

# Yad Vashem Jerusalem

Volume 77, May 2015

New Exhibition

## Stars Without a Heaven

Children in the  
Holocaust

(pp. 16-17)



**Yad Vashem Marks 70 Years Since VE Day** (pp. 2-5)

**Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day 2015**

The Anguish of Liberation and the Return to Life: 70 Years Since the End of WWII (pp. 6-10)

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**Yad Vashem**

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■ On the cover: Dolls from the new exhibition,  
"Stars Without a Heaven: Children in the  
Holocaust" (pp. 16-17)

## Leah Goldstein

■ On 8 May 2015, the world marked the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE (Victory in Europe) Day – the day on which Nazi Germany capitulated and victory was celebrated by the Allied armies and millions of people worldwide. Amongst the Allied forces, including the US, Russia, Great Britain, Canada and South Africa, as well as the Polish Army and the Jewish Brigade, were some 1.5 million Jewish fighters and military personnel who served on all fronts in Europe and the Pacific. In many cases, the percentage of Jews fighting was greater than the percentage of Jews in that country's population.

A state ceremony marking 70 years since the end of the war was held on 7 May by the Museum of the Jewish Soldier in WWII at the "Yad Lashiryon" Armored Corps Memorial at Latrun – located in central Israel – in cooperation with Yad Vashem. Israel's President Reuven Rivlin, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon addressed some 6,000 attendees,



■ *Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev (left) and Chairman of the Association for Establishing the Museum of the Jewish Soldier in WWII Maj. Gen (Res.) Haim Erez light the memorial torch at the ceremony.*

including WWII veterans, survivors, students and youth group members. During the ceremony, the memorial torch was lit by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev and Chairman of the Association for Establishing the Museum of the Jewish Soldier in WWII Maj. Gen. (Res.) Haim Erez.

In the lead-up to VE Day 2015, Yad Vashem launched an online exhibition, "Fighting for Freedom," featuring original artifacts, photographs and letters housed at Yad Vashem that belonged to Jewish soldiers fighting in the Allied Forces (see pp. 4-5). The exhibition is generously supported by the Genesis Philanthropy Group.

On 6 May, a symposium marking VE Day was held at Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research. Speakers at the symposium included Prof. Shlomo Avineri of the Hebrew

# Yad Vashem Marks 70 Years Since VE Day



Photograph: Yaron Harel

■ State ceremony marking 70 years since VE Day at the Armored Corps Memorial at Latrun

University of Jerusalem, Yad Vashem researcher Dr. Joel Zisenwine and former Deputy Director of the Yad Vashem Museums Division and Senior Art Curator Yehudit Shendar.

Approximately 550,000 Jewish soldiers fought in the US Armed Forces during WWII. Some 10,000 were killed in combat, and more than 36,000 received citations. Many Jewish soldiers took part in liberating the camps.

From 1941–1945, some 500,000 Jewish soldiers fought in the Red Army of the Soviet

Union; approximately 120,000 were killed in combat and in the line of duty, and the Germans murdered 80,000 as prisoners of war. More than 160,000 Jewish Red Army fighters, at all levels of command, earned citations, with over 150 designated “Heroes of the Soviet Union”— the highest honor awarded to soldiers in the Red Army (see “New Online Research Project,” right).

In the Polish army, formed to resist the German invasion, there were approximately 100,000 Jews. Some 30,000 Jews fell in battle, were taken captive

## New Online Exhibition: DP Camps and *Hachsharot* in Italy after the War

■ Before the end of WWII and in its immediate aftermath, Holocaust survivors encountered soldiers from *Eretz Israel* serving with the British Army and *Yishuv* emissaries on Italian soil. Italy became a main waystation on the survivors’ journey to *Eretz Israel*, initially in the Displaced Persons (DP) camps where they stayed, and then as a point of departure for the ships carrying immigrants – both legal and illegal – to the Holy Land. Through survivor testimony, original artifacts and photographs and related texts, a new online

exhibition marking the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the victory over Nazi Germany tells the story of some 70,000 survivors who lived in Italy during 1945–1951, in over 30 DP camps and approximately 45 kibbutzim and *hachsharot* (pioneer training collectives). While there, the survivors began the process of returning to life in all areas of religion, culture and education, while coping with the enormity of their loss. Some 50,000 survivors who lived in the camps in Italy went on to immigrate to *Eretz Israel*.

by the Germans, or declared missing during the battles defending Poland – 11,000 alone in the defense of Warsaw. Thousands of Jews later served in various Polish armies fighting with the Allies against the Germans.

About 30,000 Jews served in the British Army in 1939–1946, some in special units of Jews from Mandatory Palestine, such as the Jewish Brigade, which was formed in 1944 and helped liberate Italy in 1945. The Brigade was composed of 5,000 soldiers. The Zionist flag was chosen as its banner – making it not the first Jewish unit to fight in the war, but the first one to be recognized as representing the Jewish people. At the war’s end, members of the Jewish Brigade helped prepare Displaced Persons for “illegal” immigration to Mandatory Palestine (see “New Online Exhibition,” below). The British disbanded the Jewish Brigade in July 1946.

## New Online Research Project: Jews in the Red Army, 1941–1945

■ From 1941 to 1945, between 350,000 and 500,000 Jews served in various roles in the Red Army. The accounts of 100 of these men and women are included in a special online project conducted by the International Institute’s Center for Research on the History of Soviet Jews during the Holocaust. The project, viewable on Yad Vashem’s website, highlights those who received formal recognition, primarily as “Heroes of the Soviet Union,” for their military achievements. These were officers and privates, tank crew members and pilots, translators, doctors and nurses – men and women of all ages. The stories tell about their prewar experiences as members of the intelligentsia, their professional careers and – for those who survived the war – their experiences of postwar life, allowing for a better understanding of the effect the war had on Jewish Red Army personnel and casting light on their Jewish identity and their reactions to the Holocaust.

*The “Jews in the Red Army, 1941–1945” online research project is generously supported by the Blavatnik Family Foundation.*

70 Years Since VE Day

# Fighting for Freedom



## Artifacts from Jewish Soldiers in the Allied Armies

Sara Shor



■ Assortment of items belonging to Jewish soldiers who fought with the Allies during WWII. Yad Vashem Artifacts Collection

■ Marking 70 years since VE Day, presented here are a small selection of items from Yad Vashem's Artifacts Collection related to Jewish soldiers who fought against the Nazis – items that tell the singular combat stories of these soldiers who, while advancing with their armies and pushing the German army back, were exposed to the destruction of European Jewry that took place under German occupation:

■ David Murin, a Jewish soldier in the Red Army, found a torn piece of a Torah scroll parchment on the ground in Rozisce, Poland, when his unit entered the town. Murin retrieved the parchment – a tangible memento of the rich Jewish life that had existed and now lay in ruins – and kept it safe in his army backpack throughout the war, even at the height of battle. Only when Murin returned to Riga after the war did he discover that he was the sole survivor of his family.



■ David Schonfeld, born in Boston, enlisted in the US forces in 1943 and fought in Belgium, France and the Netherlands. At the end of

the war, in a village in the vicinity of Aachen, a German villager, looking among the American troops for a Jewish soldier, was directed to Schonfeld. The man held a box of jewelry that had belonged to his Jewish neighbor, a jeweler who specialized in carving ivory, who had been deported to the camps and presumably murdered. The villager was now intent on returning the jewelry to Jewish hands. Schonfeld refused to take the box but agreed to take one bracelet. One bead from the bracelet remains.



The man held a box of jewelry that had belonged to his Jewish neighbor, a jeweler who specialized in carving ivory. The villager was now intent on returning the jewelry to Jewish hands

■ Marius Garb, a Jewish soldier in the South African Army, participated in the decisive battle of El Alamein. When the enemy's lines were broken, and the German Army pulled back, Garb found a Nazi flag in an abandoned German jeep and inscribed on it: "Taken on 5 November 1942, behind the El Alamein lines." Garb kept the flag as a symbol of the Allied victory and the defeat of the German army.



■ Included in the ranks of the various armies were a number of Jewish women, among them, Ernestina-Yadja (Minz) Krakowiak (today Edna Peled). Krakowiak joined the Polish division of the Red Army established by Wanda Wasilewska, serving in an artillery division as a typist. She was one of two women in her unit who participated in many battles, among them the liberation of Warsaw and the occupation of Berlin. For her participation, Krakowiak was awarded both Polish and Soviet medals.



# The Anguish of Separation

## Children and their Rescuers

Irena Steinfeldt



■ **Moshe Lersky**, a soldier in the Polish division of the Red Army, was among the units that liberated Majdanek. Lersky, who had participated in the battles to free cities and towns in eastern Poland, now came face-to-face with the horrors of the extermination of his fellow Jews. On a pile of clothes, Lersky found a prayer shawl and prayer book that had belonged to one of the victims and took them with him, keeping them safe and finally bringing them with him upon immigrating to Israel.

■ Among the soldiers of the Jewish Brigade of the British Army, made up of fighters from pre-state Israel, was **Shmuel Gafnavicius (Gafni)**. In the letters he wrote to his sister in Israel at the end of the war, Gafnavicius describes his attempts to discover the fate of their other sister, who had remained in Kovno. Regarding the end of the war, he wrote: "I celebrated the 'holiday of liberation' in the 'comfort' of the wagons of a freight train, but we received suitable compensation when, at each station, we met trainloads of German prisoners-of-war who stared at our flags with their Stars of David as we traveled towards their country."



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

■ In 1942, three-year-old **Bernard Tuch** of Antwerp, Belgium, was brought to the home of the **Willems family**, who lovingly sheltered and cared for him. After liberation, when they learned that his parents had not survived, Bernard's uncle came to reclaim the little boy. However, Bernard refused to leave the home of his rescuers. The uncle, who wished to be united with the only other survivor of their family, turned to the courts, and the family was forced to restore the child to his relative. Bernard later recalled how his uncle, who thought it best for the child to sever all ties with the Willemses, refused to give them access to him. Sadly, a short time later, Bernard's uncle – a young and traumatized survivor himself – found it too difficult to care for him, and regretfully brought him to an orphanage. In his testimony, Bernard Tuch laconically describes the painful transition: "From a loving Catholic Flemish home, I arrived at an unfamiliar, French-speaking Jewish orphanage."

Bidding farewell to their rescuer families after the war exacted a high price not only from the children, but also from the rescuers who had cared for them for months and often years. In many cases, the ties between the benefactors and those they saved developed into a profoundly close relationship, with the shared experience during the Holocaust period fusing them into a cohesive family unit.

There were also cases in which rescuers and survivors cut off all ties because one side or the other could not bear to experience the excruciating pain of separation again. In certain cases, there were disputes, including legal ones, related to the continued custody of children. Some rescuers refused to return the children, believing with all their hearts that the parents, due to the traumas that they had experienced, would be unable to give the children a warm home or raise them properly. When no family members survived, the rescuers could not understand why the child should be raised in an institution at a time when they themselves could offer him or her a loving family.

Even when the children were returned to the Jewish world, some children found it extremely difficult. Sometimes, they still had a faint memory of their original family; in other cases, parents or relatives suddenly reappeared in the child's world as complete strangers. The upheaval was terrible – for a second time, children were forcibly cut off from the life and



■ **Bernard Tuch**, a child in hiding, 1943. *Yad Vashem Photo Archives*

family to which they had become accustomed. Moreover, the challenge of rebuilding a new life was enormous: Surviving parents returned from the war bruised and penniless, whereas the rescuing family could provide warmth, love and stability. Many children ran away to return to the homes of their rescuers, viewing them as their "real" family.

The case of **Jan and Wilhelmina Strating** from the Netherlands is exceptional. This childless couple hid **Samuel de Leeuw** (b. 1941) in their home in Heerlen. After the war, Samuel's mother, **Elizabeth**, came to reclaim

**Some rescuers refused to return the children, believing with all their hearts that the parents, would be unable to give the children a warm home or raise them properly**

her child. The three adults decided that Samuel would have three parents. He would live with his mother in Amsterdam, but that Jan and Wilhelmina would share all family events and enjoy Samuel's visits.

In many cases, however, it was only decades after the end of the war and the anguish of parting after liberation, that survivors revisited their past, and once again sought out contact with their rescuers. Many of them still turn today to the Department of the Righteous Among the Nations at Yad Vashem with requests to recognize their rescuers, lest their inspirational and exceptional kindness be forgotten forever.

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

# The Anguish of Liberation and the Return to Life: 70 Years Since the End of WWII

Prof. Dina Porat

The Central Theme for  
Holocaust Martyrs' and  
Heroes' Remembrance  
Day 2015



■ Farsleben, Germany, 13 April 1945: Moment of liberation by the US Army of a transport carrying some 2,500 prisoners from Bergen-Belsen to Theresienstadt. Credit: US Army, Major Clarence Benjamin, 743<sup>rd</sup> Tank Battalion of the 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Major Benjamin stopped fighting the Germans and went with his troops to liberate this train. Source: Matthew Rozell, *teachinghistorymatters.com* Collection of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Courtesy: Dr. Gross

■ On 8 May 1945, when the defeated Germans finally capitulated to the Allied Forces, great joy spread throughout the world. Throughout the European continent, barely freed from the clutches of the Nazi regime, military parades and celebrations followed one another in close succession. Yet one group of people did not take part in the general euphoria – the Jews of Europe. For them, victory had come too late.

The day of liberation, the one for which every Jew had longed throughout the years of the Holocaust, was for most a day of crisis and emptiness, a feeling of overwhelming loneliness as they grasped the sheer scale of the destruction on both the personal and communal level. Some six million Jews had been murdered – about one-third of world Jewry, and those who had survived were scattered throughout Europe: Tens of thousands of survivors of the camps and the death marches, liberated by the Allied armies

## How would the survivors be able to go back to living a normal life, to build homes and families? And having survived, what obligation did they bear towards those who had not?

on German soil and in other countries, were in a severely deteriorated physical condition and a state of emotional shock. Others emerged for the first time from various places of hiding and shed the false identities they had assumed, or surfaced from partisan units in whose ranks they had fought for the liberation of Europe. In the wake of international agreements signed at the end of the war, some 200,000 additional Jews began to make their way back west from the Soviet Union, where they had fled and managed to survive the war years.

With the advent of liberation, piercing questions arose in the minds of the survivors: How would they be able to go back to living a normal life, to build homes and families? And having survived, what obligation did they bear towards those who had not? The overwhelming majority of survivors took no revenge on the Germans, but set out on a path of rehabilitation, rebuilding and creativity, while commemorating the world that was no more.

During the Holocaust, many Jews lived with the feeling that they were the last to survive. Nevertheless, after liberation, survivors went far and wide in search of family members, friends and loved ones who might also have stayed alive, against all odds. Many decided to go back to their prewar homes, but they encountered utter destruction. In some places, especially in Eastern Europe, Jews met with severe outbreaks of antisemitism – more than 1,000 Jews were murdered in the initial postwar years by the locals. The most appalling episode was the Kielce pogrom – a violent attack in July 1946 by Polish residents against their Jewish neighbors – in which 42 Jews were murdered, some of them the sole survivors of entire families, and many others were injured.

The Kielce pogrom became a turning point in the history of *She'erit Hapleita*, as the surviving remnant as Holocaust survivors began to be known. A mass migration entitled *Habricha* (The Escape) saw as many Jews as possible finding their way to territories controlled by British and US troops in Germany, as a step before leaving Europe. These refugees joined the tens of thousands of Jewish survivors liberated in Central Europe, and together they amassed in the DP camps across Germany, Austria and Italy. Oftentimes, these camps were established at the sites of former Nazi concentration camps, among them Bergen-Belsen and Buchenwald.

The activities of *She'erit Hapleita* in the DP camps were a powerful expression of the survivors' efforts to return to life after the war. They formed new families and an independent leadership, set up educational and foster-care facilities for children and youth, published dozens of newspapers and magazines, collected testimonies on the fate of Jews during the Holocaust, and became a significant factor in the Zionist movement's international aspirations towards the establishment of a Jewish state.

About two-thirds of the survivors who chose not to remain in Europe after the war set their sights on *Eretz Israel*. Yet going to Israel was a formidable struggle, in view of the policies imposed by the British Mandate that barred them from entering. As part of the effort to break through the borders and prohibitions, the illegal immigration movement – *Ha'apala* – was organized, whereby survivors boarded old vessels in various Mediterranean ports and sailed for *Eretz Israel*. The remaining third of the survivors immigrated to the US, Latin America, South Africa, Canada and Australia.

*Ha'apala*, as well as immigration to other countries, was a pivotal stage in the survivors' postwar recovery process. Holocaust survivors contributed, each in their own way, to building a better world for themselves, for their children and for future generations that would never know the horrors of the Holocaust. As survivor Riva Chirurg, who lost dozens of family members in the Lodz ghetto and at Auschwitz, said: "If more than 20 people, second and third generation, gather around my *Pesach Seder* table, I know I have done my share."

The author is Chief Historian of Yad Vashem.

# Torchlighters 2015

Compiled by Ehud Amir



■ This year, Yad Vashem's honored torchlighters reflected the strong will to survive until liberation and rebuild their lives afterwards, despite their incredible traumas and hardships:

**Avraham Harshalom** was born in 1925 in the town of Pruzhany in Poland (today Belarus) to Cyra and Mozes. Avraham escaped death at Auschwitz by pretending he was older than he really was, and after one failed escape attempt managed to blend in with Polish prisoners sent to various labor camps. During an evacuation, he and two friends ran away and were eventually hidden in Prague by a woman later recognized as Righteous Among the Nations. Avraham joined the Underground and fought against the retreating Germans, and was decorated as a Czech hero. He served in the Israel Air Force during the War of Independence.



**Dov Shimoni** (né Erwin Schwarz) was born in Budapest, Hungary in 1919 to Moshe and Gizela. During WWII, Dov worked tirelessly to set up and run hospitals for the Jewish sick and injured. He managed to recruit maintenance workers and orderlies, who brought food and medicine into the ghetto and took patients out of it. After liberation, Dov set about restoring the Jewish hospital in the city, and managed health institutions in Hungary. In 1949, Dov immigrated to Israel. He worked at a military hospital (now Tel Hashomer) and then in managerial capacities at hospitals and health care organizations.



**Ephraim (Moshe) Reichenberg** was born in 1927 in the town of Pápa, Hungary to Avraham and Mahala. On arrival at Auschwitz, he and his brother Menashe pretended they were twins to escape the gas chambers. They

became the subjects of brutal experimentation by the infamous Dr. Mengele, but maintained their human dignity by supporting each other throughout their ordeal. Surviving a death march against all odds, the brothers were liberated in May 1945. After Menashe succumbed to his injuries, Moshe changed his name to Ephraim in memory of his brother, after the sons of the biblical Joseph. Ephraim reached Israel in 1948, serving in the Hagana and Palmach. Having lost the use of his vocal chords as a result of Mengele's experiments, today he tells his life story through the aid of a speaking device.



**Sara Weinstein** née Chait was born to Benjamin and Miriam in 1935 in the town of Stepań, Poland (today Ukraine). During the ghetto's liquidation, Sara, her parents and some of her siblings were given shelter by a family friend. This friend and his wife, along with Sara's mother, were later murdered by Ukrainian villagers. Sara fled to the forest with her father and her remaining siblings, where they remained for two years in extremely difficult conditions. After liberation, Sara's father was murdered by local Ukrainians, and Sara and her sisters were taken into children's homes. She arrived in Israel in 1947, and served in the IDF. Today she tells her story to students, IDF units and youth groups. She is active in Amcha, a support organization for Holocaust survivors, which she calls her "second home."



**Eggi (Ernst-Günther) Lewysohn** was born in 1924 in Breslau, Germany (now Wrocław, Poland) to Georg-Josef and Käte. Just before the war, Eggi's Youth Aliya group was sent to Denmark, where they went to work on various farms. Once a week, the group met and studied Hebrew, Jewish history and Zionism. In

October 1943, they were caught and deported to Terezin. Under terrible conditions, Eggi formed a cooperative group with three friends, sharing food and clothing. In April 1945, Eggi was liberated with a group of Danish Jews in a deal brokered by Count Bernadotte. After recuperating in Sweden, Eggi visited his sister in England. In 1951, he arrived in Israel. Eggi gives his testimony in schools across Israel.



**Shela (Rachel) Altaraz** was born in 1934 in Štip, Macedonia, to David Sion and Dudun. Shela's older sister Bella managed to escape the family's deportation to Treblinka, taking her little sister Shela with her. After Bella took her own life, Shela found work as a housekeeper, and then took sanctuary in a Muslim village. She was caught and transferred to a concentration camp for political prisoners. Shela was the only child in the camp; at night she would wake up screaming from nightmares



After liberation, she was cared for by other female survivors and spent four years in an orphanage, where she finally allowed herself to cry

about what she witnessed there. After liberation, she was cared for by other female survivors and spent four years in an orphanage, where she finally allowed herself to cry. Shela arrived in Israel in 1949. She served as a medic in the army, and then worked as a nurse in Jerusalem and at a WIZO children's home.

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

# Holocaust Remembrance Day

Limor Karo



■ *Snapshots from the range of activities and educational projects held at Yad Vashem marking Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day 2015*

■ Some 2,600 people – Holocaust survivors from Israel and abroad, members of the Diplomatic Corps, IDF soldiers and youth from around the world – participated in the **State Opening Ceremony** for Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day on Wednesday 15 April, under the banner “The Anguish of Liberation and the Return to Life: 70 Years Since the End of WWII.” At the ceremony, the President and Prime Minister addressed the audience, and six torches were lit (see p. 7) representing the six million Holocaust victims. On behalf of the survivors, Hana Meiri told the story of her childhood under the shadow of a lost identity. The Chief Rabbis of Israel led the memorial

prayers, and singer Avraham Tal and actors Amos Tamam and Anya Bukstein presented the artistic portions of the evening, including passages from memoirs written by Holocaust survivors describing the moment of liberation.

■ The inclement weather did not deter the hundreds of participants at the following morning's **Wreath-Laying Ceremony**. Some 130 wreaths were laid on the floor of the Hall of Remembrance, including