

# Yad Vashem Jerusalem

Volume 76, February 2015



**International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2015**

**Marking 70 Years since the Liberation of Auschwitz (pp. 2-6)**

Published by:  
**Yad Vashem**

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

Design: **Stephanie Et Ruti Design**

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



ISSN 0793-7199

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Yad Vashem's activities are supported by

the Ministry of Education



and the Claims Conference



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■ On the cover: *Samuel Bak (b. 1933),  
Children Alone, Landsberg DP camp, 1946.  
Gouache on paper. Yad Vashem Art Collection,  
Gift of the artist*

27 January

## Leah Goldstein

■ "Yad Vashem teaches Holocaust educators...  
to draw contemporary insights from the annals  
of the Shoah... We can and must educate the  
next generation of citizens and leaders to choose  
to behave ethically and humanely."

From the keynote address of Avner Shalev  
to the UN General Assembly,  
International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2015

On 28 January 2015 – the day on which the  
International Day of Commemoration in Memory  
of the Victims of the Holocaust was marked at  
the United Nations Headquarters in New York –  
the keynote address by Yad Vashem Chairman  
Avner Shalev was screened at the UN General  
Assembly. Seventy years after the liberation of  
Auschwitz-Birkenau, the Assembly was focused  
on the theme "Life, Liberty and the Legacy of  
the Survivors," with the participation of Israel's  
President Reuven Rivlin, UN Secretary-General  
Ban Ki-moon, survivors and liberators.

Recalling the claim by Holocaust survivor and  
esteemed historian Prof. Israel Gutman, ז"ל that  
"the *Shoah* refuses to become history," Shalev  
explained how "large portions of humanity have  
come gradually to perceive the Holocaust as a  
pivotal landmark event for modern civilization.  
Even regions and cultures not originally related  
to the events of the Holocaust find it compelling  
and meaningful." While recalling other "terrible  
human atrocities" that have occurred both before  
and since the *Shoah*, he emphasized: "What  
resonates so powerfully in our modern and  
post-modern existence is the shocking ease and  
speed with which the Holocaust's perpetrators  
and their ideology succeeded... To this day, we  
struggle to understand how Nazi Germany and its  
collaborators were able to implement their brutal  
and barbaric ideology. Modern society deludes  
itself that technological progress goes hand-in-  
hand with moral advancement. Sadly, that is  
not true. The Nazis' goal to totally annihilate  
the Jewish people and their imposition of a  
ruthless totalitarian regime were conceived by  
highly educated individuals and implemented  
by a technologically advanced society. How  
could hundreds of years of human progress  
have yielded such a massive horror?"

Speaking as a Holocaust educator, Shalev  
turned to the world's politicians, economists  
and social leaders, who "shape moral norms  
and ethical standards," to "recognize and

# Avner Shalev Delivers Keynote Speech at UN

## New Exhibition Opens in Presence of Israel's President



■ Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev addresses the UN General Assembly marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day

speak out against destructive evil, including vicious antisemitism [that today] re-appears in different contexts and ideologies [which] deny human rights and dignity in dangerous ways and circumstances.”

Shalev pointed out that together with partners and associates worldwide, Yad Vashem teaches thousands of Holocaust educators yearly, from dozens of nations, to draw contemporary insights from the annals of the *Shoah* – to learn that in addition to its immense atrocity, the Holocaust was also the context for a dramatic struggle of the human spirit: “The Jews fought to retain their humanity through countless acts of solidarity, mutual assistance and physical, cultural and spiritual resistance.” In addition, he noted, “though relatively few in number, the Righteous Among the Nations chose heroically to endanger themselves while attempting to rescue Jews. These inspiring role models teach about our responsibility to act as a buttress against social hatred and violence. To identify racism, xenophobia and persecution and to fight them – openly and effectively... We can and must educate the next generation of citizens and leaders to choose to behave ethically and humanely.”

To Primo Levi’s warning, “It happened. Therefore it could happen again,” Shalev added: “It did not *have* to happen then, and so it does *not* have to happen again... From this podium I call upon my fellow educators in every corner of the world to strive and persevere in our constant

**“Modern society deludes itself that technological progress goes hand-in-hand with moral advancement.”**

Avner Shalev

battle for human morality... For mankind, there is always a choice. That choice, highlighted in the Book of Deuteronomy, is eternal: ‘Behold, I have set before you this day life and good, death and evil. Therefore choose life. That you may live – you and your children.’”

Immediately following the General Assembly, the new Yad Vashem traveling exhibition “*Shoah – How Was It Humanly Possible?*” opened at the UN Visitors Center in the presence of President Rivlin, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Chairman of the American Society for Yad Vashem Leonard Wilf and hundreds of members of the public. The exhibition, which uses texts, images and video clips to recount a comprehensive history of the Holocaust from 1933-1945, deals with major historical aspects of the *Shoah*, beginning with Jewish life in pre-Holocaust Europe and ending with the 1945 liberation of Nazi concentration and death camps across the continent.

The exhibition begins with a concise explanation of the term *Shoah* and then proceeds to give an overview of Jewish life in Europe



■ President Reuven Rivlin at the opening of the new Yad Vashem traveling exhibition at the UN

between the two world wars. Next is a description of the Nazi rise to power in Germany, its racist ideology, and the Jewish struggle to cope with the frightening and fast-changing reality. The persecution and abuse of the Jewish populations in central and western Europe and northern Africa and the forced donning of the yellow star is then covered, followed by descriptions of the ghettos and the German invasion of the Soviet Union – including the infamous *Einsatzgruppen* murder squads. Subsequent panels explain the deportations to the extermination camps, with a special focus on Auschwitz-Birkenau. Also highlighted are the Jewish responses to those terrible circumstances, as well as the choices made by non-Jews – both Righteous Among the Nations and collaborators. The exhibition ends with liberation, the search for relatives and the remarkable return to life by the survivors.

The new exhibition will remain on display at the United Nations through February 2015, and then travel to other venues worldwide.

*The creation of the traveling exhibition “Shoah – How Was It Humanly Possible?” was generously supported by Cindy and Gerald Barad in memory of their father, Holocaust survivor Ulo Barad, and his parents and four brothers who were murdered in the Shoah.*

*The opening of the exhibition at the UN was held in cooperation with the American Society for Yad Vashem and the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations, assisted by the Israel Foreign Ministry.*

*The Yad Vashem Traveling Exhibitions Department is generously supported by the Adelson Family Foundation.*

## Marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day

■ On 27 January 2015, members of the diplomatic corps in Israel gathered for a commemorative event at Yad Vashem marking the UN-sanctioned International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust and 70 years since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. The event, held in conjunction with UNSCO, began with the opening of a new display in the Museum of Holocaust Art entitled, "The Anguish of Liberation as Reflected in Art, 1945-1947" (see adjacent article), in the presence of Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and one of the survivor-artists, Thomas Geve. The representatives – who hailed from Europe, the US, Canada, South America, Russia and South Africa – then gathered in the Yad Vashem Synagogue, where they were addressed by Director of the International Institute for Holocaust Research Dr. Iael Nidam-Orvieto, UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Robert Serry and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps H.E. Mr. Henri Etoundi Essomba.

Earlier in the day, the Association of Sons and Daughters of Jewish Deportees from France held a memorial ceremony in Yad Vashem's Hall of Remembrance, with the participation of the French Ambassador to Israel H.E. Mr. Patrick Maisonnave and renowned Nazi hunters Serge and Beate Klarsfeld; and the annual ceremony commemorating the deportation of Italian Jews during the Shoah took place in the Hall of Remembrance and the Edmond J. Safra Lecture Hall, at which rare footage of Jewish family life in Italy in 1923, edited by Italian TV journalist Claudio Della Seta, was screened.

Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev also participated in a special Israeli Government cabinet session; Yad Vashem Council Chairman and Holocaust survivor Rabbi Israel Meir Lau and Yad Vashem Chief Historian Prof. Dina Porat attended commemorative events in Prague and Terezin; and at Auschwitz-Birkenau, a special event marking 70 years since the camp's liberation took place, with the participation of state officials, diplomats and dozens of Holocaust survivors.

Around the world, the day was observed by academic lectures, educational activities and official memorial events across Israel and the European, American and African continents, led by Yad Vashem staff and supporters. In addition, a range of Yad Vashem traveling exhibitions went on display worldwide.

# Living with the Sha

## New Exhibit: "The Anguish of Liberation as Reflected in Art, 1945-1947"

Eliad Moreh-Rosenberg



■ Thomas Geve (b. 1929), *We Are Free*, Buchenwald DP camp, 1945. Pencil, colored pencil and watercolor on paper. Yad Vashem Art Collection, Gift of the artist

■ *"It was between three and four o'clock, the date 11 April 1945. We waited in suspense and with unprecedented tension... Suddenly there were shouts, from the opposite direction, from the main camp... We rushed out to investigate: our compound was lifeless as before. 'Look at the gate!' someone shouted. I lifted my eyes and searched for the pyramid-shaped roof on the main watch-tower that stood out from beyond the main camp. The crooked cross of Fascism had gone. Fluttering from the symbolic flagpole was something white. The moment we had so anxiously been longing for had come: the cherished victorious minute, for which our comrades had been waiting for 4,453 days and nights, was here at last."*

In 1956, Thomas Geve (pen-name for Stefan Cohn) gave this description of the moment of liberation from the Buchenwald concentration camp, where he had been transferred from Gross-Rosen and Auschwitz. Yet at the time of liberation itself, 15-year-old Thomas chose the medium of drawing in order to document the formative moment of the liberation of Buchenwald by the prisoners. With impressive accuracy, he sketched the figures of the fighting prisoners, the Allied tanks at the entrance to the camp, and the gate on which the flag was replaced. With punctilious detail, he even noted the exact time

on the gate's clock: 3:15 pm. Thomas, whose physical condition did not permit him to leave the camp's barracks, remained at Block 29 for approximately a month, where he drew this picture and some 80 other drawings, each the size of a postcard. In a detailed, almost scientific way, his artwork documents his life as a prisoner at the Auschwitz extermination camp, the death march, Buchenwald and the moment of liberation. His stated goal was to share the pictures with his father, who had fled to England just in time. But there is no doubt that these creations also made it possible for him to process the trauma and mentally rehabilitate himself, while at the same time gathering physical strength.

On 27 January, to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day and 70 years since the liberation of Auschwitz, a special display opened at Yad Vashem's Museum of Holocaust Art in the presence of Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and survivor-artist Thomas Geve. The exhibit, entitled "The Anguish of Liberation as Reflected in Art, 1945-1947," includes 30 pictures and drawings by almost 20 artists, all from Yad Vashem's Art Collection.

Surprisingly, a comprehensive examination of post-liberation artwork indicates that in contrast to Geve and liberators such as Zinovii Tolkathev, who marked the event themselves,

# dow, Creating with the Light



Ultimately, the survivors' desire to create, to express pain, perception, emotion and reflection through art reveals their fierce will to live in spite of everything



■ *Eliazer (Elie) Neuberger (1891-1972), Ahasver, Amsterdam, 1947. Oil on canvas. Yad Vashem Art Collection, Gift of Yehezkel Kelman Weissblum Robin, Amsterdam*

most of the survivor-artists did not commemorate Liberation Day itself – the moment they longed for throughout the war – focusing instead on other subjects. Thus, the diverse post-liberation work of survivors can be divided into five main categories: references to freedom; documenting the ruin and destruction; searching for identity; coping with trauma; and, to a lesser degree, the day of liberation.

Some of the artists returned to the places where they had grown up, searching for home or hoping to find relatives. However, instead of the old familiar world in which they had hoped to rehabilitate themselves, they found only ruin and devastation. Henryk Hechtkopf documented postwar Warsaw in a series of drawings that he created from 1945-1946. His beloved hometown appears totally destroyed, strewn with piles of



■ *Jakob Zim (Cymberknopf) (b. 1920), View of Buchenwald, A Few Days after Liberation, Buchenwald, 1945. Watercolor on paper. Yad Vashem Art Collection. Gift of the artist*



■ *Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addresses the audience at the opening of the new exhibit in the Museum of Holocaust Art.*

rubble, and its main streets resemble a ghost town of desolate structures. Yet these apocalyptic sights do not just document the destruction caused in the wake of the bombings. Rather, they also disclose the artist's inner feelings, finding in the chaos outside expression for his personal suffering and existential turmoil.

These difficult feelings also appear in the survivors' self-portraits. Halina Olomucki, a young 26-year-old survivor of Auschwitz, draws the lines of her face like those of an old woman, revealing her unstable mental state with the lines of a quivering pencil. Ilka Gedő from Budapest, two years younger than Halina, presents herself with no head, with skewed and frail shoulders, and hands wracked with pain.

