

Yad Vashem Jerusalem

QUARTERLY MAGAZINE, VOL. 74, July 2014



**The Visit of Pope Francis
to Yad Vashem** (pp. 2-7)

60th Anniversary Mission (pp. 12-13)

Published by:
Yad Vashem 

The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes'
Remembrance Authority

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

Vice Chairmen of the Council:

Dr. Yitzhak Arad

Dr. Moshe Kantor

Prof. Elie Wiesel

Chairman of the Directorate: **Avner Shalev**

Director General: **Dorit Novak**

Head of the International Institute for Holocaust
Research and Incumbent, John Najmann Chair
for Holocaust Studies: **Prof. Dan Michman**

Chief Historian: **Prof. Dina Porat**

Academic Advisor:

Prof. Yehuda Bauer

Members of the Yad Vashem Directorate:

Yossi Ahimeir, Edna Ben-Horin, Michal Cohen,

Matityahu Drobles, Abraham Duvdevani,

Prof. Boleslaw (Bolek) Goldman,

Vera H. Golovensky, Moshe Ha-Elion,

Adv. Shlomit Kasirer, Yehiel Leket,

Effi Shtensler, Baruch Shub, Dalit Stauber,

Dr. Zehava Tanne, Adv. Shoshana Weinshall,

Dudi Zilbershlag

THE MAGAZINE

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

Managing Editor: **Leah Goldstein**

Editorial Board:

Yifat Bachrach-Ron

Deborah Berman

Richard Mann

Susan Weisberg

Cynthia Wroclawski

Estee Yaari

Editorial Coordinator: **Lilach Tamir-Itach**

Language Editor: **Leah Goldstein**

Proofreader: **Ezra Olman**

Translated by: **KPoint**

Assisted by: **Alexander Avram,**

Shaya Ben Yehuda, Inbal Kvity Ben-Dov,

Ayala Peretz, Dana Porath, Rebecca Schwartz,

Amanda Smulowitz

Photography: **Yossi Ben-David, Isaac Harari,**

Jorge Novominsky, Martin Sykes-Haas

Production: **Ahva Printing Press Company Ltd.**

Design: **Stephanie Et Ruti Design**

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

ISSN 0793-7199

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

Yad Vashem's activities are supported by

the Ministry of Education 

and the Claims Conference 

Contents

**The Visit of Pope Francis
to Yad Vashem ■ 2-6**

“Prayer” ■ 5

Replica of Abramek Koplowicz's Artwork
Presented to the Pope

Yad Vashem Online ■ 6

The Visit of Pope Francis

**Visit of Ecumenical Patriarch
Bartholomew I of Constantinople ■ 6**

Education ■ 7-11

“Through Our Own Lens” ■ 8-9

Reflecting on the Holocaust from Generation
to Generation

First-Ever Seminar for Turkish Academics
at Yad Vashem ■ 7

IHRA Launches Holocaust Education
Outreach Program ■ 7

German “Partners” of International School
Meet in Berlin ■ 7

Yad Vashem Education Awards 2014 ■ 8-9

Graduate Spotlight: ■ 10

Horatiu Suciuc, Romania

Romania to Accredite Educational Seminars
at Yad Vashem ■ 10

Berlin School Renamed After
Muslim Righteous ■ 11

Fifth International Christian
Leadership Seminar ■ 11

Seminar for Spanish Community Leaders ■ 11

60th Anniversary Mission ■ 12-13

Yad Vashem Worldwide Supporters View
Activities in Poland and Jerusalem

“If Only I Had Known” ■ 14

Names Database Reconnects
Three Family Branches

A Never-Ending Story ■ 15

Members of the Public Help Complete Tales of
Rescue from the *Shoah*

Holocaust Remembrance Day 2014 ■ 16-17

24 Hours on the Mount of Remembrance

News ■ 18-21

Friends Worldwide ■ 22-27

**International Institute for
Holocaust Research ■ 28**

New on the Shelf

■ *On the cover: Pope Francis lays a wreath
during a memorial ceremony in Yad Vashem's
Hall of Remembrance.*

■ *“With shame for what man, who was
created in the image of God, was able to
do; with shame for the fact that man made
himself the owner of evil; with shame that
man made himself into God and sacrificed his
brothers. Never again!! Never again!!”*

Pope Francis

On 26 May 2014, Pope Francis visited Yad
Vashem, accompanied by Israel's President
Shimon Peres and Prime Minister Benjamin
Netanyahu, Chairman of the Yad Vashem
Directorate Avner Shalev and Chairman of
the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir
Lau. Similar to the visit of his predecessors

The Pope stressed the
momentous place of
the *Shoah* in the human
experience, noting
the boundless and
incommensurate tragedy
of the Holocaust. He
called for promoting
education in human
values, and for building
a world free of all
expressions of hostility,
discrimination and
intolerance

Pope John Paul II in 2000 and Pope Benedict
XVI in 2009, the Pope's visit took place in the
Hall of Remembrance, where he participated
in a memorial ceremony, delivered an address
and met six Holocaust survivors.

The visit, which naturally attracted great
international media attention, was streamed
live on Yad Vashem's website. After Shalev
received the Pope on his arrival, the entourage
made its way to the entrance of the Hall of
Remembrance, where he was welcomed by

The Visit of Pope Francis to Yad Vashem



■ The Pope rekindles the eternal flame in the Hall of Remembrance.

Prime Minister Netanyahu, President Peres and Rabbi Lau. During the memorial ceremony, the Pontiff rekindled the Eternal Flame and laid a wreath, assisted by two young Catholic students who live in Israel, Eva Kolodkina and Hoang Huy Nguyen. The Ankor Choir, under the direction of Dafna Ben Yohanan, performed "A Walk to Caesarea" ("Eli, Eli") by Hannah Szenes, and an "Identification" (with the Holocaust victims) was read out in Italian by Director of the International Institute for Holocaust Research of Yad Vashem Dr. Iael Nidam-Orvieto. An excerpt from the last

letter of Ida Goldish, who was murdered in the Holocaust, was also read, and the service concluded with the chanting of "*El Maleh Rahamim*," a prayer for the dead, by Cantor Asher Hainowitz.

Also present at the ceremony were Holocaust survivors, Tourism Minister Uzi Landau, Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Chair of the Centre of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel Collette Avital, Yad Vashem Friends Yossie and Dana Hollander and Adrián Werthein, and members of the visiting delegation from the Vatican.

Immediately following the ceremony, the Pope met Holocaust survivors Avraham Harshalom, Chava Shik, Joseph Gottdenker, Moshe Ha-Elion, Eliezer Grynfeld and Sonia Tunik-Geron (see p. 4). Pope Francis then delivered an address and signed the Yad Vashem Guest Book.

During his visit to Israel, the Pope stressed the momentous place of the *Shoah* in the human experience, noting the boundless and incommensurate tragedy of the Holocaust. His remarks, which were characterized by poetry and prayer, dealt with how mankind could have committed such a horrifying crime. The Pontiff spoke of the terrible rupture, in which many people lost their humanity. He called for promoting education in human values, and for



building a world without antisemitism in all of its forms, free of all expressions of hostility, discrimination and intolerance.

Yad Vashem Chairman Shalev then presented the Pope with a replica of the painting "Prayer," created by the gifted teenager Abraham (Abramek) Koplwicz in the Lodz ghetto shortly before he was deported and murdered in Auschwitz (see p. 5).

Yad Vashem attributes great importance and special significance to the visit of Pope Francis, and hopes it will foster greater Holocaust awareness around the world.

During his visit to Yad Vashem, Pope Francis met six Holocaust survivors



■ Pope Francis kissed the hands of six Holocaust survivors during his visit to Yad Vashem, including Joseph Gottdenker (pictured).

Avraham Harshalom

■ Avraham Harshalom (Friedberg) was born in the town of Pruzhany (today Belarus) in 1925. After the German occupation, his family was forced to live in the ghetto until they were deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1943. Avraham's parents, grandparents and brother, Sioma, were murdered in the gas chambers. In October 1944, Avraham was taken to Buchenwald. Passing himself off as a Pole, he was sent by train to another camp, from which he escaped. Avraham eventually found refuge with the Sobotka family in Prague. In April 1945, he fought against the retreating Nazis. He immigrated to Israel in 1949 and served in the Israel Air Force. Avraham later founded a successful company and became a firm supporter of Yad Vashem.

Chava (Eva) Shik

■ Chava (Eva) Shik and her twin sister Miriam were born in Novi Sad, Serbia in 1939. The day before the deportation of the Jews of Novi Sad to Auschwitz, Austrian officer Roman Erich Petsche took the two girls to Budapest and from there arranged shelter for them in a monastery in Pecs. The head of the monastery, Sister Renata, sheltered Chava and her sister

along with two other Jewish children. After the war the girls were adopted by their mother's cousin, and in 1948 they immigrated to Israel. Following her army service, Chava moved to Lehavot-Haviva, a kibbutz founded by Holocaust survivors from Auschwitz.

Eliezer (Lolek) Grynfeld

■ Eliezer (Lolek) Grynfeld was born in Lodz in 1923. In April 1940, his family was forced to move into the Lodz ghetto, where both of his grandparents died. Eliezer worked in the ghetto hospital. In August 1944, Eliezer and his mother were taken to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp; his mother was then sent to Ravensbrück. Eliezer was later taken on a death march from which he managed to escape. He eventually joined Soviet forces, acting as a translator. After the war, Eliezer returned to Lodz, where he was reunited with his mother. He immigrated to Israel in 1956 with his wife Rachel, and worked in the military industry. Eliezer's mother followed a year later. She remarried another Holocaust survivor, Mendel Koplowicz. A replica of an artwork by Mendel's son Abramek, which Eliezer donated to Yad Vashem together with a notebook of poems and writings, was presented to Pope Francis during his visit to Yad Vashem (see p. 5).

Joseph Gottdenker

■ Joseph Gottdenker was born in Sandomierz, Poland, in 1942. Just prior to his birth, Joseph's father Ben was taken to a concentration camp. After he was born, a Catholic Polish family, the Ziolos, provided Joseph's mother Bina with false identity papers and helped her escape with the Polish Underground. They protected and raised Joseph as their own child for some three years, at great personal risk. After the war, Joseph's uncle helped him reunite with his parents. In 1949, Joseph immigrated with his family to the US and later moved to Canada, where he became a successful businessman and is now a proud Benefactor of Yad Vashem.

Moshe Ha-Elion

■ Moshe Ha-Elion was born in Thessaloniki, Greece in 1925. After the Nazi invasion, he was deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1943, where his entire family was murdered. He survived the camp and a death march, and was eventually liberated in Austria. After the war, he immigrated to Israel and made a career in the IDF. Moshe became a scholar of Ladino, and is dedicated to preserving the memory of the Holocaust. He is active in many survivor organizations, and is a volunteer member of the Yad Vashem Directorate.

Sonia Tunik-Geron

■ Sonia Tunik-Geron was born in Stolpce, Poland (now Belarus) in 1924. After the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941, Sonia was deported to the ghetto and confined to a small apartment with 27 people. In October 1942, Sonia escaped to the forest with a friend who was connected to the Underground. She joined the Zhukov partisan unit led by Jewish commander Lyuba Gilczyk, and lived in the forest with hundreds of fighters and their families until July 1944. Sonia lost her entire immediate family during the *Shoah*. In 1947 she immigrated to Israel, married and worked as a nurse until retirement.

