

# Yad Vashem

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**Archaeological Digs Reveal  
Sobibór Gas Chambers** (p. 9)

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■ On the cover: Wedding band found in the  
vicinity of the recently discovered gas chambers  
at the Sobibór extermination camp (see p. 9)

# A Tidal

■ A tidal wave of antisemitism intimately intertwined with abuse of the Holocaust may be the best way to characterize the atmosphere in the wake of the launching of the "Protective Edge" operation. Following each of the defensive military operations carried out by Israel in the past years, antisemitism and Holocaust distortion intensified, but this time both the magnitude and ferocity reached new proportions. Scholars of antisemitism agree that the Israel-Palestinian conflict is not its deep-seated source, but the conflict often triggers or contributes to specific acts and virulent expressions. Since the turn of the century, a constellation of forces from different spectrums and milieus have been promoting hatred of Jews, and sometimes their activities and rhetoric overlap and intersect. For many people, this situation became clearer than ever during the course of the operation.

The use of terms and concepts from the Holocaust to attack Israel in what is known as "Holocaust Inversion" has become ubiquitous. Israel has been attacked as Nazi-like and genocidal by people as diverse as the newly elected Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan, and Deputy Secretary General of the African National Congress Jessie Duarte. Protests throughout Europe have sported signs saying "Jews to the Gas" or "Hitler Didn't Finish the Job." On Facebook and Twitter, such ideas reached millions of people. In the press, it frequently seemed that Israel was not only accused of genocide, but had already been found guilty. Especially in Europe, this accusation is sometimes bound up with relieving feelings of guilt for the Shoah.

Clearly at the heart of this wave of antisemitism is demonization. The demonization of the Jews has a long history, stemming from early and medieval Christianity that commonly associated Jews with the devil. Demonization was central to the development of modern antisemitism in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, embodied in Heinrich von Treitschke's infamous phrase "the Jews are our misfortune." For Nazism, the Jews became the archenemy, responsible for all the world's ills because of their race. The still widely held canard that Jews are responsible for Stalin's crimes is also a manifestation of demonization. In recent years, demonization of Israel has gathered steam: the Jewish state

# Wave of Antisemitism

Dr. Robert Rozett

As individuals and groups, Jews were subjected not only to verbal but also physical assault from Sydney to New York to Paris, and places in between

is increasingly cast as the intractable aggressor that blithely commits war crimes and crimes against humanity. Over the last weeks of the summer, more than in recent memory, Jews were conflated with Israel. As individuals and groups, they were subjected not only to verbal but also physical assault from Sydney to New York to Paris, and places in between.

Much has been said about the meaning of this tidal wave of antisemitism. Some have suggested that the situation is similar to



■ Antisemitic demonstration in London, July 2014

*Kristallnacht* in 1938 or the eve of WWII in 1939. Although the current situation is worrying, it should not be forgotten that the antisemitism

of Nazi Germany was state-sponsored, whereas in Europe and the West, most heads of state and political leaders have spoken out against antisemitism, even if they have not been able to rein it in.

Throughout the campaign in Gaza, Yad Vashem's social media platforms were inundated with antisemitic and inciteful comments. Yad Vashem issued forceful and lucid statements and posted on its social media a new set of Frequently Asked Questions dealing with antisemitism and the abuse of Holocaust imagery. The articles and FAQs have since been viewed and shared by thousands. Yad Vashem will continue to seek better and more innovative ways to meet the challenge of the distortion of the Holocaust that is bound up with virulent Jew hatred – a hatred that remains endemic in the first decades of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

*The author is Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries.*

## “Protective Edge” Impacts Yad Vashem

■ In July and August 2014, tensions in the Gaza Strip and within Israel's borders had a domino effect on the many professional development seminars and public tours that were scheduled to take place at Yad Vashem. Visitor numbers dropped by over 20 percent in July, and were down 50 percent in August compared to last year. However, while some educational groups decided not to follow through or to postpone activities, many elected to continue with their plans despite the situation. These determined groups hailed from Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Canada, Estonia, Germany, Ireland, Portugal, Serbia, the UK, the US, and many other countries.

“The seminar gave us a lot of material to work with in the future during history class,” said a recent participant from Estonia. A Portuguese educator called the time spent on the Mount of Remembrance “absolutely amazing, and contributed to my academic investigation as well as my personal life.” All of the visitors were given clear advice as to what to do in case of emergency, and subsequently felt that they were not endangered in any way. “Most valuable was

meeting so many other participants from all over the world and all of us bonding and supporting each other during the difficult moments when sirens went off,” said one participant from the US, who took part in the International Educators' Conference in July. “The Yad Vashem staff did a superb job of handling those moments.” A fellow teacher from Canada agreed: “In spite of the threat of rockets, it has not changed my outlook on traveling to Israel. I would never hesitate to return to Yad Vashem again.”

Meanwhile, the war and its ethical dimensions reverberated around the world, touching Yad Vashem graduates in many different countries, and as far as Australia. When a cartoon depicting a stereotypical elderly Jewish man blowing up Gaza by remote control was published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* in July 2014, three graduates of the Gandel Holocaust Studies Program for Australian Educators, all non-Jewish, were appalled. Two of them, David Taylor and Duane Galle, wrote to the editor of the paper condemning the cartoon in the strongest possible terms as “promoting the growth of antisemitism,” “a call to hatred” and “recalling the cartoons of

Nazi Germany in the 1930s and 1940s... which facilitated the greatest atrocity of mankind, the Holocaust.” The third, Natalie Baker, wrote to the International School about her shock at the impact that the conflict was having on Australia's Jewish population. “Only days after the cartoon was published, a group of drunken youths boarded a Sydney bus and traumatized young Jewish students with antisemitic insults,” she recalled. “The fact that it was our youth that delivered this most recent antisemitic attack in Australia reveals the ongoing need for education on the Holocaust and also for tolerance and empathy. The article and the cartoon reveal that our liberal democracy isn't as strong as we might imagine, and that we need to fight to protect it.

“With this in mind, I walked into my classroom, delivering a passionate session about the power of propaganda, the fragility of democracy and the importance of tolerance and empathy between people above all else. Because if one cartoon can suggest a change of dialogue, then education is more important than ever to ensure that we do not forget the lessons of the past.”

# Education ■ Finding the Me

Leah Goldstein

■ *“The conference helped us to develop a better understanding of how Holocaust memory is preserved from generation to generation. It inspired us to continue learning about the Holocaust and to keep taking responsibility for teaching it to the younger generations, for the benefit of all humanity.”*

Antonis Antoniou, Cyprus, Participant in the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Holocaust Education

In early July, the International School for Holocaust Studies held the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Holocaust Education at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. Entitled “Through Our Own Lens: Reflecting on the Holocaust from Generation to Generation,” the conference focused on the roles of survivors and those who were born after the cataclysm of the *Shoah* in safeguarding the memory of the Holocaust and keeping its meanings relevant in today’s classrooms. Lectures and workshops offered some 450 participants from around the world a wide range of fascinating topics, from ways in which the story of the Holocaust has been relayed and documented over the years, to technological and digital strategies for engaging the youth of today.

In the previous edition of *Yad Vashem Jerusalem Quarterly Magazine* (vol. 74, July 2014), the voices of the fourth generation – “young ambassadors” from around the world who spoke on the final day of the conference – were highlighted as the future of Holocaust education. Equally fascinating, however, were the topics that addressed the role of the second and third generations; how their lives were affected by the events experienced by their immediate family members, and in what

Using archival images and family photographs, Kichka was able to recreate many of the scenes from his childhood

ways this influenced their own creative endeavors to safeguard those memories.

One absorbing session focused on different aspects of telling the story of the Holocaust, including Prof. Daniel Goldhagen’s intriguing study of the nature of the perpetrators, as exemplified in his bestselling study, *Hitler’s Willing Executioners*;



■ Israeli cartoonist and illustrator, Second Generation member Michel Kichka speaks at the Ninth International Conference on Holocaust Education

and Alexandra Zapruder’s captivating investigation into the diaries written by children during the Holocaust, detailed in her prize-winning collection, *Salvaged Pages*. The final lecturer of the day was

## Seminar for Academic Lecturers from the FSU

■ In July 2014, Yad Vashem hosted a seminar for 23 lecturers and researchers from universities in Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Georgia. This was the first ever educational seminar at Yad Vashem to bring together higher-education professionals – all affiliated with departments of History and Political Science – from four countries that share a common past but that subscribe to widely different views today.

The seminar program was tailored to the educational experts and history scholars. To enrich the palette of educational tools they use in their work, participants learned about the Yad Vashem educational approach and reviewed various teaching kits and educational materials developed by the International School for Holocaust Studies. In addition, they met with staff at the International Institute for Holocaust Research and the Yad Vashem Archives as well as members of faculty at Israeli universities.

The seminar also provided the researchers and lecturers with an opportunity to discuss their research achievements and goals. Dr. Kuzma Kozak of Belarus National University presented his research and experience in teaching the Holocaust to university students and youth in Minsk, Belarus; Dr. Sergei Pivovarchik, Head of the Department of History and Archaeology at the University of Grodno, showcased a project in which he led and supervised an archaeological investigation of a tunnel in Nowogrodek, through which many prisoners escaped the ghetto in 1943 to join the partisan family camp set up by the Bielski brothers. This important research project helped pinpoint the location of the camp in the depths of the Naliboki Forest, and integrated an archaeological dig at the site of the Nowogrodek ghetto. Faina Ryabchikov, a young researcher from Lutsk University, Ukraine, presented her

## Anna Rinenberg

paper analyzing antisemitic propaganda in the local press during the Nazi occupation of the Wohlyn region. All of these presentations sparked fascinating discussions about further research possibilities and student projects.

In addition to their own seminar, the participants played an active role in the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Holocaust Education held at Yad Vashem. Many noted that this allowed them to feel part of a large alumni community of various Yad Vashem educational programs – colleagues with whom they can share knowledge and experience and discuss various challenges in the field of Holocaust education.

*The seminar for academic lecturers from the FSU was made possible through the support of Genesis Philanthropy Group.*

*The author is Educational Program Coordinator, Genesis Project, International School for Holocaust Studies.*

# aning in the Story

## Second and Third Generation Influences in Holocaust Education

"Unlike most traditional motion pictures, which have a beginning, a middle and an end, a film like *Shoah* has a circular structure that forces us to understand that events are not linear, but cyclical."

Prof. Annette Insdorf

Belgian-born Israeli cartoonist and illustrator Michel Kichka, who described with gentle humor his difficult journey in coming to terms with his complex relationship with his survivor father – a journey that resulted in his celebrated graphic novel *Second Generation: Things I Never Told My Father*. Using archival images and family photographs, Kichka was able to recreate many of the scenes from his childhood as well as those of his father, and also explain his feelings of shock and even anger at the way in which his father's story was eventually revealed to him. "Like so many other

Polish-Ashkenazi Jewish families, we never spoke about our feelings," Kichka recalled. "I needed to find the courage to do so. My father placed all of his dreams of being a cartoonist on me, and helped me use humor to do so."

Another highlight of the conference was the panel discussion on the 1985 film *Shoah*, a nine-and-a-half hour documentary in which French director Claude Lanzmann interviews a number of victims, bystanders and even perpetrators without any added narration, music or archival footage. Discussing the impact of the film when it was first released, as well as its continuing influence on students of filmmaking and oral history, were Liat Benhabib, Director of Yad Vashem's Visual Center; Shulamit Imber, Pedagogical Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies and Fred Hillman Chair in Memory of Janusz Korczak; and guest speaker Prof. Annette Insdorf, Director of Undergraduate Film Studies at Columbia University.

Prof. Insdorf began the discussion, which was interspersed with four spellbinding clips from the film, by describing Lanzmann's "ethic of discomfort," which made it "difficult for people to enter the world of the *Shoah*... while forcing the witnesses to voice whatever was possible, preferably in the location in

which it took place." Unlike most traditional motion pictures, which have a beginning, a middle and an end, "a film like *Shoah* has a circular structure that forces us to understand that events are not linear, but cyclical," explained Prof. Insdorf. She noted that Lanzmann also "prepared the film for the 'YouTube' age" – teachers today can choose certain segments to show and discuss with their students, while making sure, of course, that the context of the segment is fully understood.

The panel also conferred about the long silences that characterize many of the interviews, and how, as Benhabib described, "sometimes we must let the absences speak for themselves – absences of speech, of knowledge, of external emotion." "We must ask what the interviewee doesn't see," Imber agreed. "We must stress to our students that we always need to see the 'other'... today it is so easy not to see, so easy to be a bystander. The Holocaust took place in modern times, after the enlightenment, in a time when it was thought that if you are educated, you must also be moral... we must all take responsibility for the past and the future."