The young Yehuda Bacon finds a renewed faith in humanity and life in general in the figure of the educator Pitter Přemysl. Přemysl, who saved Jews during the Holocaust and was eventually recognized as Righteous Among the Nations, also tended to the needs and rehabilitation of children who survived the war, including young Bacon. Like Orpheus leaving the underworld, Bacon depicts himself bent over and led by Přemysl from the darkness of the camps to the light of life awaiting him in *Eretz Israel*.

For Jakob Zim, who, like Thomas Geve, was liberated from Buchenwald, the meaning of liberation lay in the ability to discern beauty even in the accursed landscape of the village near the camp, and in the renewed freedom to paint. In this time of crisis and destruction, the possibility of having an aesthetic experience while giving voice to it in the conscious act of painting is a testament to the vast powers of the mind. Ultimately, the survivors' desire to create, to express pain, perception, emotion and reflection through art reveals their fierce will to live in spite of everything. For them, choosing to paint is like choosing life, or in Jakob Zim's words: "I live with the shadow and create with the light."

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

# The Birthday Card Found at Liberation

Sara Shor



■ The illustrated birthday card found at Auschwitz. The last section reads “Best Wishes: Feiner, Goldberg and Jacques”

■ **Soon after Auschwitz was liberated by the Red Army, former prisoner Ben Kolton found an illustrated greeting card on a pile of debris in the camp.** Kolton took the card and looked after it for almost four decades, until, in 1983, he decided to donate it to Yad Vashem.

The decorated card aroused great curiosity among the staff of Yad Vashem’s Artifacts Collection, although there was no information as to its creators, its recipient, or the event for which it was given. The only clue was on the back page under “Best Wishes,” where three names appeared: Feiner, Goldberg and Jacques.

The greeting opens with a drawing depicting the birth of a baby boy on 8 January 1912. This illustration, together with the date inscribed at the end of the card – 8 January 1945 – led the researchers to believe that the greeting was in fact created to mark the 33<sup>rd</sup> birthday of one of the camp inmates. The other drawings and their titles reinforced this assumption, and slowly it was understood that the card depicted the life story of the man whose birthday fell just ten days before the evacuation of Auschwitz and a couple of weeks before the camp’s liberation.

It seems that the card’s illustrators knew their friend well, and much could be learned about his path from their drawings: the birthday celebrant was born to a religious Jewish family, studying in a *heder* as a young boy. His father, a shoemaker, taught his son his occupation; later he learned tailoring with an uncle in Lodz, eventually opening his own tailoring business while pursuing a number of love interests.

In one scene, the young man is depicted as a prisoner in Buchenwald, exhaustedly pulling carts as a slave laborer. From Buchenwald he was sent to Auschwitz, where he was assigned to forced labor in Buna-Monowitz (Auschwitz III) in the clothes storehouse. The last illustration is most likely of the three friends who signed the card.

Over the years, efforts continued to discover who was involved with its creation. Following the deposit of numerous documents from Europe in the Yad Vashem Archives, two of the three signatories were finally identified through the fact that very few transports traveled from Buchenwald to Auschwitz. On a list of prisoners of one of those transports on 16 October 1942, the names Feiner and Goldberg appeared. These names were also recorded on a separate list in the Auschwitz archives – those working in the clothes storehouse in Monowitz, who underwent a urine test in March 1944. The prisoner numbers were close: Feiner was given the number 68427, and Goldberg 68456. According to Auschwitz records, the two arrived at the camp from Buchenwald on 19 October 1942.

After the identities of two of the card’s creators were discovered, it was possible to discover a little more about them. Research revealed that Maks Feiner was born in 1909, lived in Krakow, Poland, and was arrested in 1940. Mordechai Goldberg was born in 1907 in Tomaszow Mazowiecki, Poland; married and a father to one child, he was detained in 1939. Feiner and Goldberg, both tailors by profession – like their friend – underwent a similar journey

to the one illustrated on the greeting card: From Buchenwald they were taken to Auschwitz, and from there sent to forced labor in Buna-Monowitz. Towards the end of the war, the two were forced onto a death march, reaching Buchenwald for a second time, and, as sources indicate, placed in the tailors’ block. Feiner was ultimately liberated from Dachau, and Goldberg from Buchenwald.

When the decision was made to publicize the story of the card to mark 70 years since the liberation of Auschwitz, a further check was made of archival documents. This finally revealed the name of a person whose details matched all of those previously collated: his birthday on 8 January 1912, his imprisonment in the Lodz ghetto, his deportation to Buchenwald, and, like Feiner and Goldberg and only a few other prisoners, his transfer from Buchenwald to Auschwitz. This person was also sent to Buna-Monowitz, where he remained until January 1945. His prisoner number was 69780 (close to those of his friends) and he was a tailor by profession. He was taken on a death march, reaching Gleiwitz, some 80 km (50 miles) away.

The decades-long investigation was finally over: The prisoner who marked his birthday on 8 January 1945 at Auschwitz was David Goldstein, who survived, was liberated from Gleiwitz, and immigrated to *Eretz Israel* in 1946. Efforts to complete his story continue.

*The author is Collections Manager, Artifacts Department, Museums Division. Evgeny Rozin of the Artifacts Department assisted in researching the story.*

# Marking Jewish Time in Auschwitz

Dr. Alan Rosen

■ Holocaust research is usually focused on the overwhelming destruction and dramatic rupture with the past. However, two examples of handwritten calendars that emerged from Auschwitz reveal the wartime quest for historical continuity and envisioning a future; they demonstrate that such continuity in the very midst of the Holocaust also demands acknowledgment and consideration.

In the latest issue of *Yad Vashem Studies* (42:2), I examine the special nature of the Jewish calendar and its role in prewar Europe,

While Sohlberg perseveres in tracking the day-to-day movement of Jewish life, Borinski's calendar looks beyond the tormented present to the vision of a redeemed future

summarizing what is known of eight surviving concentration camp calendars. I then detail the biographies of the Auschwitz calendar authors, Sophie Sohlberg and Anneliese Borinski (aka Ora Aloni), focusing on what in their past lives and wartime circumstances prepared them to compose the calendars under such difficult conditions.

Sophie Sohlberg (b. 1923) came from an Orthodox Jewish home in Munich and attended a religious school staffed by graduates from the prestigious Jewish Teachers Seminary in Würzburg. One of these teachers, Julius Kissinger, rigorously taught his young charges the rules for composing Jewish calendars. Ten years later, Sohlberg, hoping to provide a guide for the women in her section of Auschwitz to observe the holidays, was able to translate those rules into two calendars, one for 5704 (1943-44) and the second for 5705 (1944-45). She took the latter with her on a death march into Germany, used it to track time once the war ended, and subsequently brought it with her to Israel. Sadly, her teacher had been deported and murdered at the end of 1941. The calendars composed by Sohlberg

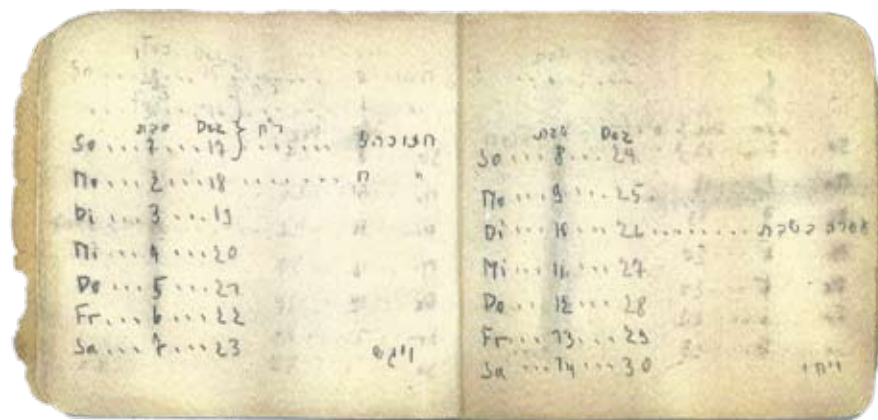


were nevertheless the vehicle through which Julius Kissinger continued to live and by which he gave others the possibility, even in Auschwitz, of reclaiming Jewish sacred time.

Anneliese Borinski (1914-1997), for her part, came from an assimilated German-Jewish background, turned to Zionism in the 1930s, and, like Sohlberg, made her way to Israel at the war's end. But her non-religious upbringing makes it more difficult to understand how she could have accomplished a task that generally demands years of religious study – a task, moreover, that in her memoirs and conversations she never seems to have mentioned.

page. Jewish time is thus presented in the sacred language of the Jews. As with almost all wartime Jewish calendars, both of these set alongside it the Gregorian calendar year, maintaining parallel time-keeping tracks even during a period of immense upheaval.

Composed by hand on small writing tablets in nefarious conditions, both calendars are understandably distinguished by mistakes – Sohlberg's nuanced, Borinski's more glaring. Yet these mistakes also testify to what was remarkably achieved. Strikingly, Borinski stops the Jewish dating after some three months, as if the disappearance of Europe's Jews found in the calendar's abrupt failure its evil correlate. Meanwhile, the Gregorian dating blithely continues through the year. No longer tracking Jewish time *per se*, Borinski's calendar nonetheless intersperses ancient scriptural and rabbinic passages that point to the future redemption of the Jewish nation in the Land of Israel. While Sohlberg perseveres in tracking the day-to-day



■ Pages from the Jewish calendar of Sophie Sohlberg for the year 5705 (1944-1945), written in Auschwitz-Birkenau

Despite their authors' disparate upbringings, both calendars show, each in its own way, the determination to live according to Jewish time. They begin with Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year (in Borinski's calendar, actually the day before), designate the multiplicity of holidays that follow and, in Sohlberg's case, indicate the specific Torah portion for the week. Each calendar page presents a week, the onset of which is Sunday and the end or culmination, the Sabbath. The Jewish months – Tishrei, Cheshvan, Kislev, etc. – and the year 5705 are written out in Hebrew at the top of the relevant

movement of Jewish life, Borinski's calendar looks beyond the tormented present to the vision of a redeemed future. Thus both calendars, templates of continuity in a shattered world, demonstrate that Jewish time had an enduring wartime presence, even in Auschwitz.

*The publication of this volume was made possible through the generous support of the Samson Charity Foundation.*

*The author, a scholar of Holocaust literature and testimony, lectures regularly at the International School for Holocaust Studies. He is currently working on a new book entitled, Killing Time, Saving Time: Calendars and the Holocaust.*

# Education

## Graduates from the EU Gather in Rome

■ On 15 December 2014, graduates of Yad Vashem educational seminars met in Rome at a special symposium under the banner of the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. A joint venture between Yad Vashem and the Italian government, this first-of-its-kind symposium focused on establishing a pan-European teaching network for Shoah education.

Participants at the symposium, which was opened by Italian Education Minister Stefania Giannini, hailed from 27 EU member states.

During the proceedings, Senior Historian at Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research Dr. David Silberklang presented findings from the latest research into the history of the Holocaust, and the International School's Pedagogical Director and Fred Hillman Chair in Memory of Janusz Korczak Shulamit Imber focused on reinforcing age-appropriate

Courtesy: The Italian Ministry of Education, Research and Universities



■ Italian Education Minister Stefania Giannini addresses symposium delegates on establishing a European teaching network for Holocaust education.

approaches in Holocaust education. In the course of regional roundtable discussions, the graduates conferred on how to forge further regional cooperation to promote joint projects. The International School's European Department Director Richelle Budd Caplan met with

governmental representatives from many of the EU member states, including a first-ever meeting with Maltese officials, and called the symposium "a wonderful opportunity to build bridges and work towards our common goals."

"We greatly appreciate the cooperation of the Italian government in holding this unique symposium," said Lily Safra Chair for Holocaust Education and International School Director Dr. Eyal Kaminka. "It is rare for any institution in the world, let alone from Israel, to work with all EU member states bilaterally. We are delighted with the ties that our European Department has developed with so many EU ministries of education and NGOs, and look forward to expanding our relationship with them to the greatest possible extent in order to bring meaningful Holocaust education across the continent."

*The Graduate Seminar was supported by the Federal Republic of Germany.*

## IHRA Plenary Demands Open Archival Access

■ At an eventful four-day plenary session of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) in Manchester, England in December 2014, experts and policymakers from around the world demanded that access to archives containing important Holocaust-related information be kept open. The issue played a central part in the session, with the Holocaust experts, like other historians, expressing deep concern as to the European Commission's proposals for a General Data Protection Regulation which could prevent the access of historical materials under a "right to oblivion." IHRA Honorary Chairman and Yad Vashem Academic Advisor Prof. Yehuda Bauer spoke passionately in favor of direct action to maintain archival access wherever possible; and Ambassador Gideon Behar, Co-Head of Israel's Delegation, commented on the centrality of the issue to all of IHRA's work and the importance

of every effort to maintain access, a sentiment which was endorsed by many member countries. Sir Andrew Burns, the UK Special Envoy for Post-Holocaust Issues and current UK IHRA Chair, undertook to redouble efforts in this regard on this important and time-sensitive issue.