“Prayer”

Replica of Abramek Koplowicz’s Artwork Presented to the Pope

Eliad Moreh-Rosenberg

■ Abraham (Abramek) Koplowicz was the only child of Mendel and Johet-Gitel, who lived in Lodz, Poland. A gifted child, Abramek was educated in Polish, but received only two years of schooling before the outbreak of WWII. After the occupation of Lodz, Abramek and his family were forced to move to the city ghetto, established in the spring of 1940. Abramek was sent to work in a cobbler’s workshop; his father Mendel served as the manager of a paper factory. When the ghetto was liquidated in the summer of 1944, Abramek and his parents were deported to Auschwitz. Mendel managed to get Abramek through the first selection. One day in September 1944, Mendel tried to protect his son from the back-breaking labor by hiding Abramek in the barrack while he himself went to work outside the camp perimeter. However,



■ Abraham (Abramek) Koplowicz with his mother Johet-Gitel and his father Mendel

upon his return, Mendel did not find Abramek – his son had been taken to the gas chamber. Johet-Gitel was also murdered in Auschwitz; Mendel was the family’s sole survivor.

After liberation, Mendel returned to the family’s home in the ghetto and discovered a work of art that Abramek had left behind in the attic. The painting depicts a Jewish man at prayer standing in front of what is probably a Torah Ark, dressed in traditional Hassidic garb and wrapped in a *tallit* (prayer shawl). At the age of 13, Abramek alludes to the misery of the ghetto with a number of details: the cracked and peeling paint exposing a brick wall, the distorted chinks in the wood floor, the quivering lines on the man and his *tallit* – all conveying a sense of fragility and unstableness. In contrast, the upright stature of the figure holding a prayer book in the center of the composition suggests the inner strength of the pious Jew

The upright stature of the figure holding a prayer book in the center of the composition suggests the inner strength of the pious Jew clinging to his faith

clinging to his faith during this time of crisis and persecution. The black shadow from behind may evoke a feeling of threat while at the same time suggesting a source of light illuminating the praying Jew. With soberness, Abramek expresses the spiritual power of a Jewish man invoking his Creator at this time of despair.

Together with the artwork, Mendel also discovered a notebook that included eight poems and two satirical skits all written by the young Abramek.

After the war, Mendel remarried a survivor from Lodz, Haya Grynfeld, and the two moved to Israel in 1956. In their home in Holon, Abramek’s painting was displayed on the wall in Haya and Mendel’s bedroom, but Mendel, who was introverted and withdrawn, never told anyone about Abramek’s writings. After Mendel and Haya had passed away in the 1980s, Mendel’s stepson, Eliezer (Lolek) Grynfeld, discovered the notebook. Lolek donated both the painting and the notebook to Yad Vashem to be safeguarded for future generations. This inspiring collection, along with the story of the talented young teenager whose dreams were destroyed in the crematoria of Auschwitz, was later published by Yad Vashem.



■ Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev presented the Pope with a copy of Abramek’s “Prayer.”



■ Abraham (Abramek) Koplowicz (1930-1944), *Prayer*, c. 1943. Gouache and ink on paper. Collection of Yad Vashem Museum of Holocaust Art. Gift of Eliezer Grynfeld, Israel

During the visit of Pope Francis, a replica of the artwork was presented to the Pontiff by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. An excerpt from Abramek’s poem “Dream,” which expresses his desire to flee in space and time the cruel reality of the ghetto, was also read aloud:

*When I will be 20 years old,
In a motorized bird I’ll sit,
And to the reaches of space I’ll rise.
I will fly, I will float to the beautiful
Faraway world
And skywards I will soar [...]
I will fly, I will float over rivers and seas.
I will marvel at the Euphrates and Nile[...]
From there I’ll set my sights to the Holy Land,
Where our Covenant was given.
I will even reach illustrious Homer’s country,
And will be so amazed by the beauty of
this world.
To the heavens I will take off.
The cloud my sister will be
The wind is brother to me.*

The author is Curator and Art Department Director, Museums Division.

The Visit of Pope Francis

Dana Porath

■ To promote the impending visit of Pope Francis to Yad Vashem, Yad Vashem prepared mini-sites in four languages – English, Hebrew, Spanish and German – including links to photo galleries of previous papal visits to Yad Vashem; the biographies of the six survivors who met the Pope; background information about the gift presented to the Pope; and the story behind the poem read aloud during the ceremony.

In addition, all of Yad Vashem's social media platforms were used to promote and cover the important event: the visit itself was broadcast on a live feed to the website and afterwards uploaded to Yad Vashem's YouTube channel; and at its conclusion, the mini-sites in all four languages were immediately updated with photos and video clips. All social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest, were cross-referenced to reflect the different types of relevant content in each.

By utilizing the opportunities that different digital technologies offer, Yad Vashem was able to ensure maximum global exposure for this significant event.

The author is Director of the Internet Department.



Visit of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople



■ Patriarch Bartholomew I (second from right) and his delegation displayed profound interest in the varying exhibits in the Holocaust History Museum.

■ In an important and significant visit, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople came to Yad Vashem on 27 May. The Patriarch toured the Holocaust History Museum, participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance, visited the Children's Memorial, and signed the Yad Vashem Guest Book. He and his delegation were guided by Dr. Robert Rozett, Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries. The following is taken from his speech, which he delivered at the conclusion of his visit:

"We are very grateful to God for the opportunity once again to visit this remarkable monument today, and to honor the souls and memories commemorated here... The location of the memorial under the Earth vividly represents the inexplicable loss that was the Shoah, the Holocaust. All who descend into the inner chamber of the Museum are free to walk away when they choose and return to the sunlight. Such was not the case for these 1.5 million children whose lives were taken from them through hatred and unspeakable violence. As difficult as it was to look into the faces of these precious children, who represent all of the slaughtered innocents, we must do so and we must remember..."

"This museum is a testimony to the reality of humanity's capacity to be deceived by the enemy of God and to act in unthinkable ways and to commit unspeakable atrocities. The future can be no better than the past if people from all cultures, religions and political thought

do not learn well the lessons of the Shoah. Great tyranny and oppression were stopped in some small way by ordinary people, many of whom are commemorated in the Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations. Each person here in Israel and throughout the world has

"We must mention the hope that this memorial brings to the world"

the power to make choices that lead to life, health and peace. May we all have the wisdom to recognize the deception of oppression and find the courage to stand in solidarity to oppose those who would someday repeat the horror of the Shoah.

"In closing, we must mention the hope that this memorial brings to the world. We have never been in a place which more clearly illustrates the truth that even in the depths of the earth, in the darkest room, there is light. The millions of little lives here bear witness to the reality that God has not forsaken the world. He is all powerful and governs the affairs of humanity. In the midst of tragedy, He stands ready to rekindle every heart that is broken and to restore those who have suffered great harm. What the Psalmist wrote is still true: 'Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins.' May those memorialized in this place rest in peace and may their memory be eternal."

Education

First-Ever Seminar for Turkish Academics at Yad Vashem

■ In June 2014, the European Department of the International School for Holocaust Studies held its first-ever seminar for a cadre of Turkish academics – the climax of a long-term partnership program between Yad Vashem and Project Aladdin, an international non-governmental organization seeking to promote Holocaust awareness in the Middle East, Asia and Africa, and to foster better intercultural relations, especially between Jews and Muslims.

The objective of the program, which was launched in 2013, is to lay the foundation for a network of academics that will promote Holocaust education, as well as increase general awareness about the Holocaust, in Turkish universities.

In the months leading up to the seminar, participants underwent intensive preparation, including attending a conference at Istanbul's



■ Turkish academics visit the Learning Center at Yad Vashem.

Galatasaray University, where they heard from experts on the Holocaust from Yad Vashem, Project Aladdin, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) and other partners. Later on, they participated in an online course on the history of the Holocaust. At Yad Vashem, the group further increased their knowledge of the events, and studied

pedagogical tools and techniques developed by experts at the International School. Each of the Turkish academics will now carry out a Holocaust-related educational project of their choosing on their campus. Attesting to the group's keen interest in the program, some of the participants have already launched their projects.

Dr. Umur Uzer, an associate professor at Istanbul Technical University who played a key role in recruiting the participants, called the program "truly groundbreaking... We hope to contribute to a meaningful awareness of Holocaust education and memorial days in Turkey in general, and in the academic arena in particular. We look forward to viewing the participants' projects, and seeing how they put what they have learned into practice."

The Seminar for Turkish Academics at Yad Vashem was generously supported by IHRA and ICHEIC.

IHRA Launches Holocaust Education Outreach Program

Jane Jacobs-Kimmelman

■ In May 2014, Yad Vashem staff members on the Israeli delegation to IHRA (the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance) attended the first plenary meeting under British chairmanship at London's historic Lancaster House. The gathering of over 300 international experts generated crucial networking as well as important initiatives. The four days of intensive meetings were preceded by a conference on the genocide of the Roma, held in cooperation with the Centre for Holocaust Education at the Institute of Education, University of London, which reflects IHRA's current focus on genocides and crimes against humanity. IHRA's Honorary Chairman, Academic Advisor to Yad Vashem Prof. Yehuda Bauer, spoke passionately in favor of this focus during his speech opening the plenary meeting.

The plenary was also marked by the launch of a new outreach program to promote Holocaust education teacher training in countries where infrastructures are lacking. Shulamit Imber, Pedagogical Director of the International School of Holocaust Studies and Fred Hillman Chair in memory of Janusz Korczak, will sit on this committee in her capacity as an IHRA delegate. Additional decisions included continuing projects focusing on archival access, education research, the investigation of Holocaust-era killing sites and the development of Holocaust memorial days and education in social media – areas in which Yad Vashem IHRA delegates are closely involved. IHRA also voted to accept the International Tracing Service as its seventh permanent international partner, alongside UNESCO, the United Nations, the



■ IHRA delegates gather at London's Lancaster House.

Council of Europe, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and the Claims Conference.

Yad Vashem's IHRA activities are generously supported by The Asper Foundation.

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

German "Partners" of International School Meet in Berlin

■ Forty-three German-speaking partners of the German Desk at the International School for Holocaust Studies convened in Berlin to discuss their experiences in teaching the history of the Holocaust. The partners – representatives of ministries of education and memorial sites as well as teachers from Yad Vashem's current six partner schools, all of whom help bring educators from Germany, Austria and Switzerland for training seminars on the Mount of Remembrance – met at the headquarters of the Standing Conference of Ministers of Education

and Cultural Affairs of Germany (KMK), where they exchanged pedagogical and networking strategies. Pictured, from left: Angela Krill, KMK; Dr. Dirk Sadowski, Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research; Dr. Noa McKayton and Deborah Hartmann, German Desk, International School for Holocaust Studies, Yad Vashem

The activities of the German Desk, International School for Holocaust Studies, are generously supported by the Adelson Family Foundation and ICHEIC.



International Conference on Holocaust Education

“Through Our Own Lens”

Reflecting on the Holocaust from Generation to Generation

Leah Goldstein

■ *“As the events of the Shoah are rapidly receding into history, it is incumbent upon us to explore how each generation has grappled with, and continues to find significance in, the implications of the Holocaust... Our responsibility in continuing to shape and inform the future of Holocaust commemoration and education remains as vital and relevant as ever.”*

Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev

At the beginning of July, over 450 educators from 50 countries, including China, Poland, Argentina, Canada, Namibia, Venezuela, Greece and Spain, gathered at Yad Vashem for the ninth International Conference on Holocaust Education. With the aim of investigating the roles of the survivor, second, third and fourth generations in the perpetuation of Holocaust education, the conference was organized into three main sections: the purpose of Holocaust documentation on the part of the first and second generations; how the events of the *Shoah* continue to find significance in the lives of those born afterwards; and the future of Holocaust education and remembrance among the youth of today – and tomorrow.