*The International Conference was generously supported by the Asper Foundation, the Adelson Family Foundation and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.*

## Chinese Educators Meet Holocaust Survivors

■ In September 2014, thirty academics, teachers and post-graduate students attended a 16-day seminar for Chinese educators at Yad Vashem. Within the tailor-made program of historical lectures and pedagogical instruction, participants spent a memorable afternoon with four Holocaust survivors, each from different countries and hence with markedly different stories. "They all gave us an impression of strength, hope, passion and love even after suffering such difficult times," said one participant. "I wish them all long lives and the strength to continue to bear witness to their experiences."

*The seminar for Chinese Educators was generously supported by the Adelson Family Foundation.*



# Education

## “Jews Rescuing Jews”: Conference for Ultra-Orthodox Educators Nava Weiss

■ This year’s conference for educators from the ultra-Orthodox community focused on one of the most fascinating issues in Holocaust studies: the stories of Jews who, in spite of personal danger, dedicated themselves to the rescue of other Jews not necessarily connected to them by family ties.

“The goal of the conference was not only to pay tribute to the stories of those selfless heroes, but also to present their dilemmas, hardships and doubts,” explained Sarit Hoch-Markowitz, Director of Teacher Training at the International School for Holocaust Studies. “In this way, we can attempt to understand the reality they faced at the time when they had to decide whether they should endanger themselves to save their brothers and sisters.”

More than 300 male educators, school principals, Talmud Torah teachers and school inspectors attended the first day of the conference, during which Rabbi Zvika Cohen, Head of Ultra-Orthodox Education of the Jerusalem Municipality, addressed the participants. Speakers included Rabbi Moshe Chaim Lau of Netanya and

Prof. Dan Michman, Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research and Incumbent of the John Najmann Chair for Holocaust Studies, who delivered the Annual Lecture in Memory of Samuel and Edward Cohen, z”l. The talks were followed by a guided tour of the Holocaust History Museum.

Approximately the same number of female teachers and educators attended the second day of the conference, and on the third day, over 150 students from various women’s seminars were present. During these two days, lectures were delivered by Rabbi Josef Wallis, CEO of the outreach organization “Arachim”; Rabbi Zvi Cohen, Spiritual Director of the Beit Yaakov Teachers College for Women; Dr. Iael Nidam-Orvieto, Director of the International Institute for Holocaust Research; and Shulamit Imber, Pedagogical Director of the International School and Fred Hillman Chair in Memory of Janusz Korczak.

The tours, followed by didactic workshops, highlighted the stories of the Jews who rescued other Jews during the *Shoah*. Various projects,



■ Ultra-Orthodox teachers peruse an exhibition at the International School for Holocaust Studies

including a short film echoing the theme of the conference as well as creative posters, were also presented. These projects, created by design students at the Gur Seminary in Bnei Brak and the Bnot Elisheva Seminary, were the product of fruitful cooperation between the Ultra-Orthodox Section at the International School’s Teacher Training Department and Miriam Sharvit, Director of the Siyur Mochot School of Design.

*The conference was held in cooperation with the Division for Ultra-Orthodox Education at the Municipality of Jerusalem, and supported by the Azrieli Foundation and the Claims Conference.*

*The author is Head of the Ultra-Orthodox Section, International School for Holocaust Studies.*

## Names Recovery in the Torah World

■ At the recent series of seminars held for ultra-Orthodox educators at the International School for Holocaust Studies this summer, participants were presented with special projects showcasing Yad Vashem’s activities in the Torah world. Among these is Yad Vashem’s *Shoah* Victims’ Names Recovery Project. As part of the project, specially trained men and women from the ultra-Orthodox sector in Israel photograph the names of Holocaust victims on memorial plaques and ritual objects in synagogues, on gravestones in cemeteries large and small across Israel, and in dedications found in Torah and Judaic literature.

Sara Berkowitz, the project’s Head of Outreach for the Ultra-Orthodox Community explains: “In the Torah world, commemoration efforts are infused with a spiritual dimension. As these victims did not have the privilege of a Jewish burial, writing their names on the tombstones of family members provides a source of comfort.” Through the years, these efforts were undertaken privately, but were never gathered into a unified source of information accessible to the wider public. For example, somebody looking for information about their family during the Holocaust may not know about a dedication on a *parochet* (Torah Ark curtain) in a remote synagogue somewhere in Israel, or

Deborah Berman

small additions to a gravestone marking the names of family members murdered during the Holocaust.

“The generation following the Holocaust actively commemorated their loved ones, but since then new editions of religious books have been published, new plaques have been hung in synagogues to replace the older ones and even tombstones have become difficult to decipher,” says Berkowitz. “It is therefore crucial to recover and include all of these names in Yad Vashem’s *Shoah* Victims’ Names Database, where they will be accessible to interested parties worldwide. And of course, not only are the names themselves being preserved, but also the unique forms of commemoration undertaken in the Torah world.”

Another component of the project includes providing personal assistance with submitting Pages of Testimony, special forms designed by Yad Vashem to commemorate *Shoah* victims. To this end, partnerships have developed between Yad Vashem and communities within the ultra-Orthodox world. The project has been granted rabbinic approval, and there have been several moving visits of Hassidic Grand Rabbis to Yad Vashem, where they learned about its educational and commemorative efforts and were presented with documents and information contained

in Yad Vashem’s vast archival collections regarding their personal family histories during the Holocaust.

“Since 2004, over 1.5 million names of Holocaust victims have been collected through the Names Recovery Project,” Berkowitz points out. “Over 700,000 names have been collected from Torah world sources and commemoration projects, as well as from Pages of Testimony within the ultra-Orthodox sector. This is a vital component of our efforts to ensure that no Holocaust victim will ever be forgotten.”



■ Torah scroll cover embroidered with names of Holocaust victims

## 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:



## James D. McMillan Turkey



James Joseph McIntosh

■ **James D. McMillan is a British national who has been teaching English in Turkey since 2002.** While working at the Enka Private School in the Anatolian city of Adapazarı, he organized an extracurricular project to educate Turkish students about the Holocaust. Due to the paucity of information in Turkish about Jewish life before the war, he and his colleagues chose pupils with advanced English comprehension. In the end, McMillan picked 12 finalists aged 15-18, out of more than 50 applicants, to participate in the project.

"I was very excited about educating Turkish students regarding such an unfortunate and important part of modern history," said McMillan. "The Holocaust is not frequently taught in Turkish schools, and there is a lack of understanding and misinformation in Turkey regarding Jewish people and antisemitism."

In addition to classroom lectures, McMillan used films and field trips to introduce the students to aspects of the Holocaust and prewar Jewish life. The students watched *Schindler's List* and *The Pianist* and visited Jewish historical and community sites in Turkey. During the school year, the class also visited the Jewish Museum of Turkey and the Neve Salom synagogue in Istanbul, where they had an informative discussion with the Chief Rabbi of Turkey.

The project reached its climax when McMillan took the group on a historical visit to Krakow and the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum in Poland. Throughout the year, he and his colleagues had taken care to ensure that the students were emotionally capable of such a visit and to prepare them as much as possible.



■ Graduate James D. McMillan

"As far as I know, we were the first Turkish school to educate students about the Holocaust, as well as to visit two of the authentic sites where so much terror and murder occurred," explained McMillan. The study trip received support from foundations outside of Turkey.

During their time in Poland, the group also toured synagogues, Jewish cemeteries, a former Jewish ghetto and the Auschwitz Jewish Center in Oświęcim. They learned firsthand about the history of the period as well as contemporary Jewish life in Krakow. Following their return to Turkey, they delivered a presentation to their entire school, as well as at the Enka School in Istanbul.

In June 2014, McMillan participated in the first-ever seminar for Turkish academics, coordinated by Yad Vashem and the Aladdin Project and supported by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). The seminar inspired his efforts to forge a more comprehensive educational process to prepare Turkish students to visit Auschwitz and other Holocaust historical sites. McMillan found the lecture on Yad Vashem's educational philosophy by Shulamit Imber, Pedagogical Director at the International School for Holocaust Studies and Fred Hillman Chair in Memory of Janusz Korczak, particularly enriching. The age-appropriate approach and the need to tailor the content to the pupils' background and culture also made a lasting impression on him, and he was grateful

to receive Yad Vashem pedagogical resources for use in class. "The seminar at Yad Vashem was vital in transmitting accurate and effective information for teaching about the Holocaust, especially to high-school students," commented McMillan. "My ultimate aim is to raise questions in my pupils' minds, and I can only do this successfully if I know which material speaks to them."



■ McMillan's students during a trip to Auschwitz-Birkenau

Despite an atmosphere negative to Israel and Holocaust-related statements made at the highest political levels in Turkey, McMillan is determined to continue the project during this academic year with a new group of Enka high-school students as well as possibly those attending a private school in Istanbul. "Teaching about life before the war is so important because it gives the victim a face, a life, a background. What they endured, the choices they faced and their individual and collective responses are all part of the universal human experience. This is our ultimate response to racism and prejudice, and I am committed to transmitting that message to my students."

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

## International Summer Seminar

■ Among the 44 participants of Yad Vashem's International Summer Seminar in July were 16 educators from across Canada. They joined their counterparts from the US, Australia, Serbia, Poland, Finland and the Czech Republic to expand their historical knowledge and acquire pedagogical skills for teaching about the Holocaust in their home countries.

*The International Summer Seminar was generously supported by the Adelson Family Foundation.*



# Education

## Pedagogic Tools for Jewish Educators Sarit Hoch-Markowitz

■ Over the summer school holidays, Yad Vashem hosted three seminars for Jewish educators – two for teachers from France and another for their American counterparts – on the topic of Holocaust education. These seminars are part of a larger-scale project carried out by the International School for Holocaust Studies, which aims to create a connection with various Jewish organizations and schools that run ongoing training programs in Israel.

Some 15 teachers from the Chabad school network in France studied about the Jewish world that existed before the Holocaust, the ways Jews coped during the *Shoah* and the survivors' return to life after the war. These topics were presented in a multidisciplinary format, with a strong focus on the age-appropriate approach and variety of educational materials developed by Yad Vashem. In view of the fact that the group was composed of Orthodox teachers, the lectures and workshops incorporated into the seminar dealt with the religious experiences of observant Jews during the Holocaust. At the seminar's end, one of the participants wrote: "You have given us, particularly during these trying times of war, the strength and the reasons to join in the educational effort and mission of Yad Vashem. You have guided us towards a process of critical thinking... giving us an

opportunity to move further along the path of human consciousness."

The second seminar brought together 20 teachers from France who have been working in Holocaust education for some time. Accordingly, the seminar focused on two main topics: modern antisemitism and the Holocaust, as well as the *Shoah* and Israeli society. Alongside lectures and workshops, the participants met with the Deputy Principal of the Shalom Hartman School, Rabbi Hanan Zucker. During the meeting, seminar participants examined the educational challenges facing Jewish teachers in France as well as their colleagues in Israel. Another important aspect of the seminar was the discussion of antisemitism, Nazism and Holocaust denial – issues that deeply concern the French Jewish community, especially in view of the recent sharp increase in antisemitic manifestations in France. As one of the participants put it, "The seminar opened new horizons for me, including today's issues of interest and import. Without doubt, it will be easier for me now to address fundamental questions raised by the students."

The seminar for American educators hosted 33 teachers who had attended programs carried out by the International School for Holocaust Studies in New York, Pennsylvania and Florida. Like their colleagues from Europe, US teachers



■ American Jewish educators: "A life-changing experience"

expressed concerns with regard to teaching such a difficult topic, especially with younger students. Accordingly, the seminar focused on equipping teachers with tools for teaching the subject matter to various age groups. At the end of the seminar, some of the teachers noted that their experience at Yad Vashem embodied a "turning point in their Holocaust teaching," and that it was "a life-changing experience."

*The seminar for Jewish educators from the United States was generously supported by the Asper Foundation. The seminars for Jewish educators from France were generously supported by the Adelson Family Foundation and the Claims Conference.*

*The author is Director of Teacher Training, International School for Holocaust Studies.*

## Transmitting Remembrance through Art Dr. Chava Baruch

■ For the past three years, the European Department of Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies has worked with young Romanian and Macedonian artists to preserve and shape the memory of the Holocaust. Inspired by Israeli artist Sarah Einik, a special program entitled "Witnesses to the Holocaust" has allowed local artists to study the Holocaust and transmit its legacy through art.

The program comprises a range of seminars about the Holocaust led by historians and Holocaust survivors, as well as the presentation of Yad Vashem's unique and effective educational guidelines. The most recent seminar took place in July 2014 in Busteni, Romania, bringing together artists from Israel, Macedonia and Romania. The participants' enthusiasm in studying the topic and sharing their ideas led to the creation of special pop-up books about the Holocaust to be exhibited in their home countries on their national Holocaust remembrance days (11 March in Macedonia and 9 October in Romania).