The IHRA chair underscored additional major challenges currently facing Holocaust remembrance as "the fight against antisemitism and Holocaust denial, remembering and understanding the genocide of the Roma people, and... reflecting on the relevance of the Holocaust to other genocides." A number of events were organized by the British government during the Manchester meetings, affording the delegates the opportunity to view locally developed Holocaust-related cinema and art and to become familiar with various UK-based Holocaust organizations. Additionally, the UK Chairmanship, together with Staffordshire

### Jane Jacobs-Kimmelman

University, held an informative one-day conference entitled, "What Britain Knew: The Holocaust and Nazi Crimes."

Indicating the remarkable extent of worldwide interest in Holocaust remembrance, IHRA currently has 31 member countries, five observer countries, and seven permanent observer organizations. At the Manchester session, El Salvador, Albania and Moldova officially joined the important intergovernmental forum as observer countries. Yad Vashem experts, together with diplomats from Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, comprise the Israeli delegation.

The British chairmanship term is due to end in March 2015. The Hungarian Chair designate, Szabolcs Takács, addressed the Manchester plenary on his country's impending assumption of the chairmanship.

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

## Increasing Cooperation with UNESCO

■ Encouraged by Dr. Qian Tang, UNESCO Assistant Director General for Education, who spoke at Yad Vashem's 9<sup>th</sup> International Educators' Conference last July regarding the importance of Holocaust education in today's world, Yad Vashem has embarked on new initiatives vis-à-vis UNESCO over the past few months. These include the forthcoming publication of two academic articles, one as an appendix to UNESCO's "Holocaust Education in a Global Context" journal; and the other, which will be published by UNESCO in Spanish, on

the challenges and experiences of educating on the Holocaust across Latin America.

Additionally, the Educational Coordinator of the International School's Spanish and Portuguese Desk, Haya Feldman, represented Yad Vashem at the first meeting of the UNESCO Regional Network of Focal Points for Holocaust and Genocide Education in Latin America, which was held in San José, Costa Rica, in November. Further joint initiatives are being considered for the future regarding Africa and Asia, where there is a growing interest in Holocaust education.



■ Left to right: Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, Dr. Qian Tang, Lily Safra Chair for Holocaust Education and Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies Dr. Eyal Kaminka



## Graduate Spotlight

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



## Jana Třetinová Czech Republic

James Joseph McIntosh

■ **Jana Třetinová teaches eighth-grade History and Civics at the TG Masaryk Elementary School in Milovice, Czech Republic.** She attended an educational seminar at Yad Vashem in 2013, the same year that she discovered the names of a Jewish family from her town, the Geigers, most of whom did not survive the Holocaust. Inspired by her experience on the Mount of Remembrance, on her return home Třetinová embarked on a project to document the personal stories of the Geigers, together with her students.

Třetinová and her class first learned of the Geiger family when reading Blanka Rozkošná's book *Jews in Lysá nad Labem, Milovice and its Surroundings*. They discovered that Adolf, Ota, Viktor and Růžena Geiger were all murdered during the *Shoah*, but the book did not detail the circumstances of their deaths.

A search on a Czech-language website on the Holocaust yielded the names of the four Geigers and their dates of death. The class learned that the Nazis deported them to the Terezin ghetto and to Auschwitz-Birkenau, but they would have to dig deeper in order to learn about the life of the family before the war.

Their research ultimately led them to the local archive of Lysá nad Labem. "We were very lucky," said Třetinová, for the archive contained documentation from events in the lives of the Geigers, such as marriages and education. In addition, the records attested to the existence of a fifth member of the family. Zdeňka Geiger, previously unknown to Třetinová and her class, had applied for a marriage license in 1926, spurring their curiosity. "We were very interested," said Třetinová. "Who did she marry? Did she survive? Did she have children?"



■ Graduate Jana Třetinová

Třetinová then took her students to the Czech National Archives and the Jewish Museum in Prague, both of which pointed them back in the direction of their town of Milovice. The local archive there shed more light on the life of Zdeňka, confirming that she married a non-Jewish man named Jan Kolář in 1926, and listing the names of some of her acquaintances. One of them, a woman named Hana Černá, was still alive and agreed to speak with Třetinová and her class about Zdeňka Geiger-Kolářová.

The painstaking research carried out by Třetinová and her students culminated in a visit by Černá to their classroom. The Nazis deported

### Records attested to the existence of a fifth member of the Geiger family, Zdeňka, previously unknown to Třetinová and her class, spurring their curiosity

Geiger-Kolářová to Terezin in January 1945, which she survived. After the Red Army liberated the ghetto on May 8, 1945, she set out to find her husband and was reunited with him. She had no children, and Černá served as her caretaker after Kolář's death in 1952. Geiger-Kolářová

continued to live in then-Czechoslovakia until her death in 1999.

Having amassed as much information as they could about the Geiger family, Třetinová and her class set about compiling the findings into a story of their lives. Drawing on archival records, historical photographs and oral testimonies, the students published *Kam zmizeli Geigerovi?*



■ Třetinová's students created Stolperstein commemorating the Geiger family

(*Where Did the Geigers Go?*), a book recounting the history of the last members of the Geiger family. In addition to the printed resource, the class created a website for their project, with written content, photographs and links. Finally, Třetinová's students took action to fashion a *Stolperstein* commemorative flagstone in memory of the Geigers. "The innocents who were killed must never be forgotten," said Třetinová. Educators like Třetinová ensure that the lives of Holocaust victims continue to be commemorated, and the circumstances of their deaths remembered for generations to come.

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

## Czech Republic Reaffirms Commitment to Holocaust Education

■ **On 25 November 2014, Israel's Minister of Education Shay Piron, Czech Minister of Culture Daniel Herman and Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev signed a joint declaration of intent, reaffirming both nations' commitment to promoting Holocaust education, research and commemoration.** The declaration, which highlights the work of Yad Vashem, the Terezin Memorial and the Lidice Memorial, took place at Yad Vashem against the backdrop of a state

visit to Israel by Czech Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka and seven Czech cabinet ministers for a government-to-government meeting with their Israeli counterparts.

On the day of the signing, Prime Minister Sobotka and his delegation of ministers visited the International School for Holocaust Studies.

In recent years, Yad Vashem has significantly bolstered its work with educators, government

officials and non-governmental organizations in the Czech Republic. Partner institutions include Israel's Embassy in Prague, the Jewish Museum of Prague, Pamatník Terezin and the Prague Branch of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem. Staff members of the International School's European Department traveled to the Czech Republic three times in 2014, and worked with over 300 Czechs, both in Europe and in Israel.

# Education

## Online Educational Units Facilitate Classroom Teaching **Dr. Na'ama Shik**

■ As digital materials become increasingly integrated into the educational system, educators worldwide have demanded increasingly advanced online tools. In recent years, the International School for Holocaust Studies has remained at the forefront of pedagogic technology by providing relevant material for teachers worldwide to broach the important and serious subject of the Holocaust in their respective schools.

This academic year (2014/15), Yad Vashem is developing online educational units that offer a multimedia approach to Holocaust teaching. These modular units are designed around a specific subject – such as how to use testimonies in the classroom, the development of the “Final Solution” and



experiences of the survivors after the Holocaust – offering educators not only the historical information they need, but also the pedagogical tools to facilitate the lesson. The format allows educators to choose from a range of materials: detailed lesson plans, PowerPoint presentations, archival materials, filmed testimonies, historical

clips, Pages of Testimony and primary source materials (documents, photographs, diaries, maps, etc.), as well as video lectures.

This is the first time Yad Vashem has been able to provide educators with online, comprehensive teaching materials on specific Holocaust-related topics. The teachers decide which elements may be useful from those offered to them, and then present them to their students, thus facilitating an appropriate and effective learning experience for everyone in the classroom.

*The online educational units are generously supported by the Kennedy Leigh Charitable Trust.*

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

## UK Legislators Attend Intensive Seminar **James Joseph McIntosh**



■ In mid-November, six British legislators – including members of the British and Scottish Parliaments and Welsh Assembly, as well as NGO activists – attended a two-day intensive educational seminar at Yad Vashem. This

first-ever seminar of its kind took place in partnership with the UK Council of Christians and Jews, further to the signing of a letter of intent between Yad Vashem, the UK Prime Minister's Holocaust Commission and leading Holocaust centers in Great Britain.

While in Jerusalem, the legislators met with Yad Vashem experts and Holocaust survivors and toured the Holocaust History Museum and Archives. They gained insights into the complex history of the *Shoah*, as well as the multi-cultural nature of Israeli society. “Thank you for a very informative, challenging and personally enriching visit,” wrote one participant at the end

of the seminar. “I must admit I have come back with more questions than answers, but I am sure that is a good thing,” admitted another.

“Working with British policymakers is a priority for us, particularly in light of their longstanding policy of observing International Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January,” said Lily Safra Chair for Holocaust Education and International School Director Dr. Eyal Kaminka. “We have a common interest in promoting Holocaust commemoration and education.”

*The seminar for British legislators was generously funded by the Adelson Family Foundation.*

## Atlanta Police Officers Learn about Leadership

■ On 20 November 2014, members of the Atlanta Police Department (APD) came to Yad Vashem as part of a special visit to Israel, in cooperation with Israel's Police Center for Leadership Development. In a groundbreaking new initiative, Israeli police officers are helping prepare APD officers destined for promotion, by sharing with them the challenges they face in

Israel. At Yad Vashem, the APD officers were presented with information about the Holocaust as a platform for raising and discussing the values and challenges that police officers face by virtue of their position. The visit included a tour of the Holocaust History Museum, with an emphasis on leadership dilemmas in its various aspects during the Holocaust. The group also spent time in the

### Yael Assaraf

Learning Center, where they discussed questions pertinent to their roles. At the end of the day, they met Holocaust survivor Asher Aud, who told them his story and spoke with them about moral dilemmas and life choices.

*The author is the Security Forces Coordinator in the IDF and Security Forces Training Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.*

## Seminar for Educators from China

■ In September, Yad Vashem held its fifth annual seminar for Chinese educators, generously supported by the Adelson Family Foundation. The 16-day seminar comprised academic lectures and pedagogical instruction, as well as meetings with survivors and in-depth discussions on the challenges of Holocaust education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The participants were all enthusiastic regarding their experience, and grateful for the opportunity to have participated in this unique seminar. “History came alive,” wrote one, “it really touched my heart.” “In other Holocaust-related courses, we were taught abstract numbers and names,” wrote another. “But at Yad Vashem, I saw their faces and heard their stories.”



## Gandel Holocaust Program for Australian Educators: Seminar 2015

Nurit Davidson



■ The Gandel Holocaust Studies Program for Australian Educators recently marked the end of its fifth successful year, and in February 2015 began its sixth year of implementation. During the past year, the educators attended preparatory meetings in Australia, took an online course, participated in an 18-day seminar at Yad Vashem, and created in-depth educational projects. A Yad Vashem educator traveled to Australia twice to meet with graduates and give classes in their schools, allowing for an ongoing relationship between the teachers and Yad Vashem's Gandel Program staff in Israel, as well as a current assessment of their needs.

To date, the Gandel Program has been completed by 150 educators from across the Australian continent, providing them with accurate historical knowledge of the Holocaust and effective tools to impart it to their students. This January, 30 new teachers joined the program, many of whom have already launched comprehensive courses on the Holocaust in their local schools.

"I have taught this program to all of the Year 11 History students and all of the Year 10

students in my school in some form or another, and I will again next year," wrote one of the recent graduates. "Australia is a wonderful country... [but] we are not perfect and I believe that my actions can help build respect in our society at large."

"The Gandel Program graduates are our best ambassadors," said Ephraim Kaye, Director of International Seminars at the International School for Holocaust Studies. "As they come to the end of their year with us, many take part in educators' conferences across the country, arousing the interest of other teachers to participate and strengthen Holocaust education in Australia."

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

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

## Australian Graduate Awarded OAM for Educational Efforts

■ Yad Vashem graduate Sue Hampel was recently awarded the prestigious Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the 2014 Australia Day Honors "for services to the community through the promotion of understanding and tolerance."

The award recognized Hampel's service to education as a leader and mentor in establishing an Australian program for Jewish students that promotes tolerance



■ Sue Hampel receives the OAM from the Governor of Victoria, Alex Chernov

and understanding; and for service to the community in the field of Holocaust and Genocide education.

"I am so honored to receive this recognition," said Hampel. "My late father and Holocaust survivor, Andre Zelig, z"l, would be very proud that I have dedicated my life to educating Jewish and non-Jewish students, thereby passing on the torch of memory and vigilance to the next generation."

## Congress for Educators at French Jewish Schools Yoni Berrous

■ On 7 December 2014, a national congress for principals and educators at Jewish schools in France took place in Paris entitled, "How to cultivate a positive Jewish identity in times of crisis." The Jewish organization "Fonds Social Juif Unifié" (FSJU), which launched the new teacher training institute – Campus Formation – on 25 November, welcomed participants to the event which took place simultaneously in Paris, Marseille and Strasbourg. The congress was broadcast live on YouTube as well as the well-known French educational website, AKADEM.