During the course of the conference, participants heard from renowned authors and filmmakers, leading technology experts, theologians and world-class historians. Lecturers and moderators included Justice Gavriel Bach,



■ Over 450 participants from 50 countries gather in the Valley of the Communities for the opening of the Ninth International Conference on Holocaust Education.

former deputy prosecutor in the prosecution of Adolf Eichmann; Prof. Yehuda Bauer, Academic Advisor to Yad Vashem; Holocaust survivor and author Prof. Rabbi David Halivni; and historian and author Prof. Daniel Jonah Goldhagen. An interview with Serge Klarsfeld, who led prosecutions against

Nazis and their collaborators, was conducted by his son Arno Klarsfeld, and top-level discussions were presented by Yad Vashem staff on a range of topics – from the evolution of the institution over the decades to pedagogical challenges in teaching the Holocaust in countries around the globe.

Yad Vashem Education Awards 2014

■ **At the heart of the Holocaust Remembrance Room at Hashachar School in Hod Hasharon stands a pole shaped like a tree trunk, hung with little notes resembling leaves and bearing the names of Holocaust victims.** This is the way in which eighth-grade students, who won one of this year's two Yad Vashem education awards, chose to mark 70 years since the deportation of Hungarian Jews to the death camps. The monument was inspired by the Weeping Willow memorial in Budapest, whose leaves are engraved with the names of Hungarian Jews murdered in the Holocaust.

The other prize was awarded to the Makif Z High School in Ashdod, for its program entitled “The Holocaust and Me: Remembering, Reminding, Commemorating,” in which students engaged in

various projects throughout the year dedicated to preserving the memory of the Holocaust. One of the activities included in the program involved students recording and preserving the life stories of Holocaust survivors.

“It is evident within both programs that the students have gone through a meaningful process, and the outcome is indicative of a thoughtful and highly sensitive approach to the topic,” said Sarit Hoch-Markovitz, Director of the Teacher Training Department at the International School for Holocaust Studies. “To no lesser degree, we wish to recognize the students’ full cooperation and partnership in the implementation of the programs, as well as the broad-scale involvement of teachers from a variety of subject areas.”

Rinat Ribak-Wagon

The laureate of this year's Lifetime Achievement Award in Holocaust Education is Haim Roth, a Holocaust survivor from Holland who has dedicated a significant part of his life to the cultivation and strengthening of Holocaust remembrance and commemoration. This year marks the quarter-centennial of the first commemorative project initiated by Roth, broadly known under the title “Unto Every Person There is a Name.” Within this project's framework, names of hundreds of thousands of Jews murdered during the Holocaust are read out each year on Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day at the Knesset, Yad Vashem, local government authorities and other organizations in Israel and the Diaspora. Another important cause to which

For the very first time, all the plenary session were streamed live from the Yad Vashem website, allowing thousands of other interested educators and scholars real time access to the dynamic events. In addition, the conference was promoted and shared on Yad Vashem's social media platforms.

One of the most fascinating and original sessions came as the conference drew to a close, at the meeting of six young men and women aged

"Holocaust education helps establish deference for civil rights, basic freedoms and the values of tolerance and mutual respect."

Luzhen Han, China

18-23 from Israel, UK, China, Canada, Poland and Argentina – a truly global encounter of fourth-generation advocates for Holocaust education. In an interview conducted as the conference was set to commence, these “young ambassadors” gave thought to their motivations and interest in taking part in this key international event, as well as their roles and responsibilities in the light of the path trodden by the generations preceding them.

Eighteen-year-old Lucy Hamwijk, regional ambassador for the UK Holocaust Educational Trust, came to study at Yad Vashem last summer. She insisted that “as part of future planning, the voices of young people must be listened to... We are possibly the last generation that will be able to listen and speak with a survivor of the Holocaust, to hear their stories. We need to honor this ability, to take full advantage of their presence... Young people must ask lots of questions.”

Batya Brownstein, an Israeli high-school graduate, spoke of the “timeless relevance of the Holocaust.” Her generation, she claimed, “continues to integrate the memory of the Holocaust into everyday life in all Western societies. We constantly develop Holocaust awareness emotionally, artistically and socially, and continue to learn to cope with it as individuals.”

Maria Gonzalez Warcalde, a history student in Argentina, believes in “engaging students of all ages, cultures and religions to think about the multiple facets of the Holocaust, and fostering critical thinking and self-reflection so that we can make the essential connections between history and the contemporary moral choices we confront in our own lives. One person can make the difference. Reality lies before our eyes; we can just ignore it and walk away, or be ‘agents for change’ in today’s world.”

Luzhen (Laura) Han participated in a seminar for Chinese educators at the International School in 2013, and is eager to help provide more learning materials on the *Shoah* in Chinese. “Transmitting the memory of the Holocaust to future generations is our mission,” she remarked. “We should reflect upon the moral and spiritual questions raised by the Holocaust and as they apply in today’s world. Holocaust education helps establish deference for civil rights, basic freedoms and the values of tolerance and mutual respect.”

Canadian teacher-in-training Iain Beaumont presented a workshop at the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem’s “Then and Now” National Educators’ Conference in Markham, Ontario in July 2013. He passionately believes in beginning Holocaust education at the elementary-school level: “With so few remaining survivors, it is crucial that my generation learns innovative ways to teach the Holocaust,” he said. “This is one of the main ideas taught in our grade-six classroom – to use critical thinking skills, but above all to let your sense of empathy take the lead.”

Lukasz Matysiak, who lives just outside of Warsaw, Poland, believes that the *Shoah* should be viewed on “a universal level... as the fourth generation after the Holocaust, we must do everything we can to prevent future genocides. We are the future,” he emphasizes, “but we cannot forget the past.”

Immediately following the addresses given by these inspiring speakers, participants were introduced to eleven Israeli high-school students



■ Left to right: “Young Ambassadors” Luzhen Han, Lukasz Matysiak, Lucy Hamwijk, Batya Brownstein, Maria Gonzalez Warcalde and Iain Beaumont

from the southern Israeli city of Ashdod, who had participated in this year’s “Mu-zika” project. The students gave three live performances – rock songs and ballads they had personally composed based on texts written by *Shoah* survivors and members of the second generation. The original works were created by the students after attending preparatory seminars at Yad Vashem, and first presented to thousands of people, including Holocaust survivors, in Ashdod on this year’s Holocaust Remembrance Day. A printed pamphlet detailing the works was distributed to the audience at Yad Vashem during the moving performances, enabling a deeper understanding of this unique project – yet one more step in connecting the generations in the cause of *Shoah* remembrance.

The International Conference was generously supported by the Asper Foundation, the Adelson Family Foundation and the Claims Conference.



■ Rotem Pinsk, who won a prize for her matriculation project – a radio program on the history of trips to Poland – spoke in the name of all the prizewinners.

Roth dedicates considerable time and energy is increasing public awareness of the rescue of Jews by other Jews during the Holocaust. The many rescue stories Roth helped bring to public knowledge illustrate the strong solidarity and sense of mutual commitment shared by Jews who, despite persecution and imminent danger of death, did everything they could to try and save others.

In cooperation with the Aloumim Association, Le Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah awarded grants to three Israeli schools that made a commitment to study the Holocaust of French Jewry. The Shaalei Torah and Bnei Akiva for Environmental Education-Susiyah Yeshiva High Schools provided training to a number of students who interviewed

survivors from France and wrote research papers on the topic. Students who study French at the City High School (A) in Modiin also engaged in research and writing on the topic of the Holocaust in France throughout the school year.

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

The author works in the Teacher Training Department, International School of 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 he has achieved since:



Horațiu Suci

Romania



James Joseph McIntosh



■ Graduate Horațiu Suci

■ **Horațiu Suci is a teacher at the Iulia Hasdeu National College, a high school in the western Romanian city of Lugoj, near the Hungarian border.** Since attending a teacher-training seminar for Romanian educators at Yad Vashem in 2008,

Suci has devoted his energies to teaching his students about the Holocaust. His work also inspired his father, who is an educator as well, to follow in his footsteps and study at Yad Vashem.

Although Suci has limited time and resources for teaching history, he has made educating about the Holocaust a priority in his school. One especially creative project was with students aged 15-18: the children researched the history of Eva Deutsch, a Holocaust survivor from Romania, and recounted her life's story before, during and after the Holocaust in the form of a graphic novel.

The novel begins with an introduction to Deutsch's early life, and describes a fairly typical childhood: going to school, dancing at balls, celebrating holidays and visiting toy stores. In 1940, Romania was forced to cede to Hungary the territory in which Deutsch's family lived. As her father was a WWI veteran, her family remained safe at first. However, the situation quickly deteriorated as the Hungarian

government instituted anti-Jewish policies, barring Jews from universities and taking them away for forced labor. In March 1944, Hungarian gendarmes deported the family to Auschwitz, where the Germans murdered her parents.

Prisoners at the extermination camp's armaments factory eventually managed to sabotage the plant and cause an explosion, prompting the Germans to deport Deutsch and others to Theresienstadt. The Red Army liberated the camp on 8 May 1945, but Deutsch could not return home. A stranger had taken over her house, and she lived wherever she could until 1948, when she met her future husband, Gyula.

"The testimonies of Holocaust survivors are relatively long and difficult to read," explains Suci. "That is why I came up with the idea of making and printing graphic novels, in the hope that they could be easily read and understood. The big surprise came when I began to use this material in class as a teaching aid. The students became totally committed to completing their tasks."

One central problem with this kind of material is the relationship between fiction and reality, and Suci ensures that his students clearly understand that the book is not fiction by integrating resources into the novel: fragments of genuine testimonies, original photos, historical maps, links to online information and more. In the hope that other teachers would also find this material useful, at the end of each story are suggestions for several possible class activities.



■ Suci's students prepared graphic novels based on the story of a Holocaust survivor.

Suci received a modest subsidy from the International School's European Department, supported by the ICHEIC Humanitarian Fund, to publish the novel in Romanian and English. As detailed in Yad Vashem's educational philosophy and age-appropriate approach, the artwork of the stories portrays the everyday lives and challenges faced by Jewish people during the Holocaust, without the use of disturbing imagery.

Some of Suci's former students who had worked on this project under his guidance have since returned to work with their history teacher and younger pupils. Together with Centropa, the Central Europe Center for Research and Documentation, Suci also coordinated a successful seminar on Holocaust education for educators from across Romania in June. "It's vital that we look at the Holocaust from the point of view of the children," concludes Suci. "That's a perspective in which we must invest."

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

Romania to Accredite Educational Seminars at Yad Vashem

■ **On 24 June, Romanian Prime Minister Victor-Viorel Ponta (pictured) toured Yad Vashem, accompanied by Romanian government ministers.** During their visit to Israel, a memorandum of understanding was signed by the Romanian Minister of National Education Remus Pricopie and Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, extending cooperation in the field of Holocaust education and allowing Romanian educators formal accreditation for attending educational seminars at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies. The agreement was signed in the presence of Israel's Minister of Education

Rabbi Shai Piron. Since the year 2000, more than 230 Romanian educators have attended seminars at the International School.