"We stand witness to a tragedy that can educate us about the fragility of the human spirit and the need for understanding and harmony," said Srgjan Mikikj from Macedonia, who created a series of paintings and pastels after attending a four-day seminar. "Witnesses to the Holocaust" was a return to a past in which endless manipulations produced hatred and suffering, leading humankind to inevitable decay."

Focusing on the human dimension of the Holocaust is unusual in this area of Europe, where numbers and dry facts are taught rather than learning the stories of the individuals behind them. The young artists attending the seminars showed a particular interest in studying primary sources, such as the diaries of Adam Czernikow, Moshe Flinker and Eva Heyman, and the last letters written by Jews during the deportations. Many of the artists are teachers as well, and it is hoped that their students and others who see their work will reflect and ponder the meaning of their diverse creative efforts.



■ Artist Alexandra Pasca from Romania with her part of her artwork "Train of Death"

"Learning the historical facts and meeting with the survivors changes the way you perceive the Holocaust," said Melania Bărbulescu from Romania. "The victims must never be forgotten. If we can help, even a little, through art, we need to get involved."

*The author is Head of the Central European Desk, European Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.*



# “A Significant Finding for the Research Community”

## Archaeological Digs Reveal Sobibór Gas Chambers

Leah Goldstein

■ In September 2014, the gas chambers at the Sobibór extermination camp were discovered through archaeological excavations conducted at the site of the camp since 2007. The excavations are being carried out by Yoram Haimi and his Polish associate Wojciech Mazurek; in 2013 the Dutch archaeologist Dr. Ivar Schute joined the project. Over the years, thousands of personal items have been found at the site, including rings, pendants, earrings, jewelery, perfume bottles, medicine cases and food utensils. The water well used by prisoners at Camp I, in which the uprising took place, was also recently discovered. The well contained numerous personal items belonging to Jews; the Germans filled the well with waste during the camp's liquidation.



■ The area of the gas chambers revealed in September 2014



■ Medallion found in the vicinity of the gas chambers at Sobibór: most likely brought or sent from Eretz Israel before the war

“The discovery of the remains of the gas chambers at the Sobibór extermination camp is a significant finding for the research community in Israel and around the world,” explains Director of Yad Vashem’s International Institute for Holocaust Research Dr. Iael Nidam-Orvieto. “There is little German documentation left concerning the camp, and we have no eye-witness accounts by Jewish prisoners who worked in the area of the gas chambers. Every discovery of this nature provides us with additional and vital information on the process of murder carried out there.” In addition, says Dr. Nidam-Orvieto, “the unearthing of the exact dimensions of the area can help us estimate more accurately the capacity of the gas chambers, and thus allow us to reach a more precise estimation of the number of victims at the camp.”

The Sobibór extermination camp was located near the village and railway station of Sobibór, in the eastern part of the Lublin district in Poland, not far from the Chełm-Włodawa railway line. The camp was established along with the extermination camps of Treblinka and Bełżec as part of “Operation Reinhard.” During the period of the camp’s operation (April 1942 - October 1943), some 250,000 Jews were murdered there. In the wake of the camp uprising on 14 October 1943, the Germans decided to dismantle the camp. The site remained bare, lacking any characteristic traces of it being a former extermination camp.

### The items that were found there give us something from these Jews who were consigned to oblivion

In order to provide information about the specific details of the camp, researchers previously used survivor testimonies. However, these testimonies provided limited information about only part of the camp, which made an actual blueprint and reconstruction of the entire camp impossible.

“After eight years of excavations at Sobibór, this is a great achievement for me and the research staff,” said Yoram Haimi. “Finally, we have reached our goal – the discovery of the gas

chambers. We were amazed at the size of the building and the well-preserved condition of the chamber walls. The most poignant moment was when we found a wedding band next to the gas chambers, on which was the Hebrew inscription: ‘Behold, you are consecrated unto me’” (see cover photo).

Haimi and Mazurek published earlier findings in their article, “Uncovering the Remains of a Nazi Death Camp: Archaeological Research in Sobibór” (*Yad Vashem Studies*, 41:2 [2013], pp. 55-94). Their latest discoveries represent “the climax to a meticulous multiyear project,” says Dr. David Silberklang, Senior Historian at the International Institute for Holocaust Research and Editor-in-Chief of *Yad Vashem Studies*. Regarding how these items survived after the camp was dismantled in 1943, Dr. Silberklang clarifies: “It is possible that the Germans simply missed these items. It is also possible that Jews who worked at removing the corpses buried artifacts in the ground in the hope that someone would later find them. It is very moving that these items were found there, because they give us something from these Jews who were consigned to oblivion, from whom nothing survived.” Moreover, Dr. Silberklang added that the discovery of the gas chambers is an excellent illustration of how disciplines can enrich each other – archaeology and history working together in Holocaust research.

*The excavations at the Sobibór extermination camp are being undertaken in coordination with Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research, the German-Polish Foundation and the Majdanek State Museum.*

# Yad Vashem Online ■ Postcards from the Past

■ A rare encounter between descendants of family friends occurred at Yad Vashem this July. Recently, Marcel Calef was notified by his cousin, Daniel Camhi (both are originally from Colombia and now live in the United States), of a Yad Vashem Facebook post detailing illustrated postcards they had never seen before but which contained a familiar name. As it turned out, the postcards were drawn by their great-grandfather,



■ Marcel Calef (third from left) views the postcards drawn by his great-grandfather, Albert Grotte, for the grandparents of Moshe Posener (left)

Prof. Alfred Grotte, in Germany between 1936 and 1941.

Calef sent a message to Yad Vashem's Facebook page which precipitated an ongoing correspondence between Calef and staff in Yad Vashem's Internet



■ The Yad Vashem Facebook post

Department. Calef was informed that the postcards, which are part of the Yad Vashem Art Collection, belonged to a wider donation of dozens of illustrated postcards, letters and photographs given to Yad Vashem by Moshe Posener through its "Gathering the Fragments" campaign (see p. 14). Posener had inherited the illustrated postcards

from his parents, Franz and Ellen Posener. They were originally procured by Ellen's parents, Hugo and Gretel Lewin, after Franz and Ellen and their children left their hometown of Breslau (then Germany, today Wroclaw, Poland) in 1936 and moved to Liechtenstein.

The postcards had been illustrated by Grotte, a family friend of the Lewins, with personal and elaborate drawings in the style of a children's book. The colorful postcards were used by the Lewin family to keep in touch with their children and grandson in Liechtenstein.

Prof. Grotte was deported from Breslau to the Grüssau transit camp in Silesia in 1942 and from there to Theresienstadt, where he died on 17 June 1943. His wife, Klara, was murdered in Auschwitz. Both their children had fled Germany in 1939. Hugo and Gretel Lewin were deported from Breslau in 1942 to Izbica, Poland, where they were also murdered.

For decades, Moshe Posener, who immigrated to Israel in 1961 from Liechtenstein, never knew the full story of Prof. Grotte. However, when Camhi chanced upon this particular social networking post, it translated into a meaningful correspondence and eventually a personal meeting at Yad Vashem. During the visit, Posener and Calef traded family stories and looked together at documents and pictures from the Holocaust period that Calef had brought to donate to Yad Vashem so that they could be preserved and provide additional information to this fascinating story.

## New on the Website

### "Their Fate Will Be My Fate Too": Teachers Who Rescued Jews during the Holocaust

■ During the Holocaust most people abandoned their Jewish neighbors, turned a blind eye to or even participated in the persecution of the Jews. Among them were teachers, who stood idly by as their students were marked, harassed, discriminated against and finally murdered. Only some felt that it was their duty not only to educate and instill values in the classroom, but also to live by those ideals, even at the risk to their own lives.

To mark the beginning of the school year, Yad Vashem uploaded an online exhibition with stories of teachers who rescued Jews during the Holocaust and were eventually honored as Righteous Among the Nations. In "Their Fate Will Be My Fate Too," one can read about the Dutch village teacher who hid a Jewish family and paid with his life; the French principal who rescued students in his school; the Belgian teacher who saved of hundreds of children; the Albanian Muslim teacher who gave refuge to a Jewish family; and other educators who chose to live by the values they taught.

### Righteous Exhibition – Now in German

■ The online exhibition "I Am My Brother's Keeper" marking 50 years of the Righteous Among the Nations program is now available on Yad Vashem's website in German. "Ich bin meines Bruders Hüter' 50 Jahre der Ehrung der Gerechten unter den Völkern" includes: significant milestones marking the first five decades of the program; photo galleries featuring the rescuers together with those they saved; and five themes depicting

### Facebook Connects Descendants of Holocaust-era Friends

Dana Porath



■ Two of the illustrated postcards

“It’s so very exciting and interesting,” said Moshe Posener following his meeting with Marcel Calef and his family for the first time. “Now we have the full story behind Prof. Grotte, which for so many years was just a mystery. Here is a person of flesh and blood, with children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and even great-great-grandchildren!”

dilemmas, choices and issues facing the rescuers and the Jews they attempted to help. The exhibition is accompanied by a teaching unit prepared by the International School for Holocaust Studies.

*“I Am My Brother’s Keeper” in German was made possible through the generous support of the Alfred Freiherr von Oppenheim Foundation for Scientific Research.*

*The author is Director of the Internet Department, Communications Division.*

# The Violin from Berlin

Sara Shor

■ Recently, Yad Vashem’s Artifacts Collection received a precious addition: an ancient violin that belonged to an anonymous Jew who had been deported from a Jewish retirement home in Berlin. The home, located on Grosse Hamburger Strasse, was used during the war as a temporary collection point for Jews awaiting deportation to the East.

In the summer of 1942, a 40-year-old Jewish man named Theo (his full name is recorded at Yad Vashem) was working as a janitor at the retirement home. One day, he was approached by an older Jewish man who said: “Tomorrow I will be deported; I would like to give you the most precious thing that I own. You are still young – you will certainly survive this inferno. This violin was passed down in my family; everyone has been deported. I am the last one left.” Several days later, Theo was deported to Riga. Before leaving Berlin, he managed to give the violin to one of his brothers, who had managed to escape deportation because his wife was not Jewish.

Theo’s youngest brother Hans, a typesetter by profession, was an active member of a communist group. In addition to his involvement in the theatrical sphere, Hans also distributed printed communist propaganda. In February 1943, Hans was captured and deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where he became Inmate no. 103926. He quickly located fellow Communists in the camp and, with their help, was assigned to forced labor at a Nazi printing house.

When Auschwitz-Birkenau was evacuated on 18 January 1945, Hans and other prisoners were sent on a death march to Mauthausen, and from there to Melk and Ebensee. Hans survived, yet many of his family members were less fortunate. His wife Ruth was also deported to the camps and murdered, as was his brother Theo, Theo’s wife and daughter, their father Manheim and their sister Rosa.

When Hans returned to Berlin, his brother gave him the violin that had been hidden throughout the war. Marrying for the second

time, Hans settled in the city of Weimar. He and his wife had a daughter, whom they named Ruth. For 40 years, Hans kept the violin under a bed in his house. When he passed away in 1992, Ruth inherited the instrument. For her, the violin was a symbol of the suffering that befell her father during the war – and a means of commemorating family members murdered during the Holocaust as well as the original owners of the instrument. Recently, however, Ruth came to the conclusion that Yad Vashem was the only truly suitable place for the precious memento.

Upon arrival at Yad Vashem the violin was examined, and an inscription found stating the year 1715. In an initial investigation carried out by the Artifacts Department, it was established that Theo was deported on 15 August 1942 and sent to Riga, where he was murdered. It appears that the man who gave him the violin was also deported in August 1942, but his identity remains unknown. The violin is scheduled to undergo examination by a professional violin appraiser and historian, which may reveal further clues as to the identity of the owners and artisans of the violin.



■ The 300-year old violin that survived the Shoah

The violin will be joining other instruments already safeguarded in the Artifacts Collection that tell the stories of many Jewish musicians who performed in Europe during the war. For a few, music saved their lives – yet most were murdered, and their instruments plundered and lost.

*The author is Collections Manager, Artifacts Department, Museums Division.*

# “Sobbing at Their Own Fune

## New Avenues of Research into Human Behavior during the *Shoah*

Dr. David Silberklang

■ Scholars often discover new material that sheds light on historical events, or at times examine documents that have long been accessible but have evaded scrutiny. The latter was the case with



Jan Tomasz Gross's book *Neighbors*, first published in Polish in 2000 (English and Hebrew, 2001). The core source for this book, arguably one of the most important books in the last 30 years on the *Shoah* in Poland, was a survivor testimony that had been available in archives since 1945 and a synopsis that appeared in print in two earlier publications in the 1980s. But it took Gross's incisive analysis and skilled writing to bring to our attention the significance of the murder of the Jews of Jedwabne by their neighbors. This opened the door to a new, ongoing, and important branch of research on Polish-Jewish relations during the war.