The FSJU invited the International School for Holocaust Studies – its partner since 2011 –



to participate in the congress. Yad Vashem Council Chairman Rabbi Israel Meir Lau recorded an opening statement for the occasion, and this writer presented on how Yad Vashem is addressing the subject of the Holocaust and Jewish identity.

"The congress represents a further step in the strengthening relations and cooperation between Yad Vashem and the FSJU in particular, and the French Jewish community in general," said Sarit Hoch-Markowitz, Director of Teacher Training at the International School. "The French Jewish community is facing difficult times, and its leaders are asking themselves many questions concerning the rise of antisemitism in their country. As a partner of Campus Formation, we continue to develop appropriate ways to teach



the Holocaust in France, including discussing the complex issues that the community is currently facing."

*The author is Head of Seminars for French-Speaking Programs, World Jewry Section, International School for Holocaust Studies.*

# "All of Israel are Responsible for One Another"?

## Ideals and Reality during the *Shoah*

■ The poet Abba Kovner defined Judaism as a community-based culture, one that has lived together throughout the generations, whether by virtue of the principles of its faith and values, or “because external enemies consolidate it,” as Herzl wrote in *The Jewish State*. Moreover, Jewish tradition has always recognized a basic behavioral rule of mutual responsibility – all Jews are responsible for one another. Hence, not only does this mutual help stem from being together, it also solidifies it.

Jewish society on the eve of the Holocaust was dispersed, scattered and diverse, more so than in previous periods. What happened to the tradition of mutual responsibility during the Holocaust? The existence of any Jewish solidarity during the Holocaust has recently been denied, and yet there are those who believe that the help the Jews extended to each other during the darkest period in human history is extraordinary and praiseworthy, and should be emphasized. As research expands and deepens, and with the creation of a growing corpus of testimonies, memoirs, documents and artifacts, the picture becomes more detailed and complex. Likewise, as time passes, the public grows more willing to examine the shadows along with the light.

In December 2014, the International Institute for Holocaust Research of Yad Vashem held a conference entitled “All of Israel are Responsible for One Another”? Ideals and Reality during the *Shoah*.” At the conference, attended by over 200 researchers, educators and interested members of the public, 27 scholars from research institutes in Israel, Europe, the US and Canada contended with how Jewish society in Europe and North

Africa functioned in the face of Nazi Germany’s all-out assault on Judaism and Jewish physical existence. To what extent and in what ways did longstanding Jewish traditions express themselves, and did they have the power to overcome disputes and schisms?

The opening lecture of Prof. David Engel (New York University) broadened the scope and placed the question of solidarity during the Holocaust in a comprehensive and complex context – of Jewish history in general, and on the eve of the Holocaust in particular. Prof. Engel showed how immediately preceding the *Shoah*, Nazi propaganda on the one hand and Jewish leaders on the other emphasized that the Jewish nation was unified and united, and that this was the secret of its power. And although the bitter reality was completely different, a question left hanging after his lecture is what would have been the results of the Holocaust if the Jewish nation had indeed been more united?

During the Holocaust there was widespread solidarity between individuals, including saving lives. Yet while this conference covered some examples of rescue by Jewish groups and individuals, it mainly addressed how the diverse Jewish society functioned and became a single whole by force of circumstance. It also examined how various groups in Jewish society related to each other, starting with limited groups such as the family or substitute family, up to the local or national community level. Being together strengthens the sense of partnership, mutual responsibility and public accountability, but it can also cause groups to cloister themselves and be hostile towards others, such as refugees forced



■ Prof. Steven Katz delivers the closing address at the conference.

onto a given community already in distress; or Jews who spoke a different language or believed in an opposing political ideology or religious worldview.

Another important question at the heart of the discussions was whether one can find a correlation between acts of solidarity and the worsening conditions and hardships during the Holocaust. Could it be that the more that conditions deteriorated, and the more that the danger to their very existence grew more concrete and menacing, the level of solidarity between Jews decreased, with every group concentrating its efforts to defend its own members and survive? Or when the various groups perceived a common enemy and recognized that their fate would be the same, did the level of solidarity actually grow stronger?

These questions do not originate from the harsh judgmental stance that characterized early stages of research and public discourse about the *Shoah* in the Jewish world – far from it. It is

## News from the Research Institute

### Najmann Lecture on "Lived Time" of German Jews

■ The annual lecture of the John Najmann Chair for Holocaust Studies was given on 21 October 2014 by Prof. Guy Miron, Director of the Center for Research on the Holocaust in Germany of the International Institute for Holocaust Research. The lecture, entitled “The Lived Time of German Jews under the Nazi Regime,” dealt with time concepts of German

Jews under the Nazi regime, primarily in its early years. It was based on two main kinds of sources: Jewish press and personal diaries. The lecture presented a variety of Jewish attempts – both on a communal and on an individual level – to cope with the exclusion of Jews from “German Nazified time flow,” by returning to or creating Jewish time through the Jewish

calendar and refashioning the major Jewish holidays. Miron also discussed time rhythms, predominantly the experiences of waiting, “crawling” time and “accelerated” time. References to these topics were common in the Jewish political discourse of the early Nazi era, and they later became very prominent in diaries of individuals such as Viktor Klemperer

Being together strengthens the sense of partnership, mutual responsibility and public accountability, but it can also cause groups to cloister themselves and be hostile towards others

Prof. Dina Porat



■ A nurse feeding children in a Jewish children's home, 1943, Bucharest, Romania. Yad Vashem Photo Archives



■ A soup kitchen of the Jewish self-help organization that functioned with the permission of the authorities in Zelechow, Poland, 1941-1942. Yad Vashem Photo Archives

clear that possible choices during the Holocaust were restricted in the extreme; the Jews were a community thrust into the most terrible situations imaginable in view of Nazism, its collaborators and its crimes, and many groups in occupied Europe fell apart socially and morally.

Many examples were brought up in the course of the conference. Those illustrating extraordinary acts of solidarity included the 20,000 Jews remaining in the Vilna ghetto after the *aktionen* annihilated two-thirds of the community. The Germans thought that they numbered only 15,000 and issued certificates for labor and food accordingly, leaving out another 5,000 people. For two years, the meager provisions were shared amongst all of the survivors equally; no one protested nor said, "It's too cramped, we have so little bread and water, and if the Germans find out – we'll pay with our lives." In Western Europe, among other rescue attempts, Jewish underground

activists in the occupied Netherlands assisted in hiding thousands of Jews and moving them from hideout to hideout. In particular, they hid thousands of children and moved young people from their hiding places in the Netherlands to France, and from there to Spain, all the while risking their own lives.

Contrasting examples were noted too, such as tensions and hostility within groups of *Sonderkommando* (prisoners working in the crematoria) at Auschwitz; competition and friction between Jewish functionaries at concentration camps; and similar phenomena between laborers in the *szops*, workshops in the Warsaw ghetto, where competition for more comfortable workplaces with improved conditions was the source of constant fighting. All of this took place in parallel with relations of deep friendship and mutual help that developed under horrific conditions, sometimes in the same time and place.

Prof. Steven Katz (Boston University) gave the closing lecture. Using Jewish sources and Jewish thought from ancient to modern times, he showed how deeply the recognition that all Jews are responsible for one another is embedded in Jewish consciousness, and how central this recognition is in the life of the nation – a truly everyday imperative. Therefore, in a time in which the world and its values had been turned upside down, he claimed, solidarity and mutual responsibility were essential, if not in every place and circumstance. However, after hearing the fascinating lectures and important insights raised by the audience, he wondered how widespread solidarity could have existed in the terrible conditions of the time.

*The conference was generously supported by the Gertner Center for International Holocaust Conferences and the Gutwirth Family Fund.*

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

and Willy Cohn. The last part of the lecture presented various aspects of the transformation of the way German Jews referred to the past. The renewed relevance of the past was expressed by an intensified awareness of it, measuring time in generational units, and attempting to ascribe meaning to the new situation by referring to much longer time frames.

## International Workshop: Jewish Life in Hungary after the Holocaust

■ In mid-November, the International Institute for Holocaust Research held an international workshop entitled "Trauma and Rehabilitation: Jews and Jewish Life in Hungary after the Holocaust (1945-1957)."

The workshop, which convened scholars from around the world participating in the Institute's research project of the same title, covered the

reconstruction of Jewish life in the immediate aftermath of the Holocaust, Hungarian society and the Holocaust, and European and non-European scholarly research on the mass murder of the Jews of Hungary during WWII.

*The research project on Jews and Jewish life in Hungary after the Holocaust is generously supported by the Israel Ministry of Science, Technology and Space.*

## Prof. Jan Grabowski: Winner of International Book Prize

■ On 8 December, the 2014 Yad Vashem International Book Prize for Holocaust Research, in memory of Holocaust survivor Abraham Meir Schwarzbau, and his family members who were murdered in the Holocaust, was awarded to Prof. Jan Grabowski for his book, *Hunt for the Jews: Betrayal and Murder in German-Occupied Poland*.

“The craftsmanship of Grabowski’s study is exemplary and shows that a careful reading of archival material allows for the detailed reconstruction of personal life (and death) stories of Jews in hiding,” commented the Book Prize

## Symposium on *Gates of Tears*

■ On 20 November, the International Institute for Holocaust Research held a day symposium to mark the launch of *Gates of Tears: The Holocaust in the Lublin District* by Editor-in-Chief of *Yad Vashem Studies* and Senior Historian at the Research Institute Dr. David Silberklang.

*Gates of Tears* is the first book in English to examine the Holocaust in the Lublin District, an

## Dr. Ze’ev Mankowitz, z”l

■ Yad Vashem mourns the recent passing of Dr. Ze’ev Mankowitz, educator and historian who chaired the Diana Zborowski Center for the Study of the Aftermath of the *Shoah* at the International Institute for Holocaust Research. In this capacity, Dr. Mankowitz initiated important research projects that dealt with different aspects of the rehabilitation of the survivors and their contribution to society after the Holocaust. “Dr. Mankowitz took interest in and focused upon the ability of the survivors to endure the horrors of the Holocaust, and

Committee. “When it was first published in Polish in 2011, Grabowski’s book was followed by a vigorous discussion in the mainstream Polish media, showing that his writing can effectively break through a purely academic canon and affect widespread social perceptions of this crucial chapter of Polish and Jewish history.”

In addition to the winner of the book prize, there were also two honorable mentions: *Conscripted Slaves*, by Dr. Robert Rozett, and *Gates of Tears*, by Dr. David Silberklang – both of which were finalists in the recent National Jewish Book Award (USA).

area central to Nazi anti-Jewish policy. In his analysis, Dr. Silberklang traces two connecting threads – forced population movement and forced labor – and also gives voice to the extensive communication among Jews, even amidst the deportations and murder.

Speakers at the symposium, which was held in memory of Prof. Israel Gutman, z”l, included Joanna Zętar of the Lublin Brama Grodzka Center,

then find the strength to rebuild their lives, to establish new families and to give their utmost to the countries in which they lived,” said Director of the International Institute Dr. Iael Nidam-Orvieto. “He viewed Zionist identity as a central driving force for many survivors who took a meaningful role in developing the fledgling State of Israel. His numerous colleagues and students will remember him as an outstanding educator and an erudite historian who displayed empathy and sensitivity to his research subjects, as well as a modest human being.”

that period, as well as the top-heavy number of Jewish students – as opposed to “Aryan” students – publishing their dissertations (theses) in medical literature.

This, he believes was aided by the fact that some 20% of the faculty staff was Jewish – despite the fact that Jews made up only 4% of Berlin’s population, and only 0.8% of the German population as a whole – and they supervised some 43% of all the dissertation research. Together with their expert tutoring, the highly motivated and exceptionally hard-working Jewish students were thus able to complete more than 20% of their dissertations.

Prof. Eshel discussed the more popular subjects among Jews – the “newer” (and thus less competitive) branches of medicine, such as hygienic-social medicine, neurology, pathology, pediatric medicine, gynecology and psychiatry;



■ Left to right: International Research Institute Head and John Najmann Chair for Holocaust Studies Prof. Dan Michman, Book Prize Donor Sabina Schwarzbau, Yad Vashem Chief Historian Prof. Dina Porat, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, Prize winner Prof. Jan Grabowski

Yad Vashem Academic Advisor Prof. Yehuda Bauer, Director of the International Institute’s Center for Research on the Holocaust in Poland Dr. Havi Dreifuss and the author. Also addressing the audience were Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev and Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries Dr. Robert Rozett.

*The symposium was generously supported by the Gutwirth Family Fund.*

“Ze’ev was a mensch of the first order, an excellent and thoughtful scholar, who never lost his human sympathy and empathy in dealing with this most difficult of subjects,” said Dr. David Silberklang, Editor-in-Chief of *Yad Vashem Studies* and Senior Historian at the Research Institute. “He taught us all new ways to think, new questions to ask, and the humility to which we should always adhere in seeking answers to complex questions. His loss will be felt by all whose lives he touched.”

the surprisingly early introduction by the Nazis of the study of sterilization and euthanasia; and the predictable demise in the writing and presentation of the dissertations by Jewish students following the expulsion of the Jewish faculty staff and most of the Jewish students in the wake of the Nazi accession to power.