"We are delighted that our work with the Romanian educational authorities is bearing fruit and we look forward to continued cooperation in the future," said Lily Safra Chair of Holocaust Education and International School Director Dr. Eyal Kaminka. "We also greatly appreciate the support of Romania's Ambassador to Israel, H. E. Ms. Andreea Păstărnac."

Yad Vashem's educational activities in conjunction with Romania are generously supported by ICHEIC and the Adelson Family Foundation.



Berlin School Renamed After Muslim Righteous

■ The Sekundarschule Skalitzer Strasse, located in the Kreuzberg neighborhood of Berlin, has a majority of students who are the children of Arab and Turkish immigrants. When teachers began to hear some of them make prejudiced remarks about Jews and other minorities, they decided to counter with an educational program. Among other steps, the teachers contacted the Jewish Museum of Berlin and organized study days for the pupils. One group, including some students of Palestinian-Arab origin, decided to organize a trip to Israel, which included a visit to Yad Vashem in early 2012.

During their visit, Anna Stocker of the International School for Holocaust Studies' European Department introduced the students to a Holocaust survivor, and led them in a workshop on Refik Veseli, an Albanian Muslim who was recognized as Righteous Among the Nations in 1987. Veseli was only 17 years old when Nazi Germany invaded Albania, and he proposed that a Jewish family hide in his parents' house.

"Refik Veseli proved to be a good example for this particular group of students," explains Stocker. "They were similar in age, they shared a common religion, and he had demonstrated exemplary civil courage, a value which the German education system strives to instill in its pupils."



■ Refik Veseli, 1946

Veseli's story made quite an impression on the students, who went on to share what they had experienced when they returned home to Germany. As interest grew, some of the students proposed renaming the school in Veseli's honor. They initiated a process that mobilized fellow students, teachers and parents, and concluded with a school-wide election in February 2013. A majority vote in favor of renaming the school after Veseli led to its official confirmation from the Berlin city administration in January 2014.

"What began with an attempt to fight antisemitic statements went far beyond the educators' initial expectations," says Stocker. "The school even went so far as to hire an architect to redesign the school's entrance in the spirit of this courageous rescue effort."

At the request of the newly-designated Refik Veseli School, the European Department's German Desk recently adapted a special unit to assist teachers when talking about Veseli and his story's lessons of diversity and humanity. The school has indicated its interest in sending another class of students to Yad Vashem and, sporting the motto "There is Always a Choice," they have also expressed interest in joining the Yad Vashem-ICHEIC Partner School Network.

"This experience illustrates that the Holocaust is a transnational and pan-European issue," concludes Stocker. "The Refik Veseli School is a first-rate example of the progress made by the International School in tailoring materials to the students' cognitive, emotional and cultural backgrounds."

Fifth International Christian Leadership Seminar Dr. Susanna Kokkonen

■ Twenty-five Christian leaders from various denominations and nationalities arrived at the International School for Holocaust Studies for a weeklong seminar in April. The pastors and lay leaders from Europe, North America, South America and Asia heard lectures on a wide variety of topics, from the Jewish response to the *Shoah* to Holocaust denial.

The participants were privileged to meet with Holocaust survivors, including Anne Frank's childhood friend Hanna Pick and "Schindler Jews" Nachum and Genya Manor. In addition to participating in the official Holocaust Remembrance Day events, they also attended the famed "Kaddish - I Am Still Here" concert at the Jerusalem Theatre in honor of Yad Vashem's 60th anniversary.

"Like years past, this seminar was a very moving experience," said the School's Director



of International Seminars Ephraim Kaye. The participants were equally enthusiastic: "I want others to experience what I have tasted," remarked Clarence Johnson, Director of "Friends of Israel" in the United States. Donna White of "Operation Exodus Canada" concurred: "This was an honor and a privilege."

The Christian Leadership Seminar was generously supported by: The Museum of the Bible, Washington DC, and the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ), German Branch.

The author is Director of the Christian Desk, International Relations Division.

Seminar for Spanish Community Leaders

■ From 27 April - 6 May 2014, the third annual seminar for Latin American and Spanish community leaders was held in the International Seminars Wing of the International School for Holocaust Studies. Seventeen participants hailing from Argentina, Costa Rica, Mexico and Miami attended lectures by International School staff as well as by academics and experts in various fields. Attendees also participated in the official ceremonies held at Yad Vashem for Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day.



60th Anniversary Mission

Yad Vashem Worldwide Supporters View Activities in Poland and Jerusalem

■ From 11–18 June 2014, Yad Vashem hosted friends and supporters from around the world on a mission that offered a rare and exceptional opportunity to experience first-hand its remarkable range of activities. The mission was an exciting occasion to explore Yad Vashem in-depth, as the Holocaust Remembrance Authority marks 60 years of *Shoah* commemoration, education, documentation and research.

The mission began in Krakow, Poland, providing participants with a glance into a once-dynamic Jewish past and a deeper understanding

of what life was like for Jewish communities in Poland during the *Shoah*. At Auschwitz-Birkenau, they toured Yad Vashem's unique "Shoah" exhibition, and joined a memorial ceremony with the IDF's "Witnesses in Uniform" delegation. The mission also visited Treblinka, and participated in a ceremony at Mila 18 – the headquarters of the Jewish ghetto underground – in Warsaw.

Continuing on to Israel, mission participants were given special behind-the-scenes tours of the Mount of Remembrance, and replanted several Righteous Among the Nations trees that were damaged in the December 2013 snowstorm. The

delegation also visited an Israel Air Force base, and attended a closing event in the presence of Minister of Finance Yair Lapid with a musical performance by singer David D'Or.

"This unique experience connected Yad Vashem's friends from around the globe to our comprehensive activities as well as our future visions," said Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. "We are witnessing the passing of the torch of remembrance to the next generations, and their participation in the mission is a crucial expression of their commitment to Holocaust remembrance and education for decades to come."

Poland

■ At the mission's opening dinner in Poland, participants heard a musical performance by IDF's cantor **Lt. Col. Shai Abramson**.



■ Ed (left) and **Fran Sonshine** (second from right) from Canada were joined by **Yaron Ashkenazi** (right) and **Maj. Gen. Aviv Kochavi** (second from left) during a ceremony in Birkenau with the IDF "Witnesses in Uniform" delegation.



■ In a joint ceremony at Birkenau together with an IDF "Witnesses in Uniform" delegation, Holocaust survivor **Edward Mosberg** presented a Torah to the IDF, demonstrating the eternity of the Jewish spirit. His wife **Cecile** was also present at the ceremony.



■ Participants received a guided tour of the Jewish Museum in Krakow's Old Synagogue, where they viewed many Jewish artifacts from before the *Shoah*.



■ Mission participants took a guided tour of the old city of Krakow and the Jewish quarter.



■ Holocaust survivor **Samuel Wennek** (center) was joined by his sons **Benjamin** (left) from Zurich and **Phillip** (right) from Amsterdam at the entrance to Auschwitz.



■ Mission participants participated in a ceremony commemorating those murdered at Treblinka.



"This unique experience connected Yad Vashem's friends from around the globe to our comprehensive activities as well as our future visions."

Avner Shalev

Israel

■ **Yossie Hollander** spoke on behalf of Yad Vashem's friends worldwide at the opening dinner of the 60th Anniversary Mission's Israel program.



■ Auschwitz survivors **David Feuerstein** (left) from Chile and **Maxi Librati** (right) from France greeted each other at the opening event for the 60th Anniversary Mission. Maxi's son **Thierry** (center) accompanied his father on the mission.



■ Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council **Rabbi Israel Meir Lau** addressed the mission at the opening event in Jerusalem.



■ Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** addressed the participants at Yad Vashem. He spoke about the many milestones achieved by the Holocaust Remembrance Authority over the past 60 years, as well as current projects and future challenges.



■ **Jaime Braverman** and **Beatriz Masliah** from Mexico (center) replanted a Righteous Among the Nations tree with **Donna Holbrook** (right) from Canada and **Perla Hazan** (left).



■ A Righteous Among the Nations tree was also replanted by **Rita and Jacov Weinberg** (left) from Melbourne, together with **Philip Krawitz** (right) and his wife **Michele** from Cape Town.



Special events in Israel during the 60th Anniversary Mission were sponsored by Prima Hotels and T&M, Israel.

■ **Mark Moskowitz** from the USA gave the address on behalf of Yad Vashem's friends worldwide at the closing event of Yad Vashem's 60th Anniversary Mission, held in the Valley of the Communities.



■ Participants from France, Switzerland and The Netherlands gathered at the closing event of the 60th Anniversary Mission. Pictured, left to right: **Thierry Librati**, **Joel Herzog**, **Gabrielle Rochmann**, **Miry Gross**, **Avner Shalev**, **Maxi Librati**, **Pierre François Veil**, **Alice Tajchman**, **Shaya Ben Yehuda**, **François Guguenheim**, **Paul** and **Mineke Baan**



■ Participants from all over the world joined together for the mission's closing dinner in Yad Vashem's Square of Hope. Left to right: **Colin and Gail Halpern** from the USA, **Yitzhak "Tolka" Arad**, **Dr. David Silberklang**, **Joseph Gottdenker** and **Fran and Ed Sonshine** from Canada, Canadian Minister of State for Multiculturalism the **Hon. Tim Uppal**



“If Only I Had Known”



Names Database Reconnects Three Family Branches

Deborah Berman

■ In March 2014, Polina Gavriluk (40) from Kostopil, Ukraine informed Yad Vashem that she had discovered a cousin in Israel while researching the fate of her family during the Holocaust. Her grandfather, Moshe Eydelevitch, was killed while serving as a soldier in the Red Army, and Polina had in her possession letters that Moshe had written at the front, including his “last letter,” sent four days before he was killed and only two weeks before the end of the war. In the letter, Moshe wrote about his desire to learn what had happened to his brother Mendel, Mendel’s wife Chasia, and their daughters, Rivka, Sima and Miriam. “The letters are all we have from my grandfather,” explained Polina. “I wanted to solve the mystery of what had become of his brother Mendel... I felt that Moshe would have wanted me to try to find him.”

Chasia, Sima and Miriam had in fact been murdered in the Ponary forest near Vilna in July 1941. But Mendel’s third daughter, Rivka, had managed to escape the Vilna ghetto to the forests, where she joined a partisan unit. In 1946 she married, and the couple immigrated to Israel in 1958.



■ Mendel and Chasia Eidlicz with their daughter Sima

After discovering the Eidlicz branch of the family in Israel, Polina moved her investigations to her grandfather's sister Sylvia, who had moved to the US before the war

After discovering the Eidlicz branch of the family in Israel, Polina moved her investigations to her grandfather’s sister Sylvia, who had moved to the US before the war. Sylvia was last registered as living in New York City in 1940. In 1933 she had married Jacob Brier, and in 1935 gave birth to a son named Joseph.

Staff of the Shoah Victims’ Names Recovery Project at Yad Vashem contacted journalist Hillel Kuttler, whose column “Seeking Kin” aims to help reunite long-lost relatives and friends, and asked for his assistance. Kuttler succeeded in locating Joseph Brier, thereby reuniting the third – US – branch of the family with the other two. Joe Brier (79) from Suffern, New York was



■ Page of Testimony submitted by Rivka Gurvitz for her father, Mendel Eidlicz, z”l

surprised to learn he had living family members in Ukraine and Israel. An only child, Brier grew up with few relatives, the most central figures in his life being his maternal grandparents, Tobias and Malka Eidlicz, the family name slightly different to the one Polina Gavriluk had known for her grandfather.

