from ICEJ Norway, toured Yad Vashem. International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (left) personally greeted Pastor Iverod.



■ ICEJ Germany, a long-term supporter of Yad Vashem, brought its donors and friends to see the projects they support in Israel. The visit included a tour of the Holocaust History Museum as well as a meeting with International Relations Division Deputy Director **Sara Granitza**. Historian **Dr. Gideon Greif** (left) guided the group, which was led by **Stephan Lehnert** (right).



## Yad Vashem 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mission

### "From Generation to Generation"

■ **"I was there. I survived. Now it is your responsibility to take up the torch of remembrance. Join us on this vital mission. I look forward to seeing you in Jerusalem this June."**

Holocaust Survivor Berthe Elzon Badehi  
Their legacy is our mission. Join us for a remarkable mission of our friends from around the world. Starting with an unforgettable tour in Poland, including a moving ceremony with IDF soldiers, and continuing with an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of Israel.



#### Three package options available:

Poland and Israel: 11-18 June

Poland Only: 11-15 June

Israel Only: 16-18 June

Limited space remains - register today!

Sign up now: [www.yadvashem60.org](http://www.yadvashem60.org)

## Your Support Helps Make a Difference

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

#### ■ To make tax-deductible donations:

##### USA:

American Society for Yad Vashem  
500 Fifth Avenue, 42<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10110  
Tel: 1-800-310-7495 or 212-220-4304  
[info@yadvashemusa.org](mailto:info@yadvashemusa.org)

##### CANADA:

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

##### UK:

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

##### AUSTRALIA:

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

#### ■ Donations may also be sent to:

International Relations Division,  
Yad Vashem, PO Box 3477,  
Jerusalem 9103401, Israel  
Tel: +972-2-6443420

#### ■ For information on societies in other countries,

please visit: [www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org)

**Donate online: [www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org)**

# Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day 2014

## Program of Events at Yad Vashem

### Sunday 27 April

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

Following the opening ceremony, a study evening will be held for students, as well as participants in the "Masa Israel Journey" program, at the International School for Holocaust Studies.

**21:30** **"So that the Next Generations Will Know" – Between Memory and Identity in Israeli Discourse.** An evening of discussion and commemoration organized by the International School for Holocaust Studies of Yad Vashem in cooperation with the Tel Aviv Municipality and the Habimah Theater—"Habimartef," **Habimah Theater, Tel Aviv**  
*Open to the general public, free of charge. For further information, tel: 03-6295555*

### Monday 28 April

Throughout the day, the International School for Holocaust Studies will hold educational activities for groups, youth movement members and student councils.

**10:00** Siren

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

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

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

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

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

■■■

**18:30** **Special evening of the "Generation to Generation: Bearers of the Holocaust and Heroism Legacy" organization** with the participation of Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. The program will include a special screening in cooperation with Yad Vashem's Visual Center of the feature film *When Day Breaks* (directed by Goran Paskaljevic, Serbian with Hebrew subtitles), which was nominated for the Avner Shalev Yad Vashem Chairman's Award at the International Jerusalem Film Festival, 2013—**Tzvata Hall, Tel Aviv**  
*For registration and details: [dorot.hahemshech@gmail.com](mailto:dorot.hahemshech@gmail.com) or tel: 02-6443822*

**20:00** **"Kaddish – I Am Here" Concert by Dr. Lawrence Segal**, performed by the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra—**Henry Crown Symphony Hall, Jerusalem Theatre.** *To order tickets free of charge: 1-700-70-4000*



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Yad Vashem Jerusalem Quarterly Magazine  
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