“I happened to come across the medical dissertation my father wrote in 1929 in Berlin, and, despite not being a historian, I was inspired to research this topic in more detail,” explains Prof. Eshel. “When comparing the dissertations, in some 8% of cases I could not determine if the student was Jewish or non-Jewish. The databases and staff at Yad Vashem were extremely helpful in resolving at least some of these issues. The atmosphere is practical and accommodating, and I am using my time here most productively to complete my research.”

## Fellow’s Corner Prof. Gideon Eshel

■ Every year, the International Institute for Holocaust Research hosts a number of both young and veteran scholars from Israel and around the world as part of its Research Fellowship Program in order to help them advance their Holocaust-related academic studies. One of the recent fellows was Prof. Gideon Eshel, a retired pediatrician living in Israel whose chosen topic is “Jewish Medical Academic Achievements in Berlin and their Demise following the Rise of the Nazis (1927-1938).”

Prof. Eshel recently gave a lecture to his peers at the International Institute, pointing out the disproportionate number of Jewish medical students attending the world-class Friedrich Wilhelms Faculty of Medicine in Berlin during

# Choosing the Right Option

## Ukrainian Couple Honored as Righteous after 50 Years



Irena Steinfeldt

■ Hundreds of requests arrive each year at the Department of the Righteous Among the Nations at Yad Vashem. Sometimes these contain little more than fragments of memory or tattered photographs, and staff in the Department make tremendous efforts to complete the picture. This was the case with Fredi Gruber, who shared what he had heard at the home of a childhood friend of his father, whom he met during a Jewish Heritage trip to Ukraine.

Fredi's father Josef Gruber was recognized as Righteous Among the Nations in 2005 for rescuing his future wife, Tussia. Fifty years later, Fredi travelled from his home in Israel to Lviv,



■ Anna-Barbara as a child

The Durniaks never forgot Anna-Barbara. Kateryna kept her picture in a family photo album, and after her death, her daughter Christina kept the photograph – clearly identifying her as the same child

Ukraine (previously Lwow, Poland) to meet his father's family. In Lviv, Fredi also searched for any descendants of his father's friends, Petro and Kateryna Durniak. On arriving at their daughter Christina's home, she showed him a picture of a girl her parents had hidden during WWII. She remembered her name, Barbara Winter, but never knew what had become of her after the war.

Upon his return to Israel, Fredi told Yad Vashem what he had learned. When his mother had originally applied to have her husband Josef Gruber recognized as Righteous, she had written that her future husband had proposed his friends, the Durniaks, for the honor, for giving refuge to a Jewish girl during the war. At the time, this was not enough information to present the case to the Commission for the Designation of the Righteous Among the Nations. Katya Gusarov, a researcher in the

Righteous Department, began to investigate the case further in the Yad Vashem Archives. She uncovered the testimony from 1961 of Nachum Winter, Barbara's uncle, a former soldier in the Red Army.

In the summer of 1942, when 50,000 Jews from Lwow were deported to their deaths at the Belzec extermination camp, David Winter and his wife made the painful decision to separate from their newborn daughter, Anna, in order to increase her chances of survival. They secretly took Anna out of the ghetto and asked David's Ukrainian friend Petro Durniak to watch over their baby daughter. Petro's wife Kateryna was pregnant at the time, and soon gave birth. The couple changed Anna's name to Barbara, and presented the children as twins. Tragically, their own child died shortly afterwards. Durniak grew attached to little Anna-Barbara, and his wife often complained that he preferred her to their daughter Christina, who was born in 1944.

After Lwow was liberated, Nachum returned home to search for any surviving relatives. He found his niece at the home of Kateryna Durniak (she and Petro were separated at this time), and gave her his monthly salary in gratitude. Before returning to his unit, he took a photograph with his niece. When Nachum found his brother and his wife, he informed them that their daughter was alive and sent them the picture he had taken with Anna-Barbara. David and his wife



■ Christina-Ludmila Kril with Fredi Gruber at the unveiling of her parents' names in the Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations

contacted Kateryna and organized for Anna-Barbara's transfer to them.

The Winter family moved to Israel, but shortly afterwards they emigrated to Austria. Over time, the Winters lost contact with the Durniak family. However, the Durniaks never forgot Anna-Barbara. Kateryna kept her picture in a family photo album, and after her death, her daughter Christina kept the photograph – in which Anna-Barbara looks exactly the same as the one taken with her uncle – clearly identifying her as the same child.

Now, with the help of testimony given more than 50 years ago, Yad Vashem was able to connect the two parts of this moving story, and on 10 July 2014, Petro and Kateryna Durniak were posthumously recognized as Righteous Among the Nations. On 23 November, a ceremony honoring the Durniaks was held at Yad Vashem. Christina-Ludmila Kril flew in from Ukraine to accept the medal and certificate of honor on her parents' behalf. At the ceremony, she said: "My mother was orphaned at a young age, and suffered greatly throughout her childhood. People like her have two choices: to be bitter and heartless, or to be especially sensitive to the suffering of others. My mother chose the second option." Also in attendance was Ukrainian Embassy representative Olena Ivanchuk, as well as Fredi Gruber, family and friends.

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

# Continuing the Search



"After seeing their names, the enormity of the tragedy really hit me."

Leah Carlebach

Deborah Berman

■ In every family it seems there is someone who has learned the stories of previous generations, who knows the details of the family narrative and assumes the role of safeguarding the family heritage. In her family, Leah Carlebach (47) from Jerusalem is that person.

In early 2014, Leah was contacted by a relative to verify information on a Page of Testimony, a special form designed by Yad Vashem to restore the personal identities of each of the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust. Leah, who had never heard about Pages of Testimony, decided to check if any such forms were on record for her own family. The virtual treasure trove of information she proceeded to find in Yad Vashem's online Central Database of *Shoah* Victims' Names (to date containing the names of some 4.5 million victims) far exceeded her expectations, and has helped her fill in the gaps and personalize the details of the tragic fate of her family during the *Shoah*.

Leah began by investigating her father's side of the family, with roots in Hamburg, Germany. Rabbi Joseph Tzvi Carlebach, Chief Rabbi of Hamburg, was murdered by the Nazis in 1942. Leah found over 70 search results in the Names Database with the same family name and place of residence. After carefully analyzing each one, she finally discovered the first names of her cousins, who she knew had been murdered as children during the Holocaust. "After seeing their names, the enormity of the tragedy really hit me," recalls Leah. "So many people. It is quite unbelievable."



■ Leah Carlebach (right) inspects Pages of Testimony relating to her family members, assisted by Shoah Victims' Names Recovery Project Coordinator Deborah Berman.

As Leah had already surmised, the research regarding her family on her mother's side was far more complicated. This branch of the family was from Poland, and it was always assumed that only those who had managed to immigrate to *Eretz Israel* before the war had survived. Her grandfather, whose parents and sister were murdered in the Holocaust, rarely spoke of his family's past.

However, one surviving relative managed to flee wartorn Europe together with most of the Mir Yeshiva students to Shanghai through the efforts of the Japanese consulate. Mostly, he conveyed stories about the family before the war, never going into detail about the actual fate of the victims during the *Shoah*. Using the advanced search option on the Names Database, Leah entered his name as a submitter of information and found that he had filled out seven Pages of Testimony for his brothers and additional family members who were murdered. "It seems that although he could not bring himself to speak of them, he was prepared

to commemorate them on Pages of Testimony," says Leah. "I had previously thought that they had all been killed together, but it turns out that I was wrong. Some had been killed during the Tykocin massacre; one had fled to Russia but was murdered after liberation on his way back to Bialystok; and one testimony points to another relative who was buried alive in a killing pit. This has made me think of my grandfather, and those family members who survived. How on earth did they receive the terrible news about each one, one after the other? One by one, and yet they still hoped... and then they heard about the final sibling."

The investigation of her maternal grandmother's family was even more challenging. Here too, Leah had always been told that most of the family, who lived in Svir, Svencionys and Vilna, had been murdered. The name Resnick was very common in the region, and it was therefore hard to trace her family members. All that changed when Leah found out her grandmother's maiden name, Svirsky, listed on the first Page of Testimony she encountered. Painstakingly making her way through all the Pages of Testimony listing that name, Leah eventually made contact and managed to meet a distant relative residing in Israel.

Carlebach remains determined to continue her search. "Using the wealth of information I have discovered at Yad Vashem, I am now telling my family about what happened during the Holocaust years. I am not giving up. I will continue to research and ask questions, until, with God's help, I find the answers."

## The Names Database: A Decade Online

Cynthia Wroclawski

■ In November 2014, Yad Vashem marked ten years since it uploaded the Central Database of *Shoah* Victims' Names to the Internet. The event, a revolutionary milestone in the history of Holocaust commemoration, triggered a tidal wave of world interest in the victims and their personal stories. Today some 4.5 million victims are commemorated in the Names Database – an astonishing achievement of monumental significance for Yad Vashem as well as collectively for the Jewish people.

There have been remarkable stories of discovery and connection, including siblings and family branches united thanks to the Pages of Testimony archived in the Names Database. There have also been Jewish children marking their B'nai Mitzvah celebrations making use of the information in the Database to learn about and commemorate children who were murdered in the Holocaust.

Collecting these stories over the past decade and observing how these discoveries impact individuals, families and communities over time

illustrates how everyone can play an important part in championing *Shoah* commemoration. As the last generation of *Shoah* survivors lives out their final days, the voices of the victims themselves can still be heard, beseeching every generation to keep their memory alive.

*Check to make sure the victims you know of are recorded at Yad Vashem. Visit the online Names Database: [db.yadvashem.org/names](http://db.yadvashem.org/names), or send an e-mail to [names.proj@yadvashem.org.il](mailto:names.proj@yadvashem.org.il)*

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



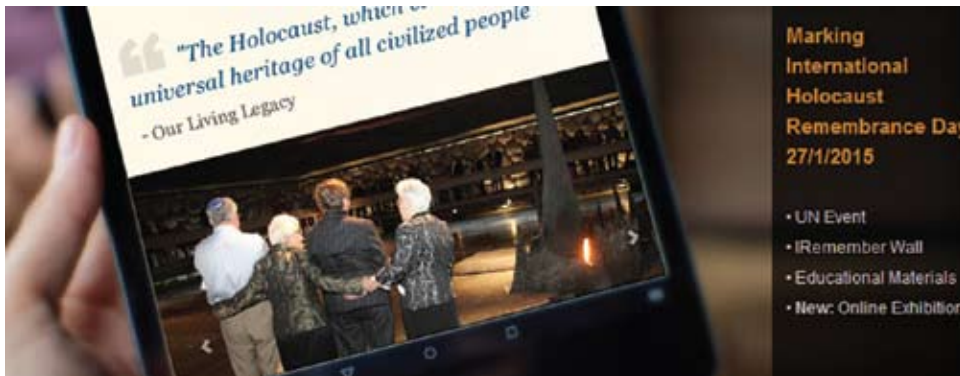
# Yad Vashem Online

Dana Porath

## Facebook Page Receives Hanukkah Greetings from Around the World

■ During Hanukkah, a number of original photos were uploaded to Yad Vashem's Facebook page, showing Jews marking the Festival of Lights in the period before, during and immediately following the *Shoah*. The post was viewed by over 300,000 people worldwide, some of whom wrote appreciative and supportive greetings in the comments section below.

## 27 January: Thousands Join "IRemember Wall"



■ To mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January, Yad Vashem once again launched its IRemember Wall on Facebook. By joining the wall, the user's Facebook profile was randomly linked to the name of a Holocaust victim from Yad Vashem's Central Database of *Shoah* Victims' Names and then posted to the wall together with the photo and name of the Holocaust victim. This year, over 4,000 people joined the IRemember Wall, many of whom had joined in previous years. "I think of the Moses family who lived next door to my house in Berlin," remarked Annegret Hansen. Lisa Goldstrom wrote: "I remember my father who came to the UK on the *Kindertransport* in 1939 and I think every day of the five siblings and parents he had to leave behind, who were murdered, along with my aunts and uncles. I will never forget."

The IRemember Wall was one of a number of ways in which Yad Vashem reached out to



its global audience. Educational resources, online exhibitions and materials, and a range of social media were all readily available to help thousands of people around the world commemorate the day in a meaningful way.



## Website Wins WebiAward 2014



■ Dana Porath, Director of Yad Vashem's Internet Department (center) and Effi Neumann, User Experience Team Leader (left), accept the People and Computers Magazine Special Category WebiAward for the Yad Vashem website from Chairman Ido Levy (right).