“We are so happy to have found real family, to be related by actual DNA,” says Maksim Gur. “This is a brand new phenomenon for all of us. It’s going to take some getting used to.”

The Shoah Victims Names Recovery Project is generously supported by Yossie Hollander, the Claims Conference and the Victim List Project of the Swiss Banks Settlement under the supervision of the Honorable Chief Judge Edward R. Korman of the United States District Court.



■ In July 2014, Maksim Gur was reunited with his newfound cousin Irina Grizenyuk, Polina Gavriluk’s younger sister, who traveled from Ukraine to Israel.

In 1983, Rivka Gurvitz submitted Pages of Testimony in memory of her father Mendel Eidlicz and his family. Discovering the Pages of Testimony on the Yad Vashem website, Polina contacted Rivka, now aged 90. A conversation with Rivka’s daughter, Ahuva Stav, confirmed that Moshe and Mendel were, in fact, brothers. Maksim Gur, Rivka’s son, was deeply moved

when Ahuva informed him of the discovery. Maksim (named after his grandfather Max/Mendel) had served as a diplomatic emissary in Kiev from 1995–1997, never knowing that family members who had survived the war were living in Kostopil, a town in western Ukraine some 220 miles from Kiev. “If only I had known,” he says, “I might have been able to help them reconnect with their Jewish identities, and perhaps even immigrate to Israel.”

A Never-Ending Story



Members of the Public Help Complete Tales of Rescue from the Shoah

Gili Diamant

■ Yad Vashem's Righteous Among the Nations Department holds more than 16,000 files containing a vast amount of information about the thousands of non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jewish men, women and children during the Shoah. Over the past few years, an extensive database has been developed on Yad Vashem's website, which now contains some 80 percent of the information held in the files. Visitors to the website are able to search the database not only for the names of the Righteous or the

The Righteous Department receives frequent enquiries, feedbacks and updates to the database. The families and those who bear the memory remain forever involved – long after the rescue case has been documented and the persons recognized as Righteous among the Nations

individuals they rescued, but also by the rescuer's profession, place of rescue, religion and many other parameters.

Since this wealth of information became available, the Righteous Department has received frequent enquiries, feedbacks and updates to the database. It is a "never-ending story," in which the families and those who bear the memory remain forever involved – long after the rescue case has been documented and the persons recognized as Righteous among the Nations.

Filling in the Gaps Bronislava Krištopavičienė (Lithuania)

■ In 2006, Anita Levin-Fridberg applied to Yad Vashem to have Bronislava Krištopavičienė, who rescued her and her mother Zinaida in Kaunas, recognized as Righteous Among the Nations. Bronislava hid the two in her home for several months until liberation. When she told her story to Yad Vashem, Levin-Fridberg mentioned that there was also a man by the name of Kasimov hidden by Bronislava, but she had no further information. In February 2014, after seeing the information on the database, Kasimov's son wrote to the Righteous Department and completed the missing pieces of the story:

"My name is Nechemia. My father, Benjamin Kasimov, was among the people saved by Bronislava Krištopavičienė [...in the entry for her on the database] my father's first name is missing. So 'Kasimov, First name unknown' can be changed to 'Kasimov, Benjamin.'"

Providing a Picture Cornelius Moulijn (Netherlands)

■ Forty years after Pastor Cornelius Moulijn was recognized as Righteous Among the Nations for saving Ruben Kahana (center), the survivor's son sent a photo of his father's visit to his rescuer and his wife in 1996.



Seeking Information Jacobus & Wilhelmina Groenendijk (Netherlands)

■ As a small child, Judith Smaga was hidden by neighbors Jacobus and Wilhelmina Groenendijk for almost four years in their home. The Groenendijks lived on the estate of a banker named Emile Menten. Following Judith's application to Yad Vashem, the Groenendijks were recognized as Righteous Among the Nations in 2010. The diary kept by Wilhelmina during the war had been presented to Yad Vashem a few years earlier, and Rolf Veldmaat recently contacted the Righteous Department in order to learn more about the events of the war, and to gain access to Wilhelmina's diary:

"You may ask why I am interested in this story. Koos (Jacobus) Groenendijk was the driver for Mr. Emile Menten, and my grandfather was the gardener on the estate. Of course, my grandparents knew about 'the girl next door.'"

The author works in the Righteous Among the Nations Department.

Holocaust Remembrance Day

24 Hours on the Mount of Remembrance



Sunday 27 April

20:00 ■ The official opening ceremony for this year's Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day took place in Yad Vashem's Warsaw Ghetto Square, in the presence of Israel's President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the Knesset, President of the Supreme Court and Chief Rabbis. Some 2,500 Holocaust survivors, members of the Diplomatic Corps, IDF soldiers and youth were in the audience. The central theme of the day was "Jews 'On the Edge' – 1944: Between Annihilation and Liberation."

During the ceremony, six Holocaust survivors, accompanied by members of their families, lit torches representing the six million Holocaust victims.



22:00 ■ Some 500 students from the "Masa Israel Journey" program and 160 members of the "Nachshon" military academy took part in a **study evening** held in the International School for Holocaust Studies following the official opening ceremony. The students met with Holocaust survivors and participated in an



interactive workshop dealing with Holocaust remembrance through the prism of the younger generations. The activities were held in four languages – English, Hebrew, Spanish and Russian. At the end of the evening, one of the participants thanked the organizers for the opportunity to attend the event: "Last night made me want to search my Jewish background more and find ways to bring the knowledge I have gained back to America."

Monday 28 April

10:00 ■ After a two-minute silence, 120 wreaths were laid at the foot of the monument to the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, including official wreaths and those laid by survivor, veteran and public organizations.



www.yadvashem.org ■ Immediately following the official opening ceremony for Holocaust Remembrance Day, the event was uploaded to the Yad Vashem website together with the torchlighter testimonies, pictures of all the events over the next 24 hours and the "Snapshots of Memory" YouTube film. In addition, all of Yad Vashem's social media were continually updated and utilized to generate maximal coverage of the entire day.

2014

Students met with Holocaust survivors and participated in an interactive workshop dealing with Holocaust remembrance through the prism of the younger generations

10:30-12:30 ■ "Unto Every Person There is a Name": Hundreds of guests recited names of loved ones and other Holocaust victims in the Hall of Remembrance. A similar event took place at the Knesset at 11 am.



13:00 ■ The main memorial ceremony was held in the Hall of Remembrance.

11:00-17:00 ■ During the day, the Guiding Department at the International School for Holocaust Studies held an **Open Community Center** – meetings with survivors, visits to the Holocaust History Museum and guided tours with excerpts performed by young actors – for some 2,500 schoolchildren, soldiers and students from Israel and abroad across the Yad Vashem campus. Special programs included a dance recital by choreographer Noa Oz Setter in the Family Square (pictured); a performance of "The Eighth Commandment" – the ethical play staged on the eve of the *Shoah* – by HaNefesh Theatre in the Edmond J. Safra Lecture Hall; and a concert by students at the Jerusalem Music and Dance Academy, directed by Dr. Amit Weiner, in the Constantiner Lecture Hall. The concert was dedicated to the works of Yiddish poet and songwriter Mordechai Gebirtig, who was murdered in 1942 in the Krakow ghetto.



17:30-20:00 ■ At the day's conclusion, some 400 members of Israeli youth groups gathered at Yad Vashem for the annual Youth Movement Ceremony held in conjunction with Israel's Ministry of Education. Participants took a tour of the campus and participated in a special workshop focusing on this year's winning poster for Holocaust Remembrance Day. They then assembled, together with Holocaust survivors, in the Valley of the Communities for the main ceremony. Minister of Education Rabbi Shai Piron spoke to the assembly about their duty to "turn this terrible event into a pillar of good deeds."



Other Remembrance Day Events:

■ A special forum for senior members of Israel's Defense Forces focused this year on the high value of rescue during the *Shoah* and afterwards. Participants heard from Senior Historian at the International Research Institute



Dr. David Silberklang, who tackled issues such as the differences between aid and rescue, and when and how rescue was possible, and by whom. Following a tour of the Yad Vashem campus focusing on Jews rescuing other Jews as well as a visit to the Righteous Among the Nations exhibition led by Righteous Department Director Irena Steinfeldt (pictured), participants held a ceremony at the Memorial to the Deportees

(Cattle Car Monument) overlooking the Garden of the Righteous. The day concluded with an in-depth discussion led by Rabbi Dr. Benny Lau.

Yad Vashem also held a number of custom-made seminars for senior members of the security forces, including Israel's Police Commissioner, Head of General Security Service, Director-General of the Ministry of Defense, and heads of various military commands. The seminars focused on Holocaust commemoration in Israeli society, presented through short film animations created by Israeli youth based upon objects donated to Yad Vashem through the "Gathering the Fragments" campaign.

■ Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev spoke at a special evening in Tel Aviv held by the **Dorot Hemshech** (Generation to Generation – Bearers of the Holocaust and Heroism Legacy) organization to mark Holocaust Remembrance Day on the theme of "Jews on the Edge."



■ In the week leading up to Holocaust Remembrance Day, the city of Ashdod hosted performances by participants in the "**Mu-zika: Israeli Youth Sing Songs of the Holocaust**" project – a joint venture between the International School, the Ashdod municipality and producer Eitan Ben Chaim, now in its 11th year. The songs were based on texts written by *Shoah* survivors and members of the second generation and arranged as musical works by young musicians in the city who had attended preparatory seminars at Yad Vashem, in Ashdod and with musician Dotan Braude. The performances were attended by thousands of high school students, Ashdod residents, Holocaust survivors and educators.

“From High Politics to Everyday Life”: 70 Years Since the Hungarian Holocaust Prof. Dan Michman

■ On 14-15 May, the University of Szeged, Hungary held a conference entitled “From High Politics to Everyday Life,” marking 70 years since the mass deportations of Hungarian Jews and 20 years since the establishment of the Hungarian Research and Documentation Group in cooperation with the Yad Vashem Archives. Initiated by Prof. Laszlo Karzai and Prof. Judit Molnár, two leading researchers in the field of the Holocaust of Hungarian Jewry, the conference was attended by 34 researchers

from Hungary and the world over, as well as a large audience from Szeged and other locales in Hungary.

The conference focused on the anti-Jewish laws passed in Hungary during the 1920s and in 1938: their origins, formulation and enforcement, as well as their impact on various social groups within the Jewish community. Other lectures dealt with the concentration of Jews in the ghettos, the deportations and the daily lives of Jews during that period, especially



International Book Prize Ceremony

■ On 3 April 2014, the International Institute for Holocaust Research held a ceremony awarding the annual Yad Vashem International Book Prize for Holocaust Research, a prize established in 2011 in memory of Abraham Meir Schwarzbaum, Holocaust survivor, and his family members murdered in the Holocaust.