The latest issue of *Yad Vashem Studies* (42:1, 2014) features two such ground-breaking articles: Leon Saltiel's "Dehumanizing the Dead: The Destruction of Thessaloniki's Jewish Cemetery"; and Dr. Lea Prais' "'Jews from the World to Come': The First Testimonies of Escapees from Chelmno and Treblinka in the Warsaw Ghetto, 1942-1943." The springboards for both articles are items that scholars have known – the ancient Jewish cemetery in Thessaloniki (Salonika), Greece, was destroyed during the Nazi occupation; and the first testimonies by escapees from the above-mentioned extermination camps were by Jakub Grojnowski (Szlamek) and Yaakov Krzepicki. Actually, even in the names of these escapees, neither of whom survived the *Shoah*, there is new information. For, as we now know, Grojnowski was actually a cover name for Szlamek (Szlomo), whose family name is uncertain (Feiner, Wiener or Bajler), and Krzepicki was not Avraham, as nearly all publications have heretofore indicated, but Yaakov.

What have Saltiel and Prais found, and what light does this shed on the *Shoah*?

Saltiel, a doctoral candidate at the University of Macedonia in Thessaloniki, recounts the story of the destruction of the ancient Jewish cemetery in the town that began in December 1942, progressed rapidly, and was completed by the municipality of the liberated city after the end of the war. More than 500,000 graves were uprooted; gravestones were used as building materials, even until very recently; and Aristotle University was built on the ruins of the cemetery. This is the first article to analyze this event in depth, probing the roles of the main German and Greek actors

Even decades later, various church officials claimed not to understand why using Jewish tombstones as building materials might be objectionable

behind the cemetery's destruction and the subsequent allocation of the land and reuse of the tombstones. Local and regional Greek officials, including Church figures, were deeply complicit in the desecration and destruction, and even decades later various church officials claimed not to understand why using Jewish tombstones as building materials might be objectionable. The roles of these people during and after the war raise many multifaceted issues. Saltiel also uses the story of the destruction of the Jewish cemetery of Thessaloniki as a case study for the triangular relations between the Jews, the German occupation forces, and the local elites on the eve of the deportations. The Greeks in this story had various options, both regarding the destruction of the cemetery and also the deportations to death for which the destruction laid the groundwork. Saltiel uses new documentation from a wide variety of sources alongside the previously known details

to demonstrate clearly that not only did the local leaders not protest the destruction, but they were also eager to see it done and jumped into action with alacrity. They initiated and benefitted from the destruction of the cemetery and subsequently, during the deportations to extermination camps, turned a blind eye to their Jewish neighbors' fate. The article is accompanied by damning photos showing the desecration in process as well as local attitudes even many years after the *Shoah*.

Dr. Prais, a veteran researcher at Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research, analyzes two remarkable documents – the wartime accounts of Jakub Grojnowski and Yaakov Krzepicki, escapees from the Chelmno and Treblinka extermination camps, respectively – as recorded for the "Oneg Shabbat" underground archive in the Warsaw ghetto in 1942. Grojnowski's was the first report on Chelmno, and whereas Krzepicki's was not the



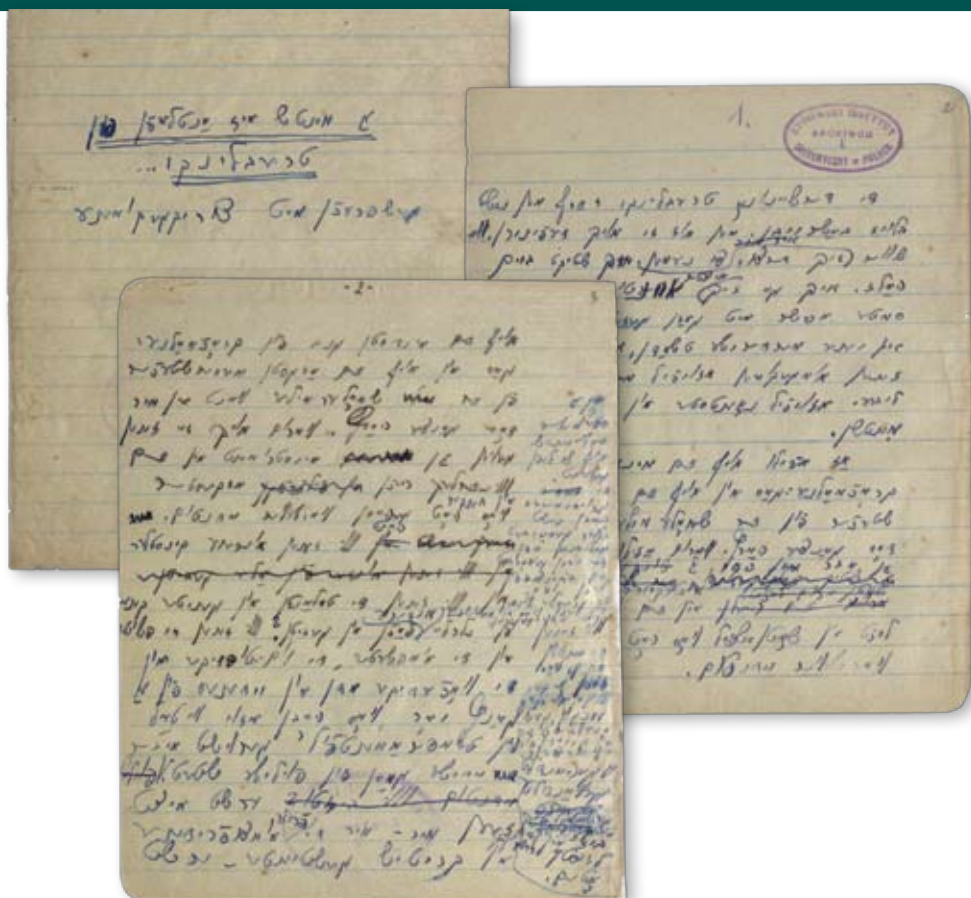
■ Desecration of the ancient Jewish cemetery in Thessaloniki

first to reach the ghetto, it is by far the most comprehensive and detailed testimony on Treblinka (323 handwritten pages). The little that was published of Krzepicki until now is only a small fraction of the full document, and as Dr. Prais shows, has missed most of who he was and what he had to say about Treblinka and the Jews transported to the camp.

Dr. Prais' article is the most extensive discussion of Krzepicki's critically important testimony to date, while her precision and insight carry the discussion of Grojnowski's testimony



## Krzepicki’s testimony leads us stepwise along the twisting path of the deportees’ consciousness, from the lack of clarity following their abduction to the unbridled, stark horror of the camp



■ Pages from the wartime account of Yaakov Krzepicki, who escaped from Treblinka

well beyond what earlier scholars have achieved. Krzepicki’s full testimony is analyzed here for the first time, and the innumerable crossed-out words and lines, corrections and marginal additions make that analysis all the more challenging. Dr. Prais’ multi-layered comparative analysis of the two testimonies highlights the authors’ different Jewish approaches. Whereas Szlamek’s account focuses on his fellow gravediggers in compassion and mourning, Krzepicki’s expresses outrage against the Jews’ surrender and helplessness on the way to the camp and in it. His comments are insightful, sometimes harsh, always searing.

Krzepicki was deported from Warsaw to Treblinka on 25 August 1942 and escaped on 13 September. His Yiddish testimony was recorded

by Rachel Auerbach for “Oneg Shabbat” from 28 December 1942 to 7 March 1943. Auerbach then fled the ghetto to the “Aryan” side and survived, while Krzepicki remained in the ghetto and fell in the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising on 22 April 1943.

Krzepicki’s testimony leads us stepwise along the twisting path of the deportees’ consciousness, from the lack of clarity following their abduction to the unbridled, stark horror of the camp to which they arrived. He is derisive and contemptuous of their clinging to scraps of hope based on the false information fed them by the Germans. His observations are often laced with bitter sarcasm, as when he describes an SS man’s speech promising newly-arrived Jews that they would work in their trades. “Some people began to applaud

the German. The majority of the Jews who had heard the honeyed speech really calmed down and once again began to believe that they were in a work camp... and people regained their places, like children in a classroom.”

Still, Krzepicki did show some sympathy for children and women in Treblinka. One story in particular rattled him: “A boy of about eight years, who had come with his father, was standing there pleading. He did not want to undress until he had said goodbye to his father. His father was standing on the other side of the door, unable to reach him. He was under one guard and his son under another. But a miracle happened to him. A Ukrainian corporal who was standing in the barracks made a move. He had understood the Polish words and carried out the child’s wish. He led the child outside to his father who took him in his arms and kissed his soft cheeks and sat him back down on the ground. The little rascal, now calm, went back into the barracks with the Ukrainian and undressed himself. His last wish had been fulfilled.

“I could not allow myself to think about this. I had neither the time nor the head for it, nor could I take it to heart. Something in me always warned me: Steel yourself, don’t let yourself fall apart.”

He also related how the older women met with their fate. “Some sought consolation in God and prepared themselves to die with God’s name on their lips. Some pleaded for help, prayed for a miracle, a rescue; others had given up all hope... The women’s sobbing was reminiscent of the sobbing that one hears at funerals. Here people were sobbing at their own funeral.”

The story of Greek attitudes toward their Jewish neighbors, as reflected in the destruction of the Jewish cemetery in Thessaloniki, and Krzepicki’s insight into the heart-wrenching scenes at Treblinka are deeply disturbing and leave us with many questions. It is to be hoped that these articles will encourage new research into these important insights into human behavior arising from the *Shoah*.

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

## Gathering the Fragments

# “Do Not Lose Hope”

Limor Bar Ilan

■ *“One who has never eaten his bread at faraway places, one who has never sat on his bed at night filled with grief – he does not know You, Ye Heavenly Forces. In memory of our times together at Camp 13, from your brother, Emanuel”*

Dedication written in Frida Gutman's autograph book by Emanuel (Manek) Gutman, 19 March 1942, Gross Sarne

The autograph book made for Frida (Friedl) Gutman at the Gross Sarne concentration camp accompanied her upon her transfer to Gross Masselwitz and then to Freiburg. After liberation, the book became a precious memento left to her by Jewish prisoners with whom she had crossed paths at the camps, among them

**Inscriptions in the autograph book reveal the state of mind of some of the prisoners – their personal feelings, their hopes and their fears**

her brother, Emanuel. The book has a cover of wood and tin, adorned with a Star of David and the inscription: “RAB: Lager Gross Sarne, 1942.” Prisoners made the journal out of materials they managed to procure at the camp and filled it with poems, dedications, memories and words of farewell.

Frida Gutman was born in Chorzow, Poland in 1916, one of nine children to parents Leon (Leib) and Klara. It was at Gross Sarne that Frida met her future husband, Yitzhak Poremba. Both survived the war and were reunited in Stuttgart, Germany, where they were married and had a son, Yakov. Two years later, the Porembas immigrated to Israel, where their daughter Ora was born.

Frida preserved the precious autograph book through the years, yet she never told anyone about it – not even her children. Only when she was over 80 years old did she take the book out of the closet where she had hidden it and hand it over to her grandson, Ben. After Frida passed away, members of the Poremba family were left with many questions surrounding the contents of the book – which was crumbling with age –



and indeed its very nature, especially as the inscriptions in the book appeared in four different languages: German, Polish, Dutch and Hebrew.

Hearing about the “Gathering the Fragments” campaign, Yakov Poremba decided to approach Yad Vashem, hoping its staff could shed light on his mother's life story. After the book was donated, a careful investigation was carried out using Yad Vashem's numerous databases. Extensive information was discovered regarding the book itself, as well as about Frida's biography and the stories of many other Jews from the same area. Out of some 30 people who wrote in Frida's book, ten survivors were located. Others had been murdered, their names commemorated in the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names.

Inscriptions in the autograph book reveal the state of mind of some of the prisoners at the three camps where Frida was incarcerated – their personal feelings, their hopes and their fears at a time when their very lives were in the hands of the concentration camp regimes. In some cases, the inscription in the book is the last written testimony of a Jewish prisoner. One of the dedications is dated 4 April 1942: “Clench your fists; grind your teeth; walk under the winds beating in your face; march to the sounds of music like true fighters. This is the straight road by which individuals will travel.” “I hope you'll remember me,” wrote David Lirens to Frida on 28 September 1942. It turns out that Lirens was a businessman from Amsterdam whose property was confiscated and who was then deported. Three months after writing in Frida's book, he lost his life at the Spytkowice camp.



■ Dedications and drawings from Frida Gutman's autograph book. Top left, the book's cover; bottom, wedding photo of Frida and Yitzhak Poremba, with Emanuel Gutman (left), Stuttgart, 1946. The photo is glued to the inside cover of the book.