## New Exhibition: The Return to Life in the DP Camps

■ Life in the Displaced Persons (DP) camps was regarded by most of the Jewish refugees as a temporary arrangement. They sought to leave Germany, and in many cases, Europe as a whole. Yet despite this, and notwithstanding the wretched physical conditions, the survivors in the DP camps transformed them into centers of social, cultural and educational activity. A new online exhibition, "The Return to Life in the Displaced Persons Camps, 1945-1956: A Visual Retrospective" (available in English,

Hebrew and Spanish), visually explores how the survivors dealt with various issues involving family, religion, commemoration and education. Marking the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the war's end, the exhibition looks at some of the ways the survivors attempted, with courage and determination, to regain a normative existence on both an individual and communal level.

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

## "Gathering the Fragments": The Jewish Baby on the Cover of a Nazi Magazine

Richard Mann

■ In June 2014, Hessa Taft (née Levinson) visited Yad Vashem with her husband to present a unique artifact as part of the national "Gathering the Fragments" campaign. To their amazement, Hessa handed staff in the Archives an original issue of the Nazi family magazine *Sonne ins Haus* (Sunshine in the House) with her baby picture on the front cover.

Hessa was born in Berlin in 1934 to Latvian Jewish immigrants Jacob and Polin Levinson, both talented musicians. Jacob became a representative for an agricultural firm after being discriminated against due to antisemitism: "Living in Berlin, my parents were going to be opera singers. However, when they found out that my father was Jewish, they canceled his contract."

In 1935, Polin took six-month-old Hessa to have her portrait taken in a professional studio by Hans Ballin, a well-known German photographer in Berlin. Seven months later, the Levinson family housekeeper told her employers that she had seen Hessa's picture on the cover of *Sonne ins Haus*. The photograph had been selected in a photograph contest of babies in Germany to appear on the cover of the magazine. The contest, entered by ten well-known German photographers, had been arranged by the Nazi propaganda department



headed by Joseph Goebbels. Entries would depict the ideal Aryan baby.

Unbeknownst to the Levinson family, Ballin had thrown in Hessa's baby photo along with his submission of 10 other pictures – and it ended up winning the contest from an assortment of a hundred pictures. The irony

of the fact that a Jewish baby had won a Nazi propaganda contest was not lost on Hessa's mother, who later said: "I wanted to allow myself the pleasure of the joke." Hessa's photo was also later redistributed on postcards throughout Germany, even making it as far as present-day Lithuania.

After escaping Germany to Paris in 1938, the family later fled Nazi-occupied northern France through Spain and Portugal before boarding a ship to Cuba. In 1949, they immigrated to the United States. "My strongest memory from childhood was running away," recalled Hessa, today a professor of chemistry at St. John's University and a proud grandmother of four. "My father told me once that when there would be a Jewish state there would be no more running away."

When asked what she would say today to the photographer who entered her picture in the contest, Hessa responded: "I would tell him, good for you for having the courage." As for becoming a Jewish poster child in a Nazi propaganda magazine, Hessa simply smiled: "I feel a sense of revenge, good revenge."

*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.*

## News from the Visual Center

### Perlov's film screened at the MoMA

■ As part of its 12<sup>th</sup> International Festival of Film Preservation in November, the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York held a screening of David Perlov's *Memories of the Eichmann Trial* (1979). Yael Perlov (pictured), producer, editor and daughter of David Perlov, presented the film at a reception at the residence of Israeli Consul General in New York, Ido Aharoni.

*Memories of the Eichmann Trial*, produced by the Israel Broadcasting Authority-Channel 1, was shot on 16 mm. reversal stock, a format used before the changeover to video cinematography, and was broadcast only once. In 2011, commemorating 50 years since the Eichmann trial, the Visual Center, with the support of the Perlov family, initiated the film's restoration. A year later, the film was screened at the Pompidou Center in Paris, as well as at film festivals in France and England and academic



conferences in Israel, Canada and Sweden. The film is a unique historic and cinematic document, composed of interviews conducted by Perlov in 1979 in which Israeli Holocaust survivors and members of their generation, as well as children of survivors and young native-born Israelis, reflect upon how the trial affected them and their families, and how it transformed Israeli society's perceptions of the *Shoah* and those who lived through it.

Among those interviewed in the film are Rafael "Rafi" Eitan, who was among those responsible for Eichmann's capture in Argentina, and Henryk Ross, a photographer who secretly managed to photograph the Lodz ghetto as well as transports to the extermination camps.

"The screening at MoMA signifies additional noteworthy recognition of the historical and cinematic importance of David Perlov's film and the professional restoration work of the Visual Center," said Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev.

### New Israeli and Italian Film Collections

■ The Visual Center's Online Film Database currently includes 9,600 film titles, of which 6,000 are viewable at individual computer stations in the Center. The database offers a wide spectrum of contents of all genres, including complete collections of leading international and Israeli distributors.

## Righteous Finally Honored; Survivor Continues Search for Next of Kin

■ In 2005, 12 people traveled from Sydney, Australia to Lviv, Ukraine (previously Lwow, Poland) to visit the attic of an old building where Charlotte (Lottie) Vidor had been hidden during the Holocaust. Wishing to honor her rescuer, Stanislaw Samborska, all Lottie had was her own testimony that the event occurred, but no extra information to submit to Yad Vashem's Commission for the Designation of the Righteous Among the Nations.

In order to "fulfill historic justice," Charlotte persisted in the search for documentary evidence of her rescuer. With the extensive help of Shalom Norman, Director-General of the Harry O. Triguboff Institute in Israel, Lottie finally found citations of Samborska's existence in an archive in Lviv. Samborska had moved in 1946 from Lwow to Krakow, Poland, where she was buried in 1957. The Triguboff Institute also obtained a photograph of Samborska's tombstone for the Commission.

In January 2015, Yad Vashem posthumously awarded the title of Righteous Among the Nations to Stanislaw Samborska. While none of Samborska's relatives has yet been located, Norman is committed to helping the Vidor family in the search so that Yad Vashem may one day be able to present her next of kin with the medal and certificate in her name.

The Visual Center recently acquired three new films from Ruth Diskin, a prominent Israeli distributor working out of Jerusalem, who has deposited 45 Holocaust-related films in the collection to date. Diskin Films' wide-ranging collection presents stories of remarkable individuals from Belgium, France, Slovakia, Hungary, Italy and other countries. One of the new films, *Ein Apartment in Berlin* (2011), a documentary by Alice Agneskirchner, was the result of the director's desire to understand the recent influx of young Israelis to Berlin. She engages three of them in a project involving a journey back to Berlin's Jewish community prior to WWII. *Kafka's Last Story* (Sagi Bornstein, 2011), charts the saga of Franz Kafka's life and his literary creations, from Prague to a small apartment on Spinoza Street in Tel Aviv, where Eva Hoppa lives with dozens of cats. The film is itself a "Kafkaesque" detective story, which attempts to shed light on the enigmatic Czech-Jewish writer and the fate of his legacy. Another detective story presents new and disturbing

## Memories from the *Shtetl*

■ On 22 October 2014, a unique evening of Jewish culture took place in the Valley of the Communities at Yad Vashem: violin and clarinet, Yiddish and Ladino, music and poetry all combined to create a rich and multi-nuanced event that endeavored to recreate the spirit and cultural creativity of the Jewish *shtetl* before the *Shoah*.

Yiddish was brought back to life through Yiddishspiel Theater actress Anat Atzmon, who sang the poetry of Mordechai Gebiertig, and Ladino was granted a renewed youthfulness by singer Shuli Natan. Actress Hadar Galron presented humorous moments in the life of the Jewish mother, and klezmer musicians stirred the hearts of the audience with every vibration of their stringed instruments.

Master of Ceremonies Benny Hendel orchestrated this all with grace and energy, sprinkling the evening with stories and anecdotes of life in the *shtetl*.

One of the highlights of the evening was the screening of a short documentary of the wedding of the daughter of the Rebbe of Munkács in 1933. Though brief, the powerful film clip provided the audience with a precious view of the inner sanctum of Jewish life before the war.

This unique evening was generously supported by Yad Vashem Benefactors Philip and Rose Friedman. Earlier in the day, the Friedmans dedicated the "Jerusalem Garden" at Yad Vashem in honor of their parents, Holocaust survivors

information about the demise of leading 20<sup>th</sup> century thinker Walter Benjamin, who died, tragically, "on the way to freedom," as Gershom Scholem wrote. David Mauas' *Who Killed Walter Benjamin* (2005) asks startling questions about what really happened to Benjamin at the end of his desperate flight from the Nazis.

Director and producer Ruggero Gabbai visited the Visual Center in September 2014 to deposit his four Holocaust films, co-produced with the Fondazione Centro di Documentazione Ebraica Contemporanea (CDEC) in Milan. Gabbai's films are devoted to the experiences of Sephardic communities during the Holocaust. His earliest film, *Memory* (1997), provides a rare opportunity to listen to the stories of Italian Jewish survivors of Auschwitz, as they reminisce about their lives before the Holocaust, and recall how they coped and survived as young people. In *Sarajevo: Abraham's Children* (2003), Gabbai uncovers the drama of Jews and Muslims reaching out to each other in Sarajevo during WWII, as well as during the Yugoslav wars of the 1990s.

## Limor Karo



■ Left to right: singer Shuli Natan, actress Anat Atzmon, violinist Sania Kroitor



■ Left to right: American Society for Yad Vashem Development Director S. Isaac Mekel, Yad Vashem Director General Dorit Novak, Ambassador Danny Ayalon, Philip and Rose Friedman, Geoffrey Friedman

Alexander and Aranka Friedman and Lipot and Esther Steinmetz, and in memory of their family members murdered during the *Shoah*.

The author works in the Commemoration and Public Affairs Division.

*The Jews of Fossoli* (2006) documents the Italian concentration camp that served as the main transit camp from which many Italian Jews were deported to Nazi extermination camps. Gabbai's latest work, *The Longest Journey: Rhodes-Auschwitz* (2013), competed for the Avner Shalev Yad Vashem Chairman's Award in 2013. The film relates the story of the Jewish community in Rhodes through the testimonies of three survivors, Stella Levi, Sammy Modiano and Albert Israel. The survivors' personal stories bear witness to an ancient, culturally diverse and vibrant community, whose remaining members were deported to Auschwitz in July 1943, from the greatest geographical distance, and at the twilight of the horrific campaign to annihilate the Jews of Europe.

The Visual Center continues in its mission to collect and preserve every film and audio-visual creation about the Holocaust.

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

During September 2014–January 2015, Yad Vashem conducted some 250 guided tours for more than 2,700 official visitors from Israel and abroad. These guests included heads of state and local government, lawmakers and ambassadors, religious leaders, NGO officials and journalists. Following is a small selection of its honored guests over these past five months:

■ Accompanied by Czech government ministers, **Prime Minister of the Czech Republic Bohuslav Sobotka** (pictured) visited Yad Vashem on 25 November. **Czech Foreign Minister Lubomír Zaorálek** toured the Mount of Remembrance on 5 November.



■ During his visit to Yad Vashem on 14 January, **Spanish Foreign Minister José Manuel García-Margallo y Marfil** participated in a ceremony in the Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations honoring the six Spanish Righteous, including Sebastián de Romero Radigales, who was posthumously honored in September 2014. As head of the Spanish diplomatic delegation in Athens during the war, Radigales did everything in his power to help the Jews, often going against his own government's policies.



■ **Ethiopian Foreign Minister Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** visited Yad Vashem on 24 November.



■ **Prime Minister of Serbia Aleksandar Vučić** toured the Holocaust History Museum on 1 December.



■ After touring the Holocaust History Museum on 3 November, **Danish Foreign Minister Martin Lidegaard** (left) wrote in the Guest Book: "This living memorial is a stark reminder of man's capacity for depravity and evil: the murder of six million Jews in the Holocaust. Horror that must never happen again. But it is also a reminder of lights in the darkness, such as the rescue of Jews in Denmark in October 1943." The Foreign Minister was guided by Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries Dr. Robert Rozett (right).



■ During his tour of Yad Vashem on 19 January, **Prime Minister of Japan Shinzō Abe** visited the Holocaust History Museum and the tree dedicated to Japanese Righteous Among the Nations Chiune-Sempo Sugihara.



■ **Foreign Minister of Malta George W. Vella** toured the Holocaust History Museum on 29 October.



■ **Six imams from Senegal** visited Yad Vashem on 25 November during their first-ever visit to Israel. Their keen interest in learning about the Holocaust was also expressed in their commitment to act in the face of injustice and human suffering.