Held in Yad Vashem’s Constantiner Lecture Hall, the prize ceremony opened with donor Sabina Schwarzbaum (pictured) sharing with



the public some touching remarks about her father, Abraham Meir Schwarzbaum, z”l. After a musical interlude, Prof. Dan Michman, Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research and Incumbent of the John Najmann Chair for Holocaust Studies, and Yad Vashem Chief Historian Prof. Dina Porat read the judges’ decisions on the two prize laureates: Dr. Avihu Ronen for *Condemned to Life: The Diaries and Life of Chajka Klinger*, and Prof. Bernard Wasserstein for *On the Eve: The Jews*

EHRI Conference in Krakow; Scholars' Workshop in Jerusalem Hillel Solomon and Eliot Nidam-Orvieto

■ An international conference on Holocaust documentation in Eastern Europe took place in Krakow in May, organized by the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI). The conference was held in the fourth and final year of the EHRI project, which aims to provide researchers with online access to dispersed Holocaust-related sources and to encourage collaborative research. The project is supported by the European Union with Yad Vashem as a leading partner, and the conference was held within the framework of efforts for its further expansion.

The gathering was designed to comprehensively map unrecognized and non-accessible sources relating to the history of the Holocaust in Poland and the FSU, as well as to familiarize researchers with these collections. Close to 70 directors of archives, collections and museums, researchers and leaders of the EHRI project actively participated in the conference, including Dr. Robert-Jan Smits, Director General of Research and Innovation at the European Commission; an additional 40 researchers, graduate students and others from Poland and Germany attended the sessions.

The opening event and first day of the



conference were held at three locations in Krakow: Oskar Schindler’s Enamel Factory Museum, the Galicia Jewish Museum and the Institute of Jewish Studies of the Jagiellonian University. The second day of the conference took place at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum.

The balanced mix of representatives hailing from various disciplines provided exposure to a great deal of archival sources and research projects, and generated in-depth dialogue during and between the sessions. The conference

touched on political and legal aspects impinging on access to Holocaust-related archival materials in Eastern Europe, and ways to deal with these complexities. Participants were introduced to broad-based documentation collection projects alongside targeted projects: both large state collections and local documentation initiatives by scholars, museums and educators. Specific issues concerning today’s research world were also addressed, such as: the Church in Eastern Europe during the Holocaust and Church archives; the Holocaust in the Eastern

New Holocaust Memorial Dedicated at Ohio Statehouse

■ *“Every human being who chooses to remember this chapter of history and to infuse it with meaning is thereby choosing to struggle for the preservation of the bedrock of moral values that alone make possible the existence of a well-ordered society. This is a commitment to uphold human rights; above all, the freedom and the sanctity of life, and the opportunity for people to live side by side in harmony.”*

This inspirational quote by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev is featured on the new Holocaust and Liberators Memorial, recently dedicated by Ohio Governor John Kasich on the south lawn of the Ohio statehouse. Designed by Daniel Libeskind, who also created the Jewish Museum in Berlin and was the master planner for the World Trade Center redevelopment, the 1,029-square-foot memorial stands as a monument to the six million Jews who were murdered in the Holocaust and other displaced people, and honors the Ohio liberators who freed thousands from the death camps in the spring of 1945.

Visitors to the memorial first encounter a sloped granite platform that leads up to the monument. The pathway is flanked by benches and a graduated limestone wall, the top of which is etched with the words, “If you save one life, it is as if you saved the world.” Below, on the stone, is the quote by Chairman Shalev.

Calling Shalev’s thoughts “unique and profound,” Daniel Libeskind explained that he found the quote “to be of utmost relevance”

State of Israel to Chair ITS

■ **The chairmanship of the International Committee that governs the archives of the International Tracing Service (ITS) was recently transferred to the State of Israel for the upcoming year.** The event was marked by an official gathering held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Warsaw, Poland, in the presence of committee members representing the 11 countries that comprise the ITS Board of Directors. The newly appointed Chairman of the Committee is veteran Israeli diplomat H. E. Mr. Ronny Leshno-Yaar, Deputy Director for International Organizations at Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). Alongside the Chairman, Israel is represented by Dr. Haim Gertner, Director of Yad Vashem Archives and Fred Hillman Chair for Holocaust Documentation; Michael Lieber, Chief Information Officer at Yad Vashem; and Adv. Naomi Elimelech-Shamra of the MFA’s Legal Department.

The ITS was established by the Allies with the assistance of the International Red Cross as early as 1943, to help locate relatives and collect information on displaced and missing persons. The huge archives of the organization



© Brad Feinkopf

and that he was “inspired by its formulation and ethical insight.”

Inscribed on the face of the monument itself – two 18-foot-high monolithic forms positioned at a 45-degree angle to one another, creating a cut-out form of a Star of David – is the heroic and touching story of two Auschwitz survivors.

At the ceremony, a letter sent by Avner Shalev was read aloud by Yaron Sideman, Israel’s Consul General to the mid-Atlantic region, calling the survivors and liberators “inspiring role models” and commending Governor Kasich and the efforts of all those involved with the endeavor: “Your initiative and decision to construct a Holocaust Memorial at the Ohio Statehouse reflect a profound vision – a vision of universal human morality and of essential human decency.” Representing Yad Vashem at the ceremony was S. Isaac Mekel, Development Director of the American Society for Yad Vashem.

hold tens of millions of various documents, some containing information on Jews. The entire collection was photocopied by Yad Vashem in the 1950s, and has since been fully accessible for the general public as part of its collections. In recent years, Yad Vashem was provided with an additional and complete copy of all the documents. The ITS underwent a significant overhaul in 2013, as the Red Cross resigned from its leadership role, leaving the International Committee in the principal capacity as managers of the archives, with professional assistance rendered by the Bundesarchiv (German Federal Archives). The challenge facing the Yad Vashem and MFA representatives in the coming year is, first and foremost, to procure the consent of all the partners to authorize a simpler process of enabling the public to access the extensive documentation contained in the archives, as well as to upgrade the technological aspects of ITS operations. Furthermore, the Committee will contribute to restructuring the ITS from an organizational viewpoint, and helping it adjust to the changing needs of the general public.

in peripheral cities and towns. Special panels discussed the concentration camps as well as the various aspects of education and Holocaust commemoration in modern-day Hungary.

The conference was generously supported by the Fund for Research of the Holocaust in Hungary and Hungarian Jewish History in Honor of Dr. Ingrid D. Tauber at the International Institute for Holocaust Research, as well as Szeged City Hall and the local Jewish community.

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

of *Europe Before the Second World War* (see *Yad Vashem Jerusalem* vol. 73 for further details on the books). The last part of the ceremony was dedicated to presentations delivered by the recipients.

“This is the third year that the prize has been awarded, garnering an ever-increasing interest by the scholarly community,” remarked Institute Director Dr. Iael Nidam-Orvieto. “This year the number of candidates was very high, and included an extraordinary standard of research.”

European countryside; micro-histories; and documentation exposed as a result of Jewish property and compensation activities.

■ **From 24 April to 15 May, the International Institute for Holocaust Research hosted an international workshop of young scholars organized by EHRI.** This three-week workshop exposed the 12 participants to historical research and methodological questions dealing with documentation and its use, and provided time for participants to access Yad Vashem’s vast archival collections.

The workshop presented different approaches to historical materials and disciplines such as oral history, archaeological findings at killing sites and photography of camps and victims in real time. Participants were encouraged to expand their general knowledge on the Holocaust and discuss historical and methodological questions. The young scholars were also introduced to other archives and research institutions such as Yad Ben-Zvi Institute and the Ghetto Fighters’ House Archives, in order to learn about available collections as a future resource.

Hillel Solomon is EHRI Administrative Coordinator for Yad Vashem, Archives Division. Eliot Nidam-Orvieto is Coordinator of Academic Foreign Relations, International Institute for Holocaust Research.

During April–June 2014, the Department for Official Visits in Yad Vashem’s Commemoration and Public Relations Division conducted 250 guided tours for more than 3,100 official visitors from Israel and abroad. These guests included heads of state, governmental and NGO representatives, diplomats and religious leaders. Following is a small selection of our honored guests over these three months:

■ **Bulgarian Prime Minister Plamen Oresharski** (right) visited Yad Vashem on 20 May, and toured the Holocaust History Museum.



■ On 22 May, **Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong** toured the Holocaust History Museum and laid a wreath in the Hall of Remembrance.



■ **Foreign Minister of the Philippines Albert del Rosario** (center) was accompanied by Dr. Robert Rozett, Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries (right), during his visit to Yad Vashem on 26 June.



■ On 25 June, **Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Moldova Natalia Gherman** toured the Holocaust History Museum.



■ During his visit to Yad Vashem on 22 April, **Austrian Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz** toured the Holocaust History Museum and rekindled the eternal flame in the Hall of Remembrance.



■ **UK Opposition Leader Ed Miliband** and his wife Justine Thornton toured the Holocaust History Museum on 10 April.



■ On 8 June, **Foreign Minister of Montenegro Igor Luksic** toured the Holocaust History Museum.



■ **Albanian Foreign Minister Ditimir Bushati** toured the Holocaust History Museum on 22 June.



■ **Foreign Minister of Kenya Amina Mohamed** visited Yad Vashem on 22 May.



Recent Events: April – June 2014 Limor Karo

Memorial Ceremony for Transcarpathian Jews

■ The annual memorial ceremony for the Jews of Transcarpathia (Zakarpatyiye) was held on 26 May in the presence of Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs MK Fania Kirshenbaum (pictured), Yad



Vashem Director-General Dorit Novak, Chairman of the World Association of Transcarpathian Jews Yitzhak Klein, Director-General of the Tzfat Memorial Museum of Hungarian-Speaking Jewry Roni Lustig, hundreds of Holocaust survivors and their families. Other guests included Economic and Trade Relations Attaché at the Hungarian Embassy in Israel Gabor Marki and Cultural Attaché at the Ukrainian Embassy in Israel Olena Ivanchuk.

Commemorating Greek Jewry

■ Among the participants of the annual ceremony commemorating the Jews of Greece murdered in the Holocaust held on 10 June were Director of Yad Vashem's Commemoration and Public Relations Division Inbal Kvity Ben-Dov, Chairman of the Association of Survivors of Concentration Camps of Greek Origin Living in Israel Moshe Ha-Elion, Greek Ambassador to Israel H. E. Mr. Spyridon Lambridis, Director-General of the Centre of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel Avi Rosenthal, General Manager of the Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust Victims in Israel Rony Kalinsky, Deputy Chairman of the National Authority of Ladino Moshe Shaul, Chief Rabbi of Athens Rabbi Gabriel Negrin and hundreds of Holocaust survivors with members of their families.



VE Day Ceremony

■ On 8 May, Yad Vashem hosted a State ceremony marking 69 years since the victory over Nazi Germany, in the presence of Yad Vashem Director-General Dorit Novak, Minister of Immigrant Absorption Sofa Landver, Deputy



Speaker of the Knesset Yoni Chetboun and an audience of some 400 people, among them WWII veterans who fought in the Allied armies (mostly from the FSU), Jewish partisans, resistance fighters, volunteers from the *Yishuv* who fought in the British Army and Jewish Brigade volunteers.

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

John and Pauline Gandel: Promoting Education and Social Change

■ **Yad Vashem Benefactors John and Pauline Gandel are steadfast supporters of Holocaust education.** From an early age, their parents instilled in them the importance of charitable giving – a legacy they continue to cherish and fulfill to this very day, and pass on to their children and grandchildren.

Through real estate and property development, John Gandel has become one of the most successful businessmen in Australia. In line with the family's benevolent ethos, the Gandel Charitable Trust, today known as Gandel Philanthropy, was formed in 1978. One of Australia's largest independent family charitable funds, Gandel Philanthropy has formed relationships with many charitable organizations, supporting a number of initiatives that are proactive, innovative and sustainable and that promote significant social change.