Some two years after writing a dedication in his sister's journal at Gross Sarne, Frida's brother Emanuel (Manek) Gutman wrote another inscription, apparently on the day when brother and sister were separated again, this time at Freiburg: “3.5, Freiburg, on the day of the tragic separation. Although a heavy blow has landed upon us again, always stay joyful. After being together for three years, fate has turned and separated us. May you merit to see your brothers again. And now, dear Friedl, do not lose hope. Please continue hoping that we will meet again. Never forget your brother, just as you forever preserve the memory of our parents. Cheer up – from Manek, who owes you much gratitude and who will never forget you.”

The hope of brother and sister to see each other again indeed came to fruition; they were reunited in Poland after the war. In 1948 Frida and her husband immigrated to Israel, closely followed by her sister, Ruth, and her brother, Emanuel.

*Yad Vashem runs the “Gathering the Fragments” campaign in cooperation with the National Heritage Program at the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry for Senior Citizens and the Ministry of Education.*

*The author works in the Educational Technology Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.*

# Transports to Extinction



## International Workshop Investigates Various Aspects of Deportations

Dr. Joel Zisenwine

■ The deportation of Jews from their homes was a key component in the execution of the "Final Solution." However, until recent years, this phenomenon was not studied extensively, and was only mentioned in literature as a secondary (though vital) element in the planned extermination of the Jewish people. In 2007, Yad Vashem launched a multiyear project entitled "Transports to Extinction: The Shoah (Holocaust) Deportations Database," intended to record all deportations during the Holocaust. This online resource center provides an overview of the transports, while focusing on several main issues: the reconstruction of the transports' routes, information on persons involved in organizing them, the socio-economic characteristics of the Jewish deportees and recollections of the survivors of the transports.

In an attempt to broaden the analysis and understanding of various aspects of this phenomenon, the International Institute for Holocaust Research devoted its latest annual researchers' workshop to the topic. In July 2014, experts from various countries presented their findings on deportations from Greece, Hungary, the Netherlands, Germany and Macedonia. Other countries, such as Austria, France, Bulgaria and Poland, were also mentioned during the top-level discussions. Lecturers addressed the logistical aspects of the transports; the effect deportation trains had on the German war effort; the active involvement of local railway companies and their directors in the deportations; and the reconstruction of the deportation train routes. Also discussed were the representation of transports in literature; the contribution of deportees' letters and survivors' testimonies to the research of transports; the degree of knowledge of Jews concerning the actual meaning of deportations in real time; and contemporary means of commemoration. The presentation of a series of case studies from various countries such as Bulgaria, Greece and the Netherlands reemphasized the broad geographical scope of the Holocaust.

Among the lecturers was Dr. Alfred Gottwaldt, a leading expert in the field of deportations research, who has devoted many years to the study of the German and organizational aspects of the topic; and Suzanne Kill, Director of the German Railway Company's Historical



■ Prof. Dan Michman addresses participants at the recent international workshop on deportations

No longer are the deportations viewed as merely a technical stage in which millions of Jews were transferred across the continent to Eastern Europe; the way in which the deportees grasped what was happening is equally, if not more, important

Department. Dr. Gottwaldt presented his research on Julius Dormmüller, Reich Minister of Transport, who was responsible on a ministerial level for the German Railway Company. Although he was a top-level minister, Dormmüller's character has never previously been explored in detail. Gottwaldt gave a fascinating overview of Dormmüller's life, his relations with the Nazi Party and his (estimated) level of knowledge of its policy of the mass murder of the Jews. In her absorbing lecture, Kill dealt with the differing commemoration efforts in which the Germany Railway Company has been involved in recent years, in acknowledgement of the company's historical involvement in the transports of Jews to their deaths.

The new studies presented the deportations as an event not only of organizational consequence, but also of social significance. No longer are the deportations viewed as merely a technical stage

in which millions of Jews were transferred from places of origin across the continent to ghettos, labor camps and extermination camps in Eastern Europe; the way in which the deportees grasped what was happening is equally, if not more, important. "Overall the men were miserable and seemed to be leaving for a certain death," reported David Feuerwerker, a rabbi who visited the Egletons labor camp in August 1942. "My wife and I have been married 27 years, we have never left each other," an inmate told Rabbi Marc Kalhenberg in the Septfonds internment camp that same month. "I will probably never see her again. Please take care of her."

"An outstanding consequence of the workshop was the cooperation between the researchers and the way in which different lines of research often, and sometimes unexpectedly, complemented others," says Institute Director Dr. Iael Nidam-Orvieto. "For example, as one of the participants presented the probable route of deportation trains from Macedonia, the ensuing discussion revealed that the name of one of the places along the route was pronounced differently in other languages. The supplementary information provided at the lecture led to a more accurate reconstruction of the route. This, together with other vital avenues of research disclosed at the workshop, proves how essential these meetings are for understanding this central phenomenon of the Shoah."

*The Holocaust Deportations Database Project is made possible through the generous support of the Claims Conference; The Estate of Isaac Jacques Cohen (France), survivor from Thessaloniki; and SNCF-Société Nationale des Chemins de fer Français.*

*The author is Director of the "Transports to Extinction" online research project, International Institute for Holocaust Research.*

## News from the International Institute for Holocaust Research

### Distinguished Research Fellow: Prof. Omer Bartov

■ This summer, Yad Vashem, in collaboration with Tel Aviv University, invited Prof. Omer Bartov, the John P. Birkelund Distinguished Professor of European History and Professor of History and German Studies at Brown University, to conduct research in Israel.



During his tenure at Yad Vashem, Prof. Bartov gave several lectures, one of which was to the staff and guides of Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies. In the lecture, entitled "Genocide and the Holocaust: What are we arguing about?" Prof. Bartov contended that the study of the Holocaust does not necessarily obstruct the study of genocide, as some contemporary scholars claim, but quite the opposite. Moreover, he suggested, scholars must keep their academic integrity while interpreting and comparing different chapters of history, and should avoid improper comparisons based on political ideologies. In conclusion, he stressed the need for those working in the field of Genocide Studies to listen more to the voices of victims and survivors.

Prof. Bartov gave a second lecture to the International Institute for Holocaust Research's scholars' forum, entitled "Understanding Local Genocide: A Galician Town in the Time of the Holocaust." During the presentation, he detailed the history of the multi-layered, multi-ethnic town of Buczacz during the Holocaust – a topic he is currently investigating in depth.

### "The Untold Stories": New Guide on Killing Sites

Dr. Lea Prais

■ Recently, a new guide was uploaded to the Yad Vashem website summarizing all of the data collected in the online research project "The Untold Stories: The Murder Sites of the Jews in the Occupied Territories of the Former Soviet Union." The guide gives, as far as possible, an accurate picture on the extent and manner of the killing during WWII of Jews living within the 1941 borders of the FSU. It is intended to supply concise information on the location of murder sites, the identity of the perpetrators, the number of victims and how the Jews were murdered.

The online guide surveys 2,571 killing sites: 301 in Russia (including the Crimean Peninsula); 195 in Latvia; 243 in Lithuania; 1,170 in Ukraine; and 662 in Belarus. In the larger killing sites (such as Ponary or the Pivonija Forest in Lithuania), quite often dozens of mass graves were found within a one-kilometer radius, and were counted as one site. The information in the guide is taken from Soviet documentation housed in the Yad Vashem Archives (the Soviet Extraordinary State Commission investigating



Nazi war atrocities – the ChGK, the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee and others), as well as from similar projects carried out in Lithuania and Latvia. Additional information was provided by local researchers in Ukraine and Belarus.

*"The Untold Stories" online research project is generously supported by European Jewish Fund Chairman Dr. Moshe Kantor and the Claims Conference.*

*The author is Director of "The Untold Stories" online research project, International Institute for Holocaust Research.*

### Summer Fellows

■ In its desire to encourage young scholars of the Holocaust, the International Research Institute offers Summer Research Fellowships for PhD students who are writing a Holocaust-related dissertation, including its antecedents and aftermath. These fellowships enable the students to travel to Israel for two weeks in order to conduct research in the Yad Vashem Archives, to meet with professors of the Institute, and to converse with staff and scholars about their research projects.

This summer, in the midst of a difficult period in Israel, three outstanding PhD students came to Yad Vashem to expand their academic research: Susanne Barth, who is working on her PhD at the Carl-von-Ossietzky University of Oldenburg on the Oberschlesische Hydrierwerke AG and the Auschwitz sub-camp of Blechhammer, 1939-1945; Julia Keretes Renault Pinto from the University of Vienna, who came to work on her topic of immigration policy and Jewish refugees in the 1930s and '40s; and Yang Meng, a Chinese national working on her PhD at the Free University of Berlin, who perused documentation at Yad Vashem on the Jewish exile in Shanghai. "My time at Yad Vashem was extremely satisfying and enlightening," said Yang. "Several collections at Yad Vashem were particularly related to my research, and many members of staff helped me make contact with professors around the country who could assist me. Overall, I was impressed by the culture of sharing in Israel's academic world. In addition to expanding my sources, I learned more about the challenges for Chinese scholars as a whole and gained a better understanding of the history, which I can bring back to China to promote Holocaust education in my home country." "The two-week fellowship is a wonderful program," agreed Keretes. "The huge quantity of documents in the Archives and the variety of books in the Library create a perfect atmosphere for studying and researching. It was a unique and precious experience in which I significantly advanced my research about Portugal and the Jewish refugees during the period of National Socialism."



## Kagan Summer Workshop

### Chavie Brumer

■ This summer, the International Institute for Holocaust Research once again hosted the Claims Conference Saul Kagan Fellowship in Advanced Shoah Studies' annual five-day workshop. The Kagan fellows are pursuing PhDs and post-doctorates in academic fields such as history, sociology, political science and Judaic studies, and hail from Hungary, Ukraine, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Israel, Canada and the US. The researchers presented their findings on various issues, such as Jewish flight patterns in Bohemia and Moravia; Jewish survival of those saved by the Polish Refugee Fund and the *kindertransport*; and the reactions of local populations and governments to Nazism and to



the victimization of the Jews in unchartered areas of Hungary, the Ukraine, Russia and the Low Countries. Original writings of several Yiddish authors were also revealed and discussed.

Fellows were able to gain broader perspectives on their topics, as well as on Holocaust research and historiography, from the valuable feedback and discussions moderated by veteran scholars in Holocaust history. In addition, Prof. Dan Michman, Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research and John Najmann Chair for Holocaust Studies, presented the very significant contemporary issue of misinterpretations when comparing Holocaust studies and those of other genocides.

The broad scope of networking opportunities with peers and established scholars continues to provide Kagan fellows with access to other prestigious, internationally renowned conferences, as well as unique research and teaching opportunities.

*The author is the Claims Conference Fellowships Administrator.*

## Prof. Zwi Bacharach, z”l

■ Yad Vashem mourns the recent passing of Holocaust survivor, acclaimed academic and distinguished researcher Prof. Walter Zwi Bacharach. Prof. Bacharach taught European History, and especially the history of Germany, at Bar-Ilan University. After his retirement from teaching in 1996, he worked for a number of years at Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research, where he edited, among other books, *Last Letters from the Shoah* (Yad Vashem, 2004) – an important and heart-



wrenching collection of missives written by those who were not to survive the Holocaust to their loved ones – which was translated into many languages.

At the opening ceremony of Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day 2006, Prof. Bacharach spoke on behalf of the survivors: "The image of man – his will to live – fought to evade the shadow of death. The will to live – this is not heroism. It is the most human of desires... but the ability to live is bound up in hope. When there is no hope – there is also no life... the memory of our beloved ones urges us forward, day and night. In their names, and for their sake, we established new generations that proved that the Creator made mankind to last forever."