## Honoring and Remembering Loved Ones at Yad Vashem

■ When Sam Wagman (né Grunfeld), ז"ל, a Holocaust survivor from Borislav, Poland, passed away in October 2014, it was obvious to his son, Richard, and his brothers that Sam's memory should be honored at Yad Vashem, and his family encouraged Sam's friends and relatives to send donations in his memory. "Yad Vashem is the ideal place to teach Jews and non-Jews alike what my family – my parents, aunts, uncles and grandparents – went through," explains Richard, describing an upbringing of tolerance and forgiveness, and how his parents never had ill-feelings toward any of the people who oppressed them. Both parents were hidden during the war; and on a recent family roots trip to Poland, Sam and his family found Richard's mother's hiding place in Ostrowiec and met the daughter of the farmer that hid her, as well as Sam's home in Borislav and the local Catholic school's three-foot-high basement in which he hid for 22 months.



■ Sam Grunfeld (Wagman) as a child before the war with his father, Yakov Grunfeld

Yad Vashem is indeed a dynamic place of intergenerational and international encounter, perpetuating the legacy of the Holocaust to future generations. Last year when the Wagman family took a tour of the Mount of Remembrance, Richard notes, "it had such an impact on all of us – both adults and children. My father would have been proud to be there with us."

## Journalists from the FSU Tour Mount of Remembrance

■ In November 2014, a group of leading Jewish journalists from the Commonwealth of Independent States paid a visit to Yad Vashem. The visit took place during a joint seminar initiated by the Genesis Philanthropy Group (GPG) and Nativ of Israel's Prime Minister's Office, in cooperation with the Jerusalem Press Club. The journalists toured the Holocaust History Museum and participated in a ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance in the presence of Yad Vashem Director General Dorit Novak; Anna Perelman, Director of the GPG Israel Office; and Irit Frommer-Kfir, Head of Content and Activity Development at Nativ.

A question-and-answer session with Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev followed the ceremony. The successful visit was covered in well-known newspapers and websites throughout the FSU.

## Expanding Cooperation with the ITS

■ The ITS (International Tracing Service) was established by the Allies in 1943 in order to investigate the fates of victims of Nazi persecution. The ITS archives in Bad Arolsen, central Germany, hold some 30 million documents regarding persecution, forced labor and the Holocaust, which can help shed light on the fate of numerous individuals. Yad Vashem microfilmed most of the collection in the 1950s, but since 2008 has been using a digital copy of the ITS collections. Today, seven countries, including Israel, the UK and the US, hold copies of the archives, and most of them offer the public help in searching for information on victims of the Nazi regime.

In recent months, Yad Vashem has initiated two important events as part of Israel's role this year as Chair of the International Commission of the ITS: a workshop for ITS collections service providers at Bad Arolsen in October 2014, and a first-ever educational seminar for ITS workers in Jerusalem in December.

The two-day workshop in Germany aimed to share the copy-holding institutions' experiences in working with the elaborate system. Present at the workshop were representatives from Yad Vashem, ITS-Bad Arolsen, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Wiener Library in London, the French National Archives and the Documentation and Research Center on the Resistance in Luxembourg. At the workshop, each organization presented case studies based on queries for research on individuals. The studies emphasized the

Making a donation in honor of a life's milestone such as a bar or bat mitzvah, or in memory of a loved one, is a meaningful way to mark these events. With this support, the donor as well as next generations share the torch of Holocaust remembrance. A donation to Yad Vashem in memory or in honor of a loved one also facilitates Yad Vashem's continuation as the home for historical records, personal stories, tremendous losses and visions of hope.

"Yad Vashem has a very important place in our hearts," says Richard. "My father wanted to tell the world how important it is to recognize our past, as well as the miracle that he – and the Jewish people as a whole – survived."

*Donations can be made at [www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org) or at [donate@yadvashem.org.il](mailto:donate@yadvashem.org.il) or sent to: Yad Vashem International Relations Division, P.O. Box 3477, Jerusalem 9103401, Israel.*

diverse nature of the queries each organization receives, and the fact that the organizations do not rely solely on ITS material to respond to such queries – rather, they draw from other sources in their archives to allow for more comprehensive replies. Other issues, such as further cataloguing and indexing, as well as publication on the Internet, were also discussed. The workshop ended with a commitment regarding future cooperation to increase researcher access to the system, and to develop search aids and other tools.

A delegation of 18 ITS educators and staff took part in a weeklong seminar at the International School for Holocaust Studies. The delegation included young academics with a pedagogical background as well as veteran archivists. The program emphasized aspects such as the deportations, the "Final Solution" and the impact of the Holocaust on modern Israeli and Jewish society. Participants heard lectures from leading experts on the Holocaust, participated in pedagogical workshops and spent time in the Yad Vashem Archives, meeting with Archives Director and Fred Hillman Chair for Holocaust Documentation Dr. Haim Gertner and Archives Division staff. "Thank you all for helping our staff see themselves and their work... with more perspective," said ITS Director Dr. Rebecca Boehling at the seminar's end. "They gained so much from their visit, on both a personal and professional level."

*The ITS seminar at Yad Vashem was generously supported by ICHEIC and the Adelson Family Foundation.*



# Friends Worldwide

## USA

■ On 16 November 2014, the **American Society for Yad Vashem** held its Annual Tribute Dinner in New York, chaired by American Society Trustee and Yad Vashem Benefactor **Mark Moskowitz**. Yad Vashem Builder **Sigmund A. Rolat** was honored with the Yad Vashem Remembrance Award for his commitment to Holocaust remembrance and education. Also recognized was the late Righteous Among the Nations **Varian Fry**, represented by his son **James Fry**. **Marc Chagall, z"l**, who was rescued by Varian Fry, was represented by his granddaughter **Bella Meyer**.



Left to right: American Society Chairman **Leonard Wilf**, 2014 Honoree **Sigmund A. Rolat**, American Society Trustee **Barry Rubenstein**, **Mark Moskowitz**

■ Holocaust survivors **Bernard** and **Lusia Milch** (second and third from right), who lost members of their family in the Holocaust, visited Yad Vashem with their niece and nephew **Rikki** and **Barry Kaplan** and cousins **Channa** and **Avihu Ettinger**. They toured the Holocaust History Museum and the Children's Memorial.



■ **Jerome** and **Simona Chazen** (right) recently visited Yad Vashem, meeting with Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** (center), Director General **Dorit Novak** (second from left), and Deputy Director of the International Relations Division **Sari Granitza** (left). The Chazens reviewed search results of family



Left to right: Leonard Wilf, James Fry, Bella Meyer, American Society Executive Committee Member and a founding chair of the Young Leadership Associates **Caroline Massel**

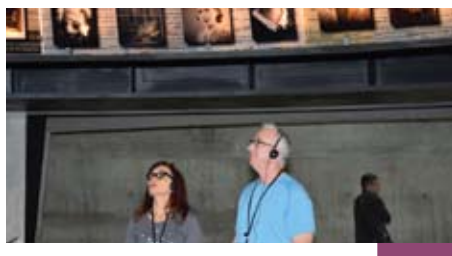


Yad Vashem Council Chairman **Rabbi Israel Meir Lau** (left) with Consul General of the State of Israel **Ido Aharoni**

members murdered during the Holocaust, and also toured the Museum of Holocaust Art.



■ After touring the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial, **Jeffrey Davidson** and **Beth Grossman** concluded their visit in Yad Vashem's Archives, where they reviewed search results for family members murdered during the Holocaust.



■ Yad Vashem mourns the recent passing of Holocaust survivor and Yad Vashem Benefactor **David Shapell, z"l**.



Originally from Wolbrom, Poland, David survived the *Shoah* by escaping to Russian-occupied eastern Poland, where he was interned in a Russian labor camp. Later, he volunteered in a Polish battalion under Russian command until the end of the war.

Following liberation, David married Fela in Germany in 1949. They immigrated to America, eventually settling in Los Angeles, where David, together with his brother Nathan Shapell and brother-in-law Max Webb, established one of the most successful real estate development companies in California.

Troubled with the question of how the *Shoah* will be remembered in the coming years, and specifically whether future generations will believe the Holocaust actually happened, David and Fela made it their mission to commit themselves to Holocaust education, leading them to partner with Yad Vashem in building the David and Fela Shapell Family *Shoah* and Heroism Study Center for Youth, which was inaugurated in 2006. In addition, David and Fela endowed Yad Vashem's Visitors Center in 2003, and were the driving force behind the building of Yad Vashem's future Art and Artifacts Repository.

David Shapell's tradition of benevolence is being emulated by his children, Rochelle, Benjamin and Irvin, and their spouses.

■ 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 his wife **Niza Shprung**, he shared his story as an Auschwitz survivor with a group of Birthright students, in the classroom that he dedicated to the memory of his late wife **Menora Hacker, z"l**.



■ During a visit to the Mount of Remembrance, Yad Vashem Pillar and American Society Executive Committee Member **Dr. Axel Stawski** (center) met with International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (right) and American Society Executive Director **Dr. Ron Meier** (left). He also toured the International School for Holocaust Studies and the Names Collection Center.



■ Yad Vashem Builder **Gerald Barad**, son of former American Society Treasurer **Ulo Barad, z"l** and **Etta Barad**, visited Yad Vashem with family and friends, where they met with **Shaya Ben Yehuda**. Their visit included a tour of the Holocaust History Museum, Square of Hope, Synagogue, Archives and Valley of the Communities. Left to right: **Amit Rothchild, Tamara** and **David Dunn**, Shaya Ben Yehuda, Gerald Barad



■ Holocaust survivor and Yad Vashem Guardian **Rudolph Tessler** (left) visited Yad Vashem, where he attended the "Memories from the *Shtetl*" evening of Jewish culture, sponsored by Yad Vashem Benefactors **Philip** and **Rose Friedman** (see p. 19). Mr. Tessler was seated next to Ambassador **Danny Ayalon** and his wife **Anne** (center), and **Dorit Novak** (right).



■ During their visit to Yad Vashem, **Marcy Gringlas** (second from left) and **Joel Greenberg** (second from right) met with Chairman **Avner Shalev** (center). They viewed a presentation by Lily Safra Chair of Holocaust Education and Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies **Dr. Eyal Kaminka** and the International School's Pedagogical Director and Fred Hillman Chair in Memory of Janusz Korczak **Shulamit Imber**. They also took a behind-the-scenes tour of the Archives with **Sari Granitza**, accompanied by American Society Development Director **S. Isaac Mekel** (left) and **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (right).



■ Yad Vashem Guardian **Alan Pines** recently visited Yad Vashem with his wife **Elisa**, daughter of Yad Vashem Guardians **Murray, z"l** and **Louise Pantirer**. They toured the Children's Memorial, Holocaust History Museum, Archives and Synagogue.



■ **David Selden** and his wife **Julie Wallick** toured Yad Vashem with Julie's two sons, **Randy Rubin** (left) and **Mitchell Rubin** (right). They visited the Holocaust History Museum, the Children's Memorial, and the Hall of Remembrance.



■ **Wayne Zuckerman**, son of Yad Vashem Sponsor and Schindler Holocaust survivor **Abe Zuckerman, z"l**, visited the Archives with his wife **Deborah**, where they viewed his father's prisoner card from the Mauthausen concentration camp.



■ **Adam** and **Suri Sokol** (right) and **Mendy** and **Susanna Sokol** (left) visited Yad Vashem to mark the bar mitzvah of their son and grandson **Yehuda Eitan** (center) in the Synagogue.



■ Holocaust survivor and American Society Treasurer **Marvin Zborowski**, brother of the American Society's Founder and Chairman **Eli Zborowski, z"l**, visited Yad Vashem with his wife **Celina**. Marvin shared his experiences from the Holocaust with other visitors to the Holocaust History Museum. The Zborowskis also viewed the menorah that they donated to Yad Vashem together with the Skura family.



# Friends Worldwide

■ **Ygal Sonenshine**, together with his wife **Justice Sheila Prell Sonenshine** (pictured), recently visited Yad Vashem as chairs of a delegation to Israel comprising members of the Young Presidents' Organization and the World Presidents' Organization.



## AUSTRIA

■ A special ceremony held at the Austrian Parliament posthumously honored 11 Austrian Righteous Among the Nations. The event was organized by Austrian Parliament President **Doris Bures** and the Israeli Embassy in Austria in the presence of Israel's Knesset Speaker **Yuli Edelstein**. Israel's Ambassador to Austria **H.E. Mr. Zvi Heifetz** presented the awards, which were granted by Yad Vashem.



## UK

■ **Lady Irene Hatter** (right) visited the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial with her friends **Liz Harris** (center) and **Lesley Aaronberg** (left) on 21 October.



## CANADA

■ At the **Canadian Society for Yad Vashem's True Heroes Tribute Gala II** on 30 October, which was attended by close to 1,000 guests and raised more than \$2.5 million, **Nicolas Sarkozy**, President of the French Republic 2007-2012, gave the keynote address and was presented with the Carol Deutsch portfolio.