John and Pauline Gandel's many contributions to society have been widely recognized. John is a recipient of the Order of Australia and received honorary doctorates from both Tel Aviv and Monash Universities, and Pauline was recently awarded an honorary doctorate from Monash University.



In 2005, the couple endowed the Heroes' Promenade on the Yad Vashem campus. However, it was their conviction about the importance of Holocaust education across Australian society that led to the establishment of The Gandel Holocaust Studies Program for Australian Educators at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies in 2008.

The Gandel Program is a long-term professional development program aimed at training an ever-expanding cadre of experts who are active across Australia. The overall

objective remains to grow an active and organized network of Australian educators committed to teaching about the Holocaust and its universal implications.

The program, which has been described by graduate educators as "outstanding" and "life-changing," makes use of Yad Vashem's unique interdisciplinary, age-appropriate approach, incorporating online seminars, the design and implementation of Holocaust education projects in schools, and an intensive training seminar at the International School. After their return home, graduates maintain close ties with School staff, who act as pedagogic mentors. Over 100 Australian teachers have graduated the Gandel Program so far, and an increasing number of educators are showing interest in participating in the future – a true testament to John and Pauline's vision.

In honor of John and Pauline Gandel, Yad Vashem has named the program The Gandel Holocaust Studies Program for Australian Educators in perpetuity. The program recently began its second five-year term, and Yad Vashem is truly grateful for the wonderful partnership and the ongoing support it receives from John and Pauline Gandel.

Friends Worldwide

USA

■ The **American Society for Yad Vashem's** Annual Spring Luncheon, chaired by **Sharon Halpern**, was held on 14 May at the New York Marriott Marquis Hotel. **Dr. Deborah E. Lipstadt** (center), a renowned expert on Holocaust history and a worldwide defender and chronicler of the truth about the atrocities of WWII, was the Luncheon Honoree and guest speaker. Honorary Spring Luncheon Chair **Marilyn Rubenstein** (left) and American Society Chairman **Leonard A. Wilf** (right) also participated in the event.



■ **Fred Polaniecki** (left) and family toured Yad Vashem's Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial, and marked the bar mitzvah of his son **Joshua Chaim Polaniecki** (second from left) in the Yad Vashem Synagogue.



■ Yad Vashem Builder **Hanna Rubinstein** (center) and her nephew **Ophir** (left) met with Deputy Managing Director of the International Relations Division **Sari Granitza** (right) on Holocaust Remembrance Day Eve.



■ On 2 May, the American Society's Young Leadership Associates (YLA) held its Spring Dinner at the West Side Institutional Synagogue. This event was chaired by **Rachel Shnay** and **Elliot Pines**. Some 100 members of the YLA were in attendance to hear Holocaust survivor **Marsha Kreuzman's** personal story. Left to right: **Elliot Pines**, Event Chair **Margo Fisch**, **Abigail Fisch**, **Rachel Shnay**, Event Chair **Daniella Pomeranc** and **Michael Shmueli**



■ A ceremony took place at the Holocaust Memorial Center, Zekelman Family Campus in Farmington Hills, MI, in honor of the late **Dr. Maria Holecek**, who was recognized as Righteous Among the Nations for her courageous rescue of **Dr. Olga Horwitz, z"l**, in Kovno, Lithuania. **Drs. Frank** and **Andrew Holecek** (right), the sons of Maria Holecek, received the certificate and medal from Israel's Consul General to the Midwest **Roey Gilad** and his wife **Nitza Gilad** (left). Also present was **S. Isaac Mekel**, Director of Development of the American Society for Yad Vashem.



■ Yad Vashem Benefactors **Jan** and **Rick Cohen** (left) and Yad Vashem Supporter and Second Generation member **Benjamin Warren** (right) met with Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** (second from right) on Holocaust Remembrance Day Eve.



■ Holocaust Survivor **Peter Vagi** (second from left) and his wife **Dr. Arlene Frank** (left), Yad Vashem Legacy Circle Members, rekindled the eternal flame in the Hall of Remembrance during the main memorial ceremony on Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes Remembrance Day. Holocaust survivor **Andrew Burian** (second from right) recited *Kaddish*.



■ Holocaust survivor **Andrew Burian** (second from right), his son and daughter-in-law **Lawrence** (right) and **Adina Burian** (center), members of the Executive Committee of the American Society Board, and their niece **Atara Burian** (second from left) met with Managing Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (left) on Holocaust Remembrance Day Eve.



■ Yad Vashem Benefactor and member of the Executive Committee of the American Society Board **Mark Moskowitz** (left) laid a wreath on behalf of the American Society with his sister **Sonia** (second from right) and her husband **Michael Gordon** (right) on Holocaust Remembrance Day. Also present were his mother, Holocaust survivor **Rose Moskowitz** (center), and niece **Kate Gordon** (second from left).



■ **Dr. David Silberklang**, *Yad Vashem Studies* Editor-in-Chief and Senior Historian at Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research, met with a delegation of The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, a Yad Vashem Benefactor, at the International School for Holocaust Studies (pictured) before they toured the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial. Foundation President and CEO **Rachel Garbow Monroe** and Trustee and CFO **Barry I. Schloss** and the entire group viewed The Jerusalem Hills Panorama, generously donated by the Foundation.



■ Sisters **Shirley Feldman** (right) of Stanford, California and **Leah Mann** (left) of Melbourne, Australia visited Yad Vashem to unveil the plaque acknowledging the legacy donation granted to Yad Vashem by their parents, Chaim and Malcha Brown, z"l, for the acquisition and digitization of archival materials from Warsaw. The families of Chaim and Malcha were murdered in Warsaw during the Holocaust.



■ **Barbara Blumenthal** (left) toured Yad Vashem and visited the activities of the 'Dorothy's Hope' Project of Holocaust Education for Individuals with Special Needs in memory of her late sister **Dorothy Jolson**, z"l, with Project Coordinator **Tamar Don** (right).



■ Yad Vashem Sponsors **Jim and Liz Breslauer** (second and third from left) toured Yad Vashem's Holocaust History Museum and the "I Am My Brother's Keeper: 50 Years of Honoring the Righteous Among the Nations" exhibition with friends. The Breslausers generously supported the mapping of the names of the Righteous Among the Nations on the Mount of Remembrance.



■ Yad Vashem Sponsors **Roy and Brenda Tanzman** toured Yad Vashem with their granddaughter **Isabel** and a delegation of New Jersey lay leaders and legislators. They visited the International School for Holocaust Studies, where their support of Holocaust education is gratefully recognized.



■ During their tour of Yad Vashem, **Charles Scheidt** (second from left) and his grandson **Josh** (left) met with Curator and Art Department Director in the Yad Vashem Museums Division **Eliad Moreh-Rosenberg** (right) to see their cousin's portrait and photographs, which are being preserved in the Yad Vashem collections.



■ **Richard and May Ziman** (left), **Renae Jacobs** (center) and **Brian and Maxine Weinstock** (right) toured Yad Vashem's Holocaust History Museum, the exhibition marking 50 years of honoring the Righteous Among the Nations and the Children's Memorial.



FRANCE & BENELUX

■ At the official Holocaust Remembrance Day opening ceremony were (left to right): **Jean-Pierre Gauzi**, **Laetizia Comporti**, **Cecile Gauzi**, **Gianni Comporti**, **Willy Fazel**, **Marco Comporti**, Director of the French Swiss, Benelux and French Desk **Miry Gross**, **Carlo Comporti**, **Lida Klarsfeld**, **Maxi Librati**, **Patricia Fazel**, **David Fazel**, **Laura Rusk**, **Helena Litwak Rusk**, **David Litwak** and **Thierry Librati**.



SOUTH AFRICA

■ On 5 May, **Colin Coleman**, CEO of Goldman Sachs, South Africa, visited the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial with his children.



Friends Worldwide

CANADA

■ At the National Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony in Ottawa on 15 May organized by the **Canadian Society for Yad Vashem**, the **Hon. Jason Kenney**, representing the Canadian government, lit a candle to commemorate the six million Jews who were murdered in the Holocaust. He was joined by Holocaust survivors, Yad Vashem Benefactors **Max and Gianna Glassman** and Yad Vashem Pillar **Joe Gottdenker**, Joe's wife **Lori Gottdenker**, Canadian Society supporter **Lou Greenbaum**, Holocaust survivor and pillar of the community **Wolf Lebovic** and Canadian Society Executive Director **Yaron Ashkenazi**.



■ **Barry Pascal** and Canadian Society National Chair **Fran Sonshine** were the French- and English-speaking masters of ceremonies for the National Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony on 15 May, which was attended by some 500 dignitaries, Holocaust survivors, educators, students and members of the public.



■ Yad Vashem Benefactors (left to right) **Helen Singer**, **Miguel Singer**, **Nelly Zagdanski** and Holocaust survivor **Ernest Singer**, along with their family members, lit a candle in memory of the six million *Shoah* victims at the Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony in Toronto on 27 April. The ceremony, attended by some 1,500 people, was organized by the Canadian Society

for Yad Vashem, in conjunction with the Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.



■ Holocaust survivor **Dana Bell** and her husband **Bill Bell** (left) received the "Then and Now" Award from **Yaron Ashkenazi**, in recognition of their ongoing sponsorship of Canadian educators for the Educators' Seminar, which takes place at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies.



GERMANY & LIECHTENSTEIN

■ In an event marking 60 years of Yad Vashem that took place on 24 June in the Bavarian Parliament Building in Munich, two Righteous Among the Nations were honored and the travelling exhibition "BESA: A Code of Honor – Muslim Albanians Who Rescued Jews during the Holocaust" was opened. Guests included families of the Righteous (holding certificates), Chairwoman of the Bavarian Parliament **Barbara Stamm** (left), Israeli Embassy representative **Sandra Witte** (right), Consul General of Israel **Dr. Dan Shaham** (third from right), President of the Jewish Community in Munich **Dr. Charlotte Knobloch** (center) and Director of the German-speaking Countries and German Swiss Desk, International Relations Division **Arik Rav-On** (second from right).



■ Yad Vashem Benefactor **Rose Landschaft** (second from right) and **Tomas Kalowski** (left) were greeted by Managing Director of International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (second from left) and Deputy Director **Sari Granitza** (right) at the official Holocaust Remembrance Day opening ceremony.



■ Members of the **Society of Friends of Yad Vashem in Liechtenstein**, including **Dr. Peter Wolff**, **Dr. Peter and Renate Marxer**, **Dr. Florian Marxer** and Holocaust survivor **Irith Wiznitzer**, attended the official Holocaust Remembrance Day opening ceremony.



■ Yad Vashem Benefactor **Editha Samson** and **Peter Bierman** were joined by **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (right) at Yad Vashem's "Museum Gateway." The Gateway was endowed by Editha and her late husband **Dr. Heinz E. Samson, z"l**, in memory of Heinz's parents, **Paula and Heinrich Samson, z"l**, who were murdered in Minsk, and his sister, **Gerda Samson, z"l**, who was murdered in Auschwitz.