## Haifa University Workshop

■ On 21 July 2014, the International Institute for Holocaust Research held a one-day workshop for students of the Weiss-Livnat International MA in Holocaust Studies at Haifa University. The workshop was organized



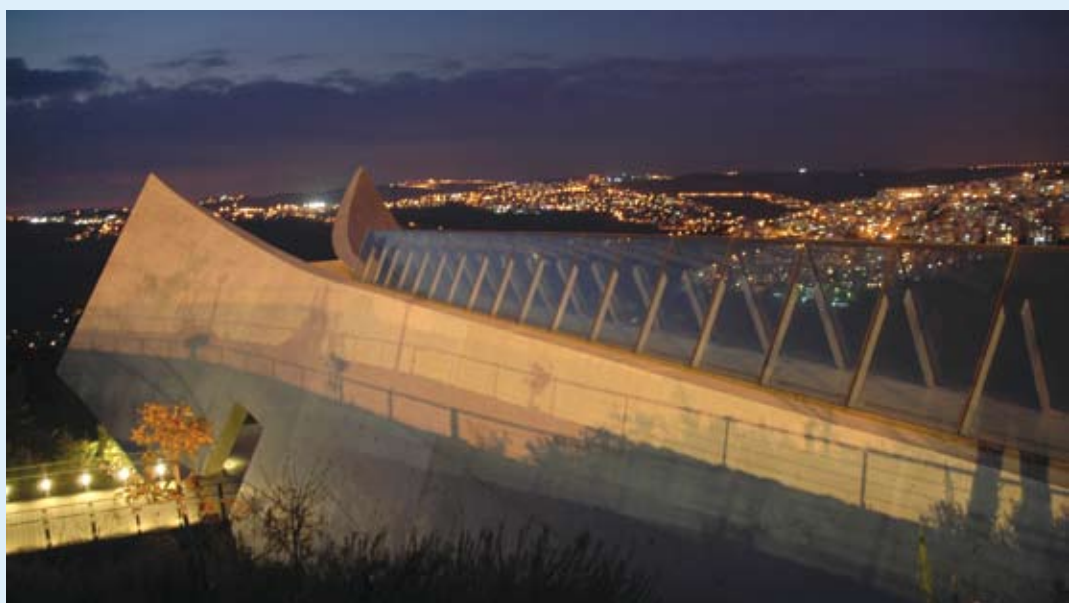
within the framework of a special course on the Holocaust in the Former Soviet Union given at the University by researchers from Yad Vashem.

During the workshop, Prof. John Paul Himka from the University of Alberta in Canada presented a lecture on the topic: "A Dangerous Mindset: Ukrainian Nationalist Thinking on the Eve of the Holocaust." Later in the day, Prof. Himka held a special methodology session dedicated to analyzing documents, entitled "Two Disputed Documents about the Holocaust in Lviv: Yaroslav Stetsko's autobiography and the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists' Book of Facts." Dr. Yitzhak Arad, former chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate, presented "The Personal Past through the Eyes of the Scholar," in which he elucidated the problems he faced in writing about the Holocaust as a survivor, a former partisan and a historian.

*The course at Haifa University is generously supported by Genesis Philanthropy Group.*

## Yad Vashem Ranked Among Top Ten Museums Worldwide

■ Both tourists and distinguished travel experts continue to highlight visits to Yad Vashem online, as well as in published guide books and newsletters. This summer, TripAdvisor, the foremost travel website driven by reviews and comments of tourists and travelers, once again ranked Yad Vashem among the top 10 museums in the world. Also in recent months, Yad Vashem was designated as one of the world's 10 most important memorial museums by *The Culture Trip*, a global website showcasing the best of art, food, culture and travel for countries throughout the world. Yad Vashem was further featured as a recommended experience in Andrew Harper's June "Hideaway Report." The newsletter, which is part of a full-service luxury travel company, focuses on providing personal recommendations for discerning travelers.



## Radical Evil: Winner of Yad Vashem Chairman's Award 2014

Mimi Ash

■ This year's winner of the 2014 Avner Shalev Yad Vashem Chairman's Award for Artistic Achievement in Holocaust Film is director Stefan Ruzowitzky for his captivating film *Radical Evil* (Germany/Austria 2013, 96 minutes), in which Ruzowitzky deconstructs the process of transforming average men into ideologically motivated killers.

"I tried to convey an impression of the mindset of the killers," explained Ruzowitzky in an interview conducted after the award ceremony at the Jerusalem Film Festival in July. "One of the scariest things I discovered is how quickly ordinary men lose their natural empathy, totally accept official propaganda and carry out murderous orders."

While researching his film *The Counterfeiters* (Austria/Germany 2007), Ruzowitzky was profoundly influenced by historian Christopher Browning's book *Ordinary Men*, which deals with the question of how and why was it so easy to turn regular people of all ages, professions and political beliefs into mass murderers. Ruzowitzky's current documentary is composed of re-enactments, archival footage and sound recordings from the Holocaust era, as well as filmed excerpts from obedience studies and interviews with renowned experts, including Browning and psychiatrist Robert Jay Lifton. The film's title was inspired by Hannah Arendt's concept of radical evil: "about which one must say: 'This ought not to have happened,'



and which cannot be accepted under any circumstances," clarified Ruzowitzky. "And since radical evil is man-made, it can be fought by men on a political level."

According to historian Raul Hilberg, from 1941-1945 the *Einsatzgruppen*, auxiliary troops and local collaborators killed more than two million people on Soviet and Soviet-occupied territory, including 1.3 million Jews. These mass murders committed by mobile death squads are not as widely known as the wholesale gassings and cremations in extermination camps. "Since most people identify the Holocaust with Auschwitz, the audience at my screening at the 2014 Berlinale was shocked to learn of the dimensions of the *Einsatzgruppen*'s 'Holocaust by bullet,' which sometimes resulted in the deaths of 20,000 civilians per day," said Ruzowitzky.

Letters and diary entries read by actors reveal that many of the "ordinary" German soldiers who took part in the killings did not like what they were doing, and some even went insane,

although Browning claims that none of them expressed compassion or remorse towards their victims, even while questioning their actions. Ruzowitzky speculated on how the soldiers rationalized their actions: "I think that the killers had the sense of an 'unpleasant duty that had to be carried out.' I don't think they had the same kind of enthusiasm as IS (Islamic State) fighters have today, but I don't know which attitude is more despicable."

Ruzowitzky is clear about his film's primary audience: "My grandfather, who was a Nazi, died 50 years ago. My daughters are teenagers, born more than five decades after the Holocaust. I made this movie for them, and for their generation, to emphasize the relevance of the events of WWII for their lives, since genocides continue to take place today. We must learn from the past and act now, before it is too late, to defeat political extremism, while our democratic institutions still function and there is still a free press."

In November 2014, in commemoration of *Kristallnacht*, the Visual Center will sponsor special screenings of *Radical Evil* in all of Israel's cinematheques, with the cooperation of First Hand Films.

*The annual Avner Shalev Yad Vashem Chairman's Award for Artistic Achievement in Holocaust-related Film is generously supported by Michaela and Leon Constantiner.*

*The author is responsible for the Visual Center's Film Acquisitions and Research.*

# First International Workshop on the Conservation of Holocaust-era Material

## Lital Beer

■ **“Holocaust artifacts and documents are the basis for Holocaust research, and serve as core material for museums’ collections and exhibitions, as well as a resource for commemorative and educational activities for future generations. These documents are scattered around the world, in countless fragments. They were made or written in hiding, under difficult conditions, using poor materials. Some of them were in private hands for many decades, not always in adequate conditions. This sensitive documentation is often the last testimony to the life of an individual, or of his or her murder. Their preservation has, therefore, significant moral, educational and legal implications. Additionally, there is an increasing public interest in Holocaust documentation and hence the urgent need to develop its access with the aid of advanced technology.”**

Dr. Haim Gertner, Director of the Yad Vashem Archives and Fred Hillman Chair of Holocaust Documentation

Dramatic developments in digital technology and their application in various disciplines over recent years have had an increasing impact on the conservation of a broad range of cultural heritage, including Holocaust documentation and artifacts. The digitization of aging materials circumvents the necessity of accessing the original, thus preventing its deterioration by physical contact or exposure to uncontrolled environments. Digitization also offers effective worldwide dissemination of information; it facilitates academic research; and it extends the possibility of access by the greater public. However, digitization of archival materials also raises significant practical and philosophical issues and challenges.

“The Nazi attempt to annihilate the Jewish people, its memory and its identity, dictates the

treatment carried out at our Laboratory and transcends the conventional philosophy of preservation,” explains Varda Gross, Head of

The discussion over the digitization of original materials raised moral dilemmas, such as issues of authenticity, as well as technical concerns,



■ Varda Gross (right) presents the work of the Paper Conservation Laboratory at Yad Vashem to participants at the international workshop

the Paper Conservation Laboratory at the Yad Vashem Archives, who led an international workshop on conservation of Holocaust-era material, held at Yad Vashem in September 2014. “In some cases the damage is preserved, since the condition of the document or artifact is often an integral part of the story it bears.”

The 34 scholars from Israel, Europe and the US who participated in the workshop examined the scope and means of both physical and digital preservation of original materials, such as documents, photographs, artworks and artifacts, as well as the challenges that have developed in recent years in the expanding field.

including the transfer of color and dimensions and the longevity of the digital image. During the concluding session, a fascinating dialogue developed between experts in the conservation of original materials and information technology specialists, emphasizing the need for an ongoing exchange of ideas and skills in the fields of physical and digital conservation.

*The international conservation workshop was held as part of the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI) project to improve access to Holocaust-related archives in Europe, supported by the European Commission.*

*The author is Director of Information and Reference Services, Archives Division.*

## Calendar 5775 (2014-2015): The Art Collection – Landscapes

■ **The artworks in Yad Vashem’s new desk calendar for the Hebrew year 5755 (2014-2015) provide a glimpse into the treasures of its Art Collection.** These landscapes, cityscapes and views of daily life reveal the variety of styles, techniques and approaches of Jewish artists living in Europe prior to and during the Holocaust. Whether these artworks were created during peaceful times by Jewish men and women later murdered in the Holocaust, or were produced under Nazi persecution, they all convey the painters’ artistic and aesthetic concerns. Some of the paintings and drawings allude to the cruel reality of life in the ghetto or concentration camp; others express the artists’ longing to escape into the realm of beauty,

yet all affirm the human creative impetus and love for life.

Yad Vashem’s Art Collection is comprised of more than 9,000 creations, and constitutes the largest and most comprehensive collection of Holocaust art. Most of the artworks in the collection were produced between 1933 and 1945 and provide a unique perspective about the individual’s experience during the *Shoah*. These works, created under the harshest circumstances, testify to the inner strength of the artists who strove to maintain their spirit and creativity.

The artworks featured in the calendar also appear in a complementary online exhibition on the Yad Vashem website.



Yad Vashem’s 2014-15 calendar is now available for purchase in its online store: [www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org)

*The 2014-2015 Yad Vashem Calendar was produced with the generous support of the Friends of Yad Vashem in the Netherlands.*

During June–September 2014, the Department for Official Visits in Yad Vashem’s Commemoration and Public Affairs Division conducted 116 guided tours for more than 1,100 official visitors from Israel and abroad. These guests included heads of government and parliament, ministers, ambassadors, NGO representatives and members of the entertainment industry. Following is a small selection of our honored guests over the summer months:

■ Vice President of Malawi **Saulos Klaus Chilima** (left) and his wife **Mary Chilima** visited Yad Vashem on 2 September.



■ During his visit to Yad Vashem on 2 July, Speaker of the **Albanian Parliament Ilir Meta** toured the Holocaust History Museum.



■ On 13 July, actress and singer **Vanessa Williams** toured the Holocaust History Museum.



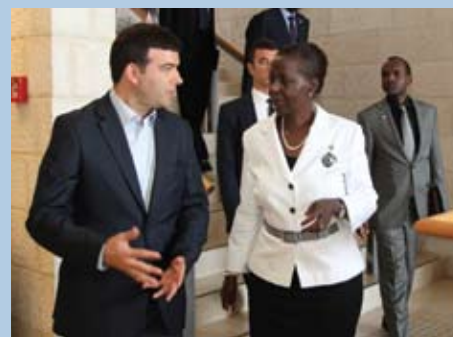
■ On 16 July, **Italian Foreign Minister Federica Mogherini** (right) was guided through the Holocaust History Museum by Director of the International Institute for Holocaust Research **Dr. Iael Nidam-Orvieto** (left).



■ **Chairman of the Georgian Parliament David Usupashvili** toured the Holocaust History Museum and Hall of Names on 23 July.



■ During her visit to Yad Vashem on 21 July, **Foreign Minister of Rwanda Louise Mushikiwabo** (right) met with senior staff at the International School for Holocaust Studies, including **Lily Safra Chair of Holocaust Education and School Director Dr. Eyal Kaminka** (left).



■ Pulitzer prize-winning playwright, essayist, screenwriter and film director **David Mamet** (right) and his daughter, actress and director **Clara Mamet** (center), took a guided tour of the Holocaust History Museum on 10 July.



## “Psalm 102” Sculpture Donated to Art Collection

■ In June 2014, Yad Vashem’s Art Collection received the sculpture “Psalm 102”, part of the series “In the Silence of Psalms” by French ceramic artist **Elisabeth Raphaël**. The work, comprised of porcelain sheets impressed with verses from Psalms, evokes a tombstone and deals with the connection between faith, prayer and memory, while struggling with the gaping fissure created in Western society following the Holocaust.

The sculpture was donated to Yad Vashem with the generous support of Sir Ronald Cohen at a moving ceremony on 22 June, in the presence of the artist, Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev**, Managing Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda**, Museums Division Director **Yehudit Inbar**, Director of the Museum of Holocaust Art and Curator **Eliad Moreh-Rosenberg** and Yad Vashem staff.