Left to right: Canadian Society Executive Director **Yaron Ashkenazi**, Dinner Co-chair and Yad Vashem Benefactor **Ed Sonshine**, Dinner Benefactor and Yad Vashem Pillar **Joe Gottdenker**, Nicolas Sarkozy, Canadian Society National Chair **Fran Sonshine**, Dinner Co-chair and Yad Vashem Guardian **Fred Waks**, representative of TD Bank (Dinner Sponsor) **Andrew Phillips**, Yad Vashem Director General **Dorit Novak**, International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda**

■ At the Gala, **Bernhardina and Elizabeth Gertruida van de Pol** were posthumously recognized as Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem. Ambassador of Israel to Canada **H.E. Mr. Rafael Barak** and Dorit Novak presented **Henry Brouwer** and **Dini Craig** with the certificate and medal on their forebears' behalf.



■ Canadian Society Board member **Dr. Naomi Azrieli** (right), Chair and CEO of the Azrieli Foundation, acted as MC at a question-and-answer session with Nicolas Sarkozy (left) at the Gala.



■ At the Gala, **Ludwik and Monika Koszycz** were posthumously recognized as Righteous Among the Nations. H.E. Mr. Rafael Barak and Dorit Novak presented the medal and certificate to the Koszyczs' descendants, **Zbigniew Cofnas** and **Luba Chwajewski**.



■ **Ed Sonshine** (center) and **Fred Waks** (right) were the Gala's Masters of Ceremonies. Musical interludes by violinist **Ariella Zeitlin-Hoffman** and pianist **Gershon Wachtel** enhanced the evening.





■ On 29 October, Yad Vashem donors **Howard** (second from right) and **Carole Tanenbaum** (left) visited the Yad Vashem Archives, specifically the Photo Preservation Laboratory, donated to Yad Vashem through their generous support. They were accompanied by Yad Vashem Archives Director and Fred Hillman Chair of Holocaust Documentation **Dr. Haim Gertner** (right) and Conservation Laboratory Director **Varda Gross** (second from left), who informed them of the most recent archival restoration projects.



■ Yad Vashem supporters **Alex and Marcia Burstein** (left) toured Yad Vashem with their friends **Dr. Bernard** (second from right) and **Arlene Zitsow** on 29 October.



## NORWAY

■ On 22 October, part of a delegation led by the former director of Help the Jews Home (HJH) **Eli Finsveen** visited the Holocaust History Museum. The rest of the group was informed about the “Gathering the Fragments” project in the Yad Vashem Archives by **Orit Noiman**, **Lital Beer** and **Efrat Komisar**. Current HJH Director **Rebekka Rodner** visited Yad Vashem on 4 November and met with Director of the French-speaking countries and Benelux Desk **Miry Gross**.



## AUSTRALIA

■ **Paul Kaufman**, a Trustee of the **Australian Friends of Yad Vashem** who manages the campaign to commemorate victims and survivors of the Holocaust, visited Yad Vashem on 13 October and viewed his own plaque in the new extension to the Memorial Cave (pictured).



■ **Joseph and Gerda Brender** (left) toured the Holocaust History Museum on 3 December, followed by a behind-the-scenes tour of the Archives by Archives Director and Fred Hillman Chair of Holocaust Documentation **Dr. Haim Gertner**.



■ Yad Vashem Benefactor **Baba Schwartz** (second from left) visited Yad Vashem with her son **Danny** (second from right) on 6 December. In addition to meeting with Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** (left) and International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (right), they were shown the Artifacts Collection by Director of the Artifacts Department **Michael Tal**.



## FRANCE

■ The **French Friends of Yad Vashem** held its Gala Dinner on 24 November at Pavillon Dauphine in Paris, in the presence of Israel's Ambassador to France **H.E. Mr. Yossi Gal**. At the event, entitled “Today More than Ever, the World Needs Righteous,” French Friends President **Jean-Raphael Hirsch** handed over his tenure to **Pierre François Veil**, son of **Simone Veil**, representing the responsibility of the next generation to continue to bear the torch of *Shoah* remembrance.

Present at the Gala Dinner were **Serge and Beate Klarsfeld**; Minister Plenipotentiary at the Israeli Embassy **Zvi Tal**; Chief Rabbi of France **Chaim Korsia** and Chief Rabbi of Paris **Michel Gugenheim**; former French Chief of Defense **Jean-Louis Georgelin**; former French Minister **Nicole Guedj**; Managing Director of Yad Vashem's International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda**; and Director of the French-speaking countries and Benelux Desk **Miry Gross**. Deputy Mayor of Paris **Catherine Vieu-Charier** announced that the French capital would join the “Cities and Villages of the Righteous Among the Nations” network, created by the French Friends of Yad Vashem in 2010.

During the evening, French singer **Michel Jonasz** provided a musical performance and French author **Frédéric Encel** spoke about the geopolitical situation in the Middle East. **Nicolas Roth**, former Treasurer of the French Committee for Yad Vashem, received the “Key to Yad Vashem” for his dedication, generosity and support of the *Shoah* Victims' Names Recovery Project.



Left to right: Director of the French Friends of Yad Vashem **David Adam**, French Friends Vice President **Pierre Osowiechi**, Shaya Ben Yehuda, French Friends Vice President **François Gugenheim**, French Friends Secretary General **Jean-Pierre Gauzi**, **Barbara Veil**, Pierre-François Veil, **Miry Gross**, **Béatrice-Halpern Boukris**, and Jean-Raphaël Hirsch

# Friends Worldwide

## CHINA

■ **Drew M. Nuland** toured the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial on 28 October. He was also given a behind-the-scenes tour of the Yad Vashem Archives by Archives Director and Fred Hillman Chair of Holocaust Documentation **Dr. Haim Gertner**.



## SINGAPORE

■ **Larry Sperling** visited the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial on 14 November.



## COSTA RICA

■ The **Kader** family was joined by Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** on the occasion of the bar mitzvah of **Joel Kader** (second from right).



## VENEZUELA

■ The **Landau** family was joined by their extended family and Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** on the occasion of the bar mitzvah of **Jaime Landau** (front row, third from left).



■ **Jackie Gelman** (left) was joined by a group of friends from Miami during his visit to Yad Vashem in November.



## MEXICO

■ The **Penhos** and **Raphael** families were joined by Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** on the occasion of the bar mitzvahs of **Rafael Penhos** (center row, third from right) and **Andres Raphael** (back row, third from right).



■ **Abraham Maya**, Vice-President of the Mexican Sephardic Community, visited Yad Vashem in November together with his wife.



■ **General Carlos Gaytán** (center), **Colonel Omar Diaz** (left), **Major Heriberto Campo** (third from left) and **Captain Jorge Garcia** (right) visited the Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations together with their wives during their tour of Yad Vashem in November.



■ **Gladys** (second from right) and **José Ison** (center) visited Yad Vashem in December on the occasion of the bar mitzvah of their grandson **José** (second from left). They were joined by their family and **Perla Hazan**. A plaque was unveiled in their honor at the International School for Holocaust Studies.



## BRAZIL

■ In September 2014, 250 employees from Banco Daycoval visited Yad Vashem. They attended a moving ceremony in the Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations in honor

of the two Brazilian Righteous, **Luis Martins de Souza Dantas** and **Aracy de Carvalho Guimarães Rosa**.



## RUSSIA

■ Yad Vashem donors **Marina** and **Alexander Dobrovinski** (right) visited the Mount of Remembrance in September. They were accompanied by Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** and Special Advisor to the Chairman **Arie Zuckerman** (left). Chairman Shalev presented the Dobrovinskis with a Carol Deutsch portfolio to express Yad Vashem's appreciation and gratitude for their support.



■ Yad Vashem donor **Ada Todd** visited the Mount of Remembrance. At Yad Vashem she visited the garden she donated and the trees she planted in memory of her late parents.



## CHRISTIAN DESK in partnership with ICEJ

■ ICEJ Canada National Director **Donna Holbrook** (left) and **Richard Holbrook** supported Yad Vashem's Shoah Victims' Names Recovery Project with a personal donation. At the unveiling of their plaque at Yad Vashem, Ms. Holbrook was accompanied by Project Manager **Cynthia Wroclawski** (right).



■ During the visit of ICEJ Norway to Yad Vashem, group members took time to pray by the tree of the Righteous Among the Nations **Corrie Ten Boom**. Front, left to right: incoming ICEJ Norway National Director **Dag Juliussen**, Director of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen**, and ICEJ Norway outgoing Director **Leif Wellerop**



■ Pastors **Jim** (right) and **Lori Bakker** (left) of the "Jim Bakker Show" toured Yad Vashem with a delegation of 300 members, accompanied by **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen** (center). The Bakkers also viewed the trees planted in honor of his family's Righteous Among the Nations.



## 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.

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# The International Institute for Holocaust Research: Publications

## *Testimony & Time: Holocaust Survivors Remember*

Sharon Kangisser Cohen

NIS 174 / NIS 128



■ Based on early testimonies of 15 Holocaust survivors taken in the immediate postwar years and interviews conducted over 50 years later, this fascinating analysis demonstrates the remarkable resilience of their memory of the past over time. While there is a strong continuity in memory of the core stories, this in-depth study also reveals an important shift in the way survivors construct, communicate and interpret their experiences over time.

## *Europe in the Eyes of Survivors of the Holocaust*

Editors: Zeev Mankowitz, David Weinberg, Sharon Kangisser Cohen

NIS 174 / NIS 128



■ For most Holocaust survivors, the memory of Europe was indelibly marked by death and destruction. In this book, a group of distinguished scholars suggests a more nuanced view by examining the perspectives of ten survivor-writer philosophers, activists and memoirists whose attitudes towards the European past were characterized by conflicting feelings of alienation and attraction. In what sense was the European heritage responsible for Jewish cultural and intellectual development and for its destruction in WWII? Was there a future for Jews in a reconstructed Europe? What alternatives were there in the postwar era to ensure Jewish physical safety and continuity? The markedly different responses provide the reader with new ways of understanding the legacy of the Holocaust.

## *Jewish Presence in Absence: The Aftermath of the Holocaust in Poland, 1944-2010*

Edited by Feliks Tych and Monika Adamczyk-Garbowska

NIS 248 / NIS 188



■ As the war ended, Holocaust survivors returned to their countries of origin hoping to rebuild their lives on the ruins of their homelands, but were often met with resentment, hostility and even violence. This book discusses the crucial elements of Jewish life in postwar Poland: the return of Holocaust survivors and the reaction of the Polish population to their return; the postwar wave of pogroms; attempts to revive Jewish religious, political and cultural life; the gradual restoration of memory, education and research; the legal status of looted property; and the present state of the Jews in Poland. Based on sources and studies rarely used before, this study provides a picture of the current Polish historiography of the Holocaust.

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

Jean Ancel

NIS 174 / NIS 128



■ June 29, 1941: the beginning of the murder of some 15,000 Jews in Iași in riots instigated by the fascist Romanian regime – a prelude to the genocide of the Jews of Romania. The thousands of Jews remaining alive in the city were crowded into two “death trains” and deported; most died of hunger and thirst. The Iași pogrom was hushed up until renowned Romanian historian Jean Ancel tracked down the relevant documents, despite being shadowed by Romanian secret police and the whitewashing and concealment of the pogrom by all of Romania’s postwar regimes. Ancel’s life mission was to reconstruct the history of the crimes perpetrated against the Jews of Romania, collect materials on the slaughter at Iași, and bring the story of this shocking event to light.

## *The Holocaust in Hungary: Selected Papers of the Tauber Fund for Research on the Holocaust in Hungary and Hungarian Jewish History*

Volume 01 – “Changing of the Guard” Within and Beyond the Trianon Border

Two Case Studies: Hódmezővásárhely and Szabadka, 1938-1944

Linda Margittai

NIS 36 / NIS 28



■ This book is a comparative presentation of case studies on the implementation and impact of Hungary’s antisemitic state policies in two towns in southern Hungary. It shows that Hungary’s anti-Jewish policies were not introduced as a result of Nazi pressure; rather, Hungary’s own antisemitic laws and decrees that came into effect from 1938 envisaged a social and economic “changing of the guard” – the transference to non-Jews of property and positions held by Jews – as an attempt by the Hungarian government to treat the perceived symptoms of economic and social problems instead of introducing real solutions. This analysis includes local characteristics of the authorities’ discriminatory objectives and strategies, and focuses on the involvement of non-Jews in the implementation of the antisemitic laws.

## *The Journey of Ilse Kaufmann: Vienna-Prague-Buenos Aires* Ilse Kaufmann and Helena Pardo

NIS 74 / NIS 58



■ Growing up in prewar Vienna, Ilse Kaufmann had a sheltered childhood. When the Germans invaded Austria in March 1938, Ilse was in Olmutz, a small town in Moravia. Four months later she was joined by her parents in Czechoslovakia, and the family’s long journey to freedom began. Ilse’s marriage to Adalbert assisted the family in establishing connections with the Argentine embassy, and in late 1941 her parents acquired Argentine passports which enabled them to flee Czechoslovakia. A year later, Ilse, her husband and their son successfully made the journey to Spain via Berlin, and then crossed the border to Lisbon, securing a place on one of the final ships to sail across the Atlantic Ocean during the hostilities, and arriving in Argentina in early 1943.