AUSTRALIA

■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of Holocaust survivor and Yad Vashem Benefactor **Andor Schwartz, z"l**. Born in Hungary in 1924, during WWII Andor was enlisted for mandatory labor in a brick factory outside Budapest. In the wake of a bombing raid, he fled to the Hungarian capital, eventually finding refuge in Raoul Wallenberg safe-houses, where he remained until liberation. Having lost most of his family at the hands of the Nazis, Andor married Margit (Baba) Keimovits, an Auschwitz survivor, in 1947, and in 1949 the couple immigrated to Israel. In 1958, the Schwartz family moved to Melbourne, Australia. A few years later, Andor established Andmar Constructions.



In 2005, Andor and Baba endowed Yad Vashem's "Path of Remembrance and Reflection," dedicated to the Jews of Hungary whose burial places remain unknown. In his speech at the inauguration ceremony, Andor said: "Once a year, on Holocaust Remembrance Day, this garden has millions of special, different guests... *Hashem* declares a day of holiday for his martyrs, for all those who died in the *Shoah*, and allows them to use this same [Jacob's] ladder to come down to have a day of happiness... This is the reason I chose to contribute to the building of this beautiful path. Please look after the trees and shrubs and flowers, in honor of those very special guests from above."

Yad Vashem extends its deepest condolences to Andor's wife Baba, sons Morry, Alan and Danny, and their wives, children and grandchildren.

■ Yad Vashem donors and siblings **Elane** and **John Zelcer** visited Yad Vashem on 10 April, along with John's son **Anton** and other family members. As well as touring the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial, they attended an unveiling ceremony in their honor.



■ During their visit to Yad Vashem on 12 June, **John Roth** and his wife **Jillian Segal** viewed their family plaque and met with Director of the Hall of Names **Dr. Alexander Avram** to learn about names recovery. Accompanied by Director of the Traveling Exhibitions Department **Rinat Pavis**, they also saw the panels of the Righteous Among the Nations traveling exhibition, which they are bringing to Australia.



■ International Institute for Holocaust Research Senior Historian and Editor-in-Chief of *Yad Vashem Studies* **Dr. David Silberklang** (third from left) gave a lecture at the Jewish Holocaust Center in Melbourne on 24 April. In attendance were (left to right): **Abe Goldberg**, **Warren Fineberg**, **Johnny Baker**, President of the **Australian Friends of Yad Vashem** **Joey Borensztajn** and **Julie Borensztajn**.



ISRAEL

■ **Jenny Wengrowsky Samet** and **Simcha Samet** (right) met with Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** (left) during the Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremonies.



■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of its dear friend, entrepreneur and architect **David J. Azrieli, z"l**, who for the past decade dedicated himself to the endeavors of Yad Vashem in perpetuating the memory of the *Shoah*. With Azrieli's assistance, the Book and Resource Center at Yad Vashem was established, and with the support of the Azrieli Foundation, numerous memoirs of Holocaust survivors have been published. In addition, the Foundation supported the establishment of the David J. Azrieli Holocaust Training Center for Israeli Educators at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies.



Azrieli's experiences during the *Shoah* were documented in the book *One Step Ahead* (Yad Vashem Publications, 2001), which he wrote with the assistance of his daughter, Danna. David J. Azrieli's devotion to the legacy of Holocaust commemoration and his personal involvement over the years in the activities of Yad Vashem will ensure that the *Shoah* will never be forgotten, and that its memory will be passed to future generations in an appropriate and meaningful manner.

Yad Vashem extends its deepest condolences to his wife Stephanie and his children, Rafi, Sharon, Naomi and Danna.

UK

■ Holocaust survivor **Chaim Ferster** (right) visited Yad Vashem for Holocaust Remembrance Day with his sons **Stuart**, **Warren** and **Jonathan**. Chaim laid a wreath on behalf of the Yad Vashem-UK Foundation and later recited *Kaddish* at the memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance, alongside his granddaughter **Hayley** (left).



Friends Worldwide

■ **Stanley Tollman** (top, left), founder of The Travel Corporation, visited Yad Vashem on 1 April with his wife **Beatrice** (third from left) and other family members. In addition to touring the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial, they also held a bat mitzvah twinning ceremony for their granddaughter **Ella** (center) in the Yad Vashem Synagogue.



■ **David Lander** (right), recently appointed CEO of HP Israel, visited the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial on 20 April with Yad Vashem Friend **Jeff Kahn** (second from left).



CHILE

■ On 5 May, Yad Vashem Pillar and President of the **Chile Association for Yad Vashem David Feuerstein** (center) and Managing Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (right) participated in a special Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony in Santiago with Senator of the Republic of Chile **Lily Pérez** (left).



SPAIN

■ **Luna Sultan** (second from left) was joined by friends and Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** (left) during her visit to Yad Vashem.



■ **Camila and Abraham Anidjar** (left) were joined by their daughter **Estrella Schuldenfrei** (right) and **Perla Hazan** on Holocaust Remembrance Day Eve.



PANAMA

■ The Marcha por la Vida Group was joined by Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** at an unveiling of a plaque in their honor.



VENEZUELA

■ **Jeannette** (sixth from left) and **Rafael Gelman** (right) were joined by a group of friends and Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** during the unveiling of a plaque in honor of Jeannette's parents.



MEXICO

■ **Paola and Jacob Klip** (center) were joined by their family and Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** on the occasion of the bat mitzvah of their son **Kian** (seventh from left).



■ The Dana family visited Yad Vashem on the occasion of the bat mitzvah of **Carlos** (third from left).



■ **Jaime Braverman** (center) and his children visited Yad Vashem and toured the Holocaust History Museum.



BRAZIL

■ **Nelly** (left) and **Jacqui Bensoussan** (center) visited the Holocaust History Museum with their son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren.



CHRISTIAN DESK in partnership with ICEJ

■ The Museum of the Bible, a major museum to be opened in Washington DC in 2017, is one of the supporters of the annual Christian Leadership Seminar at Yad Vashem. The Green family, the visionaries behind the museum, visited Israel in April for a special tour and ceremony at Yad Vashem, including a stop at Janusz Korczak Square. **Steve and Jackie Green** (fifth and sixth from left) and **David and Barbara Green** (eighth and ninth from left) participated in the tour, accompanied by Director of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen** (seventh from left) and **Shavit Aharoni-Simons** (third from left) of the Christian Desk.



■ Christian friends and supporters of Yad Vashem from the United States participated in Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremonies as well as related events in and out of Yad Vashem. Left to right: **Larry Wheeler**, author **Joel**

Rosenberg, Ross Milby, Liberty University Vice President **Johnnie Moore**, Pastor **Mark Jenkins** and **Terrie Jenkins** of the NRB (National Religious Broadcasters) Committee, and **Dr. Ed Hindsen** of Liberty University with **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen** (front).



■ **Dr. Juergen Buehler** (center) and **Rev. Juha Ketola** (right) laid a wreath during Holocaust Remembrance Day on behalf of International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ) and Yad Vashem's Christian Friends around the world.



RUSSIA

■ **Chana Rinat** (center), Secretary General of Stichting Collectieve Marorgelden Israel, and her husband **Marco Rinat** (right), both Holocaust survivors from the Netherlands, participated in the official Holocaust Remembrance Day opening ceremony with Development and Projects Officer of the Diaspora Affairs Desk **Dina Maslova**.



■ Yad Vashem supporter **Ada Todd** visited the Mount of Remembrance on her one-day trip to Israel and viewed the "I Am My Brother's Keeper: 50 Years of Honoring the Righteous Among the Nations" exhibition.



Your Support Helps Make a Difference

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

■ To make tax-deductible donations:

USA:

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

CANADA:

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

UK:

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

AUSTRALIA:

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

■ Donations may also be sent to:

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

■ For information on societies in other countries,

please visit: www.yadvashem.org

Donate online: www.yadvashem.org

International Institute for Holocaust Research: New on the Shelf

Yad Vashem Studies 42:1

Editor: David Silberklang

NIS 80 / NIS 60

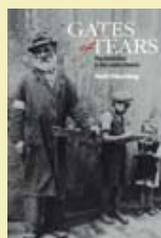


■ The subject matter in this volume is varied and the geography far-flung, but questions of human relations during the *Shoah* – between Jews and their non-Jewish countrymen as well as among Jews – are a central theme and connecting thread. The articles present both little-known subjects and new documentation addressing wartime Jewish accounts, rabbinic responsa, the destruction of a Jewish community and its ancient cemetery by local officials and Germans, camps, and regional issues in many parts of Europe.

Gates of Tears: The Holocaust in the Lublin District

David Silberklang

NIS 174 / NIS 128

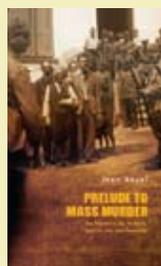


■ Lublin was a contradictory district – few ghettos yet little survival; Jews could not affect their collective fate. This new study examines the *Shoah* in Lublin, an area central to Nazi anti-Jewish policy. Its analysis traces mandatory population movements and forced labor, constants in German policy, the bitter early memory of which influenced Jews' later actions. Many hid or fled the deportations to death camps and forced labor, fearing an extreme return of earlier experience, but unable to grasp the "Final Solution."

Prelude to Mass Murder: The Pogrom in Iași, Romania, June 29, 1941 and Thereafter

Jean Ancel

NIS 174 / NIS 128



■ On 29 June 1941, the murder of some 15,000 Jews in Iași began during riots instigated by the fascist Romanian regime of Ion Antonescu. This was but a prelude to the genocide of the Jews of Romania. The thousands of Jews who remained alive in the city were crowded into two "death trains" and deported, with most dying of hunger and thirst. Based on rich documentation, this book recreates the events from the Jewish viewpoint.

Jewish Presence in Absence:

The Aftermath of the Holocaust in Poland, 1944–2010

Editors: Feliks Tych and Monika Adamczyk-Garbowska

NIS 248 / NIS 186



■ This book discusses the Jewish world and Polish-Jewish relations in postwar Poland. The articles reflect the crucial stages of Jewish life in postwar Poland – loss, hope, rebirth and the rebuilding of lives – as well as the situation of Jews in Poland today. It also provides a picture of current Polish historiography of the Holocaust, based on sources and studies rarely used before.

Europe in the Eyes of Survivors of the Holocaust

Editors: Zeev Mankowitz, David Weinberg, Sharon Kangisser Cohen

NIS 174 / NIS 128



■ In what sense was European heritage responsible for Jewish cultural and intellectual development? How could one even describe the events of the Holocaust? Was there a future for Jews in a reconstructed Europe? A group of scholars suggests a more nuanced view of these fundamental questions by examining the perspectives of ten survivors – philosophers, activists and memoirists – whose attitudes towards the European past were characterized by conflicting feelings of both alienation and attraction.

Letters Never Sent: Amsterdam, Westerbork, Bergen-Belsen

Mirjam Bolle

NIS 74 / NIS 56



■ In early 1943, Mirjam Levie of Amsterdam began to write letters to her fiancé Leo Bolle, who had immigrated to *Eretz Israel* a few years earlier. Her missives, written during the deportations from Amsterdam, in Westerbork and later in Bergen Belsen, were never sent. The book presents these unique and moving letters, forming a personal diary in real time.



■ Yad Vashem Jerusalem Quarterly Magazine
P.O. Box 3477, Jerusalem 9103401, Israel
Tel: 972-2-644-3400, Fax: 972-2-6443409
yv.magazine@yadvashem.org.il
www.yadvashem.org

To order these and other Yad Vashem publications:
Tel. 972-2-6443511, Fax 972-2-6443509,
publications.marketing@yadvashem.org.il
Or purchase through our online store: www.yadvashem.org