■ Left to right: **Shaya Ben Yehuda**, **Yehudit Inbar**, **Eliad Moreh-Rosenberg**, **Avner Shalev**, **Elisabeth Raphaël**, **David Harel**, **Sir Ronald Cohen**

## Recent Events: July – August 2014

Limor Karo

### Kites for Janusz Korczak

■ They walked to Janusz Korczak Square, full of emotion. All three Holocaust survivors – Yitzhak Skalka, Yitzhak Belfer and Shlomo Nadel – were once pupils at Korczak’s orphanage. This year, the three met again at Yad Vashem on 7 August, accompanied by some 100 students from the Mahanot Ha’olim youth movement, to mark 72 years since the murder of Janusz Korczak, his assistant Stefania Wilczynska and some 200 children cared for at the orphanage.

Janusz Korczak was born Henryk Goldszmit. Physician, writer and philosopher, but first and foremost pedagogue and educator, Korczak wrote over 20 books, mostly children’s books and works on education, some of which, such as *King Matt the First*, became ageless classics. From 1912, Korczak managed the Jewish orphanage

on Krochmalna Street in Warsaw. In 1940, the orphanage was transferred into the ghetto. On 5 August 1942, all the residents were sent to their deaths at Treblinka. With one mortal



■ Mahanot Ha’olim youth movement members fly kites to remember Janusz Korczak, Stefania Wilczynska and the 200 children murdered in Treblinka

blow, the lives of hundreds of orphans and one broadly admired educator were cut short.

In his pedagogical essay “Summer Camps,” Korczak declared: “Every single child must have a kite.” In the spirit of this teaching by the venerated educator, those assembled signed off the event by releasing kites – a colorful metaphor for the work of Korczak. Also present at the ceremony were representative of the Polish Embassy in Israel Jacek Olejnik; Chairwoman of the International Janusz Korczak Association Batia Gilad; Chairwoman of the Korczak Educational Institute of Israel Dalia Tauber; and Inbal Kivity Ben-Dov, Director of Yad Vashem’s Commemoration and Public Affairs Division.

### “Mashiv Haruach” Concert

■ In the Valley of the Communities, among the rock steles bearing the names of thousands of Jewish communities destroyed and decimated during the Holocaust, Jewish soul music soared on a Jerusalem summer night, infusing the Valley with the spirit of life and creativity.

Hundreds of Holocaust survivors and their family members filled the festively lit central courtyard of the Valley of the Communities. Multimedia displays portraying various experiences of Jewish life and the Jewish world that was lost during the *Shoah* served as the backdrop for the concert, amplifying the special atmosphere of the night. During the concert, many musical pieces were played, among them the ageless *niggunim* that have



accompanied the Jewish people through the generations, in grief and in celebration.

Some 60 musicians participated in the concert, from Israel and the world over – the US, Japan, Australia, Colombia, Germany

and Italy – international masterclass students of the “Clarinet and Klezmer in Jerusalem” seminar under the musical direction of Maestro Giora Feidman, the renowned reviver of klezmer music in Israel and abroad. This year, the concert was also endowed with pieces performed by IDF Chief Cantor Lt. Col. Shai Abramson.

*The “Mashiv Haruach” concert took place on 31 August, and was supported by Israel’s Ministry of Education, the Jerusalem Klezmer Masterclass Association, the Jerusalem Municipality, the David Friedman Fund Ltd. and the Centre of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel.*

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

### Restoring the World: Dudu Shenhav, z”l Yifat Bachrach-Ron

■ Yad Vashem mourns the recent passing of Yosef (Dudu Shenhav), z”l, who headed the restoration of its Museum collections. Born in Budapest in 1930, Shenhav (originally Weiss) survived the *Shoah* by using false identification papers. After the war, he immigrated to Israel and fought in its War of Independence. Shenhav later studied gold and silver crafting at the prestigious Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, and found work in the Government’s Antiquities Division restoring ancient pottery. Shenhav established and ran the preservation laboratory at the Israel Museum, with one of his greatest achievements being the restoration of the Temple Scroll – the largest of the Dead Sea Scrolls found in the caves of Qumran.

When Shenhav retired in 1994, the Director of Yad Vashem’s Museums Division, Yehudit Inbar, invited him to establish a preservation laboratory on the Mount of Remembrance, which would deal with its Art and Artifacts Collections. “Dudu saved numerous precious artifacts from being lost to us forever,” said Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. “There was nothing he couldn’t do; he was both highly professional and extremely modest.” For Shenhav, his work at Yad Vashem differed from that at other institutions: here, he was determined to stop their decomposition but not necessarily to complete or beautify them. “My goal has always been to preserve history,” Shenhav explained in a 2011 interview. His son



■ Dudu Shenhav in the Yad Vashem preservation laboratory

Shaul eulogized his father as “someone born into a broken world... and until yesterday devoted his life to its repair.”

■ From 11–18 June 2014, Yad Vashem held its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary International Mission, bringing together dedicated supporters from around the world. These intense eight days provided a glimpse into the Jewish world of Poland before and during the *Shoah*, as well as the intricacies of Yad Vashem’s programs, activities and goals for the future.



Both the tour of Poland and the visit to Israel undoubtedly further motivated the participants to continue in their steadfast support for Yad Vashem and Holocaust remembrance.

Ron Diskin, grandson of Yad Vashem Benefactors and Holocaust survivors Abe and Edita Spiegel, z”l, who donated the Children’s Memorial, was “honored to be on the Mission” and was greatly inspired by his experience: “I learned why Yad Vashem was created, how its endeavors are constantly enhanced and what are its ultimate objectives,” said Diskin. “We must remember the past, and be part of the future of the Jewish people.” Rosalyn Gaon, granddaughter of Holocaust survivor, Yad Vashem Benefactor and President of the Chile Association for Yad Vashem David Feuerstein, felt it was her “duty to pass on the history of the Holocaust to future generations... and never forget what they went through on our behalf.” After helping replace a Righteous Among the Nations tree that was damaged in the December 2013 Jerusalem snowstorm, Haim Lowenthal promised to “return regularly to take care of it.” And Philip Krawitz, Chairman of the UJC

Board of Trustees said that the trip “left an indelible impression on both my wife and me... I can assure you that we intend to do whatever we can to ensure that the Holocaust and its ramifications live on for many generations to come.”

A highlight of the mission was the moving address given by Israel’s Minister of Finance Yair Lapid (pictured), who spoke at the mission’s closing event. Lapid gave an emotional account of the experiences of his father, Holocaust survivor and long-term Israeli politician Tommy Lapid, z”l, including his miraculous story of survival and the family’s subsequent deep-rooted commitment to the Jewish State of Israel.

Mark Moskowitz, Yad Vashem Benefactor and Executive Committee Member of the American Society for Yad Vashem, also spoke at the closing event: “Yad Vashem’s 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary International Mission has been deeply moving and equally rewarding... I thank you for encouraging us to participate and for organizing this inspiring week. Yad Vashem is an unparalleled resource... Here is where a terrible truth is displayed, but it is also a place of great hope.”

## New Benefactors: Phil and Rose Friedman

■ Phil Friedman was born and raised in the USSR, the son of Holocaust survivors Alexander and Aranka Friedman. Aranka had been sent to Auschwitz with her entire family; only she and her sister survived. Alexander had escaped from fascist Hungary by crossing the border into Russia, only to be sent to the Russian gulag for four-and-a-half years. After the war, Phil’s parents settled in Munkachevo before moving to the United States.

Phil and Rose met as university students in Russia, both eventually earning degrees in engineering, economics and finance. After spending 12 years in numerous positions in the electronics industry, Phil encountered antisemitic opposition to his career advancement. In 1976 the Friedmans immigrated to the United States, settling in New York City. In 1984 Phil launched Computer Generated Solutions (CGS), a diversified IT solutions and services company. Within 30 years, CGS grew from five employees to over 5,000, with operations across North America, Latin America, Europe and Asia.

Phil and Rose Friedman are active philanthropists and avid supporters of Israel. Phil serves on the boards of the American



Committee of Shaare Zedek Hospital, Yeshiva University and the Tom Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice, among other organizations. The Friedmans generously dedicated the Jerusalem Garden at Yad Vashem in honor of their parents, Alexander and Aranka Friedman and Lipot and Esther Steinmetz, who survived the Holocaust, and in memory of their family members who were murdered. Yad Vashem warmly welcomes Phil and Rose Friedman and their children Alyx and Jeffrey to its honored community of dedicated partners in fulfilling its vital missions of Holocaust remembrance and education.

## Yad Vashem Mourns Death of Barbara Prammer

■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of Barbara Prammer, Honorary President of the Friends of Yad Vashem in Austria, and first female president of the Austrian Parliament. Both as a politician and as the Honorary President, Barbara Prammer fought against antisemitism and racism, and was fiercely committed to Holocaust remembrance. Her untimely death on 2 August at the age of 60 was unexpected and a deep loss for her family, her colleagues and the Austrian nation.



# Friends Worldwide

## USA

■ The American Society for Yad Vashem hosted its “Salute to Hollywood” Gala in Los Angeles on 8 June 2014. American Society Chairman **Leonard Wilf** thanked Honorary Chairs **Dr. Miriam** and **Sheldon Adelson** and Co-Chairs **Cheryl** and **Haim Saban** for their remarkable support. Distinguished Hollywood guests included Academy Award winner **Jon Voight**, **Millie Perkins**, who portrayed Anne Frank in the film *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and singer **Pat Boone**.

**Aron Bell**, the last surviving Bielski brother of the heroic Bielski partisans, and **Henryka Bell** presented **Liev Schreiber** with the Ambassador Award for his portrayal of Zus Bielski in the movie *Defiance*. Honorees included survivors **Jona Goldrich** and **Mira Becker**, who jumped off a train on its way to Treblinka. Award recipients also included children of survivors **Kenneth Pressberg**, **Edward Czucker** and **Patricia Herskovic**. The moving candle-lighting ceremony featured Holocaust survivors **Mira Becker**, **Maria Herskovic**, **David** and **Fela Shapell**, **Aron Bell** and **Ben Lesser**.



Left to right: Leonard Wilf, Liev Schreiber, Sheldon Adelson, Dr. Miriam Adelson



Left to right: Edward Czucker, Kenneth and Sheryl Pressberg, Patricia Herskovic, Jona and Doretta Goldrich



Left to right: Millie Perkins, Jon Voight, Shirley and Pat Boone



Left to right: Mira Becker, Maria Herskovic, Fela Shapell, David Shapell, Aron Bell, Ben Lesser

■ On 6 August, the New York Yankees and the American Society Young Leadership Associates (YLA) honored **Harry Ettlinger** (second from left), a WWII veteran and one of the last surviving members of the “Monuments Men,” who helped save some of the world’s most priceless artworks that had been plundered by the Nazis. Participating were Event Chairs **Abigail Fisch** and **Michael Distenfeld**, YLA Co-Chairs **Abbi Halpern** (right) and **Barry Levine** (left), and Yankees’ closer **David Robertson** (second from right).



■ Holocaust survivors, Yad Vashem Trustees and sisters **Betty Breslaw** (center, right) and **Esther Mann** (center, left) visited Yad Vashem with Esther’s daughter **Rosalyn Mann** (left) and **Rabbi Yisroel Fabian** (right). They viewed the classroom they dedicated in the International School for Holocaust Studies, and lit a candle in memory of family members murdered during the Holocaust.



■ The Sokol and Cole families visited Yad Vashem to mark the bar mitzvah of **Jaron Cole** (center) in the Synagogue. Top, left to right: **Marilyn** and **Leon Sokol**, **Laura** and **Bill Cole**, **Rachel**, **Richard**, **Charlie** and **Ruth Cole**; front **Lucy**, **Jaron** and **Wendy Cole**.



■ Holocaust survivor, Yad Vashem Benefactor and American Society Executive Committee Member **Mark Palmer** (second from right) attended Yad Vashem’s 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mission with his sons **Stephen** (left) and **Brandon** (right). While at Yad Vashem, they viewed their family plaque in the Square of Hope.



■ **Bruce Gould** (center) visited Yad Vashem with friends **Rhonda Forest** (left) and **Lynn Minkow** (right). Their tour included the Holocaust History Museum, Children’s Memorial and Yad Vashem Synagogue.



© Photo courtesy of New York Yankees

# Friends Worldwide

■ **Orin Wilf**, son of American Society Chairman **Leonard Wilf**, visited Yad Vashem with **Kimberly Cooper**. Their tour included a stop at the Yad Vashem Square at the entrance to the Mount of Remembrance, which was generously endowed by the Wilf families, and a behind-the-scenes tour of the Yad Vashem Archives.



■ American Society Executive Committee Member **Melvin Bukiet** (second from right) recently visited Yad Vashem with other family members of brothers **Al** and **Joe Bukiet, z"l**, who were among the founders of the American Society. The visit included a tour of the Holocaust History Museum and the Museum of Holocaust Art, as well as a meeting with Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev**.



■ **Harriet and Andrew Conn** (center) visited Yad Vashem with **Rabbi Greg Marx** (left) and **Laurie Marx** (right) and a group from Congregation Beth Or. Their tour included the Holocaust History Museum, Yad Vashem Synagogue and Children's Memorial.



■ Yad Vashem Pillars **Ira** (second from left) and **Mindy Mitzner** (third from left) visited Yad Vashem's Warsaw Ghetto Square, which their family partnered in renovating, with their sons and daughter-in-law **Michael** (right), **Steven** (third from right) and **Stephanie** (second from right). They also toured Yad Vashem's temporary exhibition "I Am My Brother's Keeper: 50 Years of Honoring the Righteous Among the Nations."



■ Yad Vashem Benefactors **Marilyn** and **Jack Belz**, Patrons of the Yad Vashem Book Library in honor of the entire Belz Family, visited Yad Vashem in June. They met with Libraries Director **Dr. Robert Rozett** and toured the Digitization Laboratory.



■ During their tour of Yad Vashem, leading managers of HP met with Chairman **Avner Shalev**, Chief Technology Officer **Michael Lieber** and Managing Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda**. Left to right: **David Lander**, Michael Lieber, **Ruth Bergman**, **Jaap Suermondt**, **Martin** and **Monique Fink**, Avner Shalev, **Raffi Margalio**, **Dalit Tessel**, Shaya Ben Yehuda



■ During his first trip to Israel, **Bruce Thomas** (left) visited Yad Vashem and toured the Holocaust History Museum, Righteous Among the Nations exhibition and Children's Memorial.



■ Holocaust survivor and Yad Vashem Builder **Ernst Hacker** (standing) is a supporter of Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies. On his recent visit to Yad Vashem with **Niza Shprung**, he addressed a group of students in the classroom dedicated to the memory of his late wife **Bilha Hacker, z"l**, and visited the exhibition dedicated to 50 years since the Eichmann trial in Jerusalem.



■ Executive Director of the Blavatnik Archive Foundation **Alex Blavatnik** (center), his wife **Olga** (second from left) and twin daughters **Anna** (left) and **Mia** (third from left) visited Yad Vashem for a tour and bat mitzvah ceremony. The Foundation supports Yad Vashem's online sub-site: "Jews in the Red Army during the Soviet-German War 1941-1945." They were accompanied by Special Advisor to the Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate **Adv. Arie Zuckerman** (second from right) and Director of the Center for Research on the History of Soviet Jews during the Holocaust at Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research **Dr. Arkadi Zeltser** (right).





■ **Iliana** (second from right) and **Sylvain Argy** (fourth from left) were joined by their family and Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** (third from right) on the occasion of the bar mitzvah of their son **Ben** (third from left).



■ **Luis** (center) and **Sally Maizel** (second from left) were joined by their daughter **Fanny** (left), son-in-law **Carlos** (right), granddaughters **Gabriela** and **Alexandra** (front) and **Perla Hazan** (second from right) during their recent visit to Yad Vashem.



■ **Yvette** (fourth from right) and **Idel Woldenberg** (third from left) were joined by their family and **Perla Hazan** on the occasion of the bar mitzvah of their son **Abraham** (left) and the unveiling of a plaque in their honor in the Square of Hope.



■ **Karla and Rafael Galicot** (top row, fourth and fifth from left) were joined by their family and **Perla Hazan** on the occasion of the bar mitzvah of their son **José** (middle row, second from left).



■ **Jenny and Alberto Galante** from San Diego were joined by their family and **Perla Hazan** on the occasion of the bar mitzvah of their son **José** (standing, tenth from right).



## UK

■ **Jonny Manson** (center) visited the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial on 8 May with (left to right) his son **Edward**, wife **Avril**, daughter-in-law **Nicole**, daughter **Hannah Peters**, son-in-law **Carl Peters** and son-in-law **Jonny Ornstein**.



■ Chairman of the Yad Vashem-UK Foundation **Simon Bentley** visited Yad Vashem on 29 July with **Ashley Rogoff** for meetings with Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** and International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda**.

## CANADA

■ **Marc Moll** (left), son of Yad Vashem Guardian **Willie Moll, z"l**, and Marc's wife **Michelle** (second from right) visited Yad Vashem in July with their friends **Michael** and **Rockelle Kerzner** (center).



■ To help make her bat mitzvah more meaningful, **Erin Sade** of Toronto participated in Yad Vashem's Bar/Bat Mitzvah Twinning Program, through which she was paired with child Holocaust victim **Lily Friedman, z"l**. Executive Director of the **Canadian Society for Yad Vashem Yaron Ashkenazi** presented Erin with a special certificate in the presence of her parents **Kumari** and **Eric Sade**.



## VENEZUELA

■ **Helen** (fourth from right) and **José Benasayag** (second from right) and their children **Raquel**, **Jacobo** and **Adina** were joined by Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** (left) and **Mauricio Hazan** (right) during their visit to Yad Vashem.



# Friends Worldwide

## AUSTRALIA

■ **Joey Borensztajn** is the new President of the **Australian Friends of Yad Vashem**. A partner at Arnold Bloch Leibler in Melbourne, Borensztajn has been actively involved in fundraising for a number of communal organizations. Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** thanked outgoing President **Johnny Baker** and welcomed Borensztajn: "I look forward to working together to ensure meaningful Holocaust remembrance and education. The significant community of Holocaust survivors and their descendants in Australia are our genuine partners in this endeavor." Borensztajn was honored to accept the role and assist in the important work of Yad Vashem: "As the child of survivors, I am motivated to strengthen our ties with Yad Vashem and increase the awareness of its importance for the Jewish people and as a reminder to today's world."



■ **Andrew Boyarsky** and his wife **Taryn** visited Yad Vashem on 21 May and toured the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial. "As Yad Vashem educates so many Australians," Andrew commented, "this is the one place where I do not see any dichotomy between supporting both local and overseas needs."



■ **Stanley and Charmaine Roth** visited Yad Vashem on 29 June, where they received a behind-the-scenes tour of the Archives from Archives Director and Fred Hillman Chair of Holocaust Documentation **Dr. Haim Gertner**. They also visited their plaque on the donor wall of the new extension to the Memorial Cave, as well as the exhibition marking 50 years of honoring the Righteous Among the Nations.



■ **Hayley and Darren Krongold** visited the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial on 9 July along with family and friends. Left to right: **Liam Elbaum, Blake Shnider, guide Malky Weisberg, Nicole Elbaum, Rikki Krongold, Rosalind Michelson, Britney Krongold, Romy Shnider, Camryn Elbaum, Anthony Elbaum, Hayley Krongold, Darren Krongold**



## SPAIN

■ **Sara Haliowa and Uzi Arielli** (right) were joined by the Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** (left) during their visit to Yad Vashem.



## MEXICO

■ **Simon and Michelle Galante** (second and third from left) were joined by their family and the Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** on the occasion of the bar mitzvah of **Roberto Galante** (right) and the unveiling of a plaque in their honor in the Square of Hope.



■ **Cessy** (second from left) and **Alex Metta** (right) were joined by their family and **Perla Hazan** (center) on the occasion of the bar mitzvah of their son **Carlos** (front, right) and the unveiling of a plaque in their honor in the Square of Hope.



■ The Hirschhorn family were joined by **Perla Hazan** (second from left) on the occasion of the bat mitzvah of **Daniela** (center), **Maiya** (third from right) and **Gaby Hirschhorn**.



■ The Aroesti, Greenspun, Perez and León families visited Yad Vashem on the occasion of the bar mitzvah of **Alberto Aroesti, Eduardo Greenspun, Mario León and Moisés Pérez.**



## CHRISTIAN DESK in partnership with ICEJ

■ Director of the **Christian Friends of Yad Vashem Dr. Susanna Kokkonen** toured the US during September 2014. The visit consisted of church meetings in Arizona, Washington DC and Virginia, including meetings with supporters of Yad Vashem and new audiences. Pictured: Dr. Kokkonen (left) with Pastors **Terrie and Mark Jenkins** of Grove Avenue Baptist Church and **Shannon Bennett** (right), Director

of Community Relations, Museum of the Bible, Washington, DC



■ An exclusive delegation of US Christian leaders came to Israel on a solidarity mission, which included a visit to Yad Vashem. The delegation was led by Senator **Rick Santorum** (fourth from left) and included **Bob Vander Plaats** (sixth from right), President and CEO of The Family Leader (a social conservative political organization in Iowa), as well as other influential pastors and Christian media leaders.



■ As part of a countrywide tour with their delegation, Pastors **Matthew and Kendal Hagee** (right) visited Yad Vashem, where they received the Yad Vashem Key from International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (left).



## 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 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:

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#### CANADA:

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#### AUSTRALIA:

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### ■ Donations may also be sent to:

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

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

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

# The International Institute for Holocaust Research: Publications

## *The Yad Vashem Encyclopedia of the Ghettos during the Holocaust*

Editors: Guy Miron and Shlomit Shulhani  
(2 volumes + DVD)

NIS ~~648~~ NIS 488



■ This pioneering research project collates information on over 1,100 ghettos, including their locations, wartime names and geographical coordinates. For the larger ghettos, informational sections describe life before the war during the Soviet and German occupations, as well as the setup of the ghetto, ghetto institutions and internal life. Also included are terror and killing operations carried out against ghetto inhabitants, underground and resistance activities, and the number of survivors at liberation.

## *The Auschwitz Album: The Story of a Transport*

Editors: Israel Gutman and Bella Guterman

NIS ~~268~~ NIS 198



■ This unique album documents a Jewish transport from Carpatho-Ruthenia to Auschwitz-Birkenau in May 1944. Rare photographs depict the victims' arrival at the infamous ramp and the process of selection, the confiscation of their property and the preparation for their murder. This new edition includes a picture that had been missing for years, as well as the identities of some of the deportees.

## *Postcards to a Little Boy: A Kindertransport Story*

Henry Foner (Heinz Lichtwitz)

NIS ~~148~~ NIS 108



■ Henry Foner, who had lost his mother at a young age, was sent from Nazi-controlled Berlin to the safety of Wales in 1939. There he lived with a Jewish couple, who provided him with a warm and loving home. From the moment they parted, Henry's father sent him illustrated postcards. This moving document presents the postcards and letters that Henry received from his father, as well as from other relatives and friends.

## *Days of Ruin: The Jews of Munkács during the Holocaust*

Raz Segal

NIS ~~98~~ NIS 74

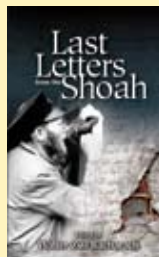


■ This book provides a comprehensive account of the tragic fate of the Jews of Munkács, from the incorporation of the town into Hungary in November 1938 to the deportation of the overwhelming majority of the Jewish community to their deaths in Auschwitz in May 1944. It also documents how this mass murder was carried out by the Hungarian police force and army, with limited German assistance.

## *Last Letters from the Shoah*

Editor: Walter Zwi Bacharach

NIS ~~148~~ NIS 108

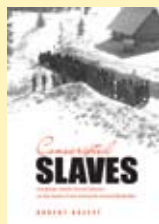


■ "These are my last words..." is a sentence found over and over again in missives sent from the ghettos, hidden in cattle cars and train stations, and smuggled out of concentration camps. This is a unique and heartrending volume of letters written by those who would not survive the Holocaust.

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

Robert Rozett

NIS ~~174~~ NIS 128



■ From the spring of 1942 until the summer of 1944, some 45,000 Jewish men were forced to accompany Hungarian troops to the battle zone of the Soviet Union. Most of them fell prey to battle, starvation, disease, labor and murder at the hands of the Hungarian soldiers. This story of these slaves is integral to understanding the destruction of Hungarian Jewry.

## *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. This book examines the *Shoah* in Lublin: forced population movements and compulsory labor, constants in German policy, the bitter early memory of which influenced the later actions of Jews in the area. Many hid or fled, fearing an extreme return to their earlier experience. Ultimately, however, the Jews of Lublin could not alter their collective fate.

## *Expulsion and Extermination: Holocaust Testimonials from Provincial Lithuania*

David Bankier

NIS ~~174~~ NIS 128



■ On 22 June 1941, German troops entered Lithuania – the beginning of the end of the glorious heritage of Lithuanian Jewry. This book describes the annihilation of the Jews in the provincial towns and villages of Lithuania, based on the testimonies of survivors. The horror of the witnesses reflects the disbelief that friends and neighbors could so quickly become enemies, plunderers and mass murderers.

■  
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P.O. Box 3477, Jerusalem 9103401, Israel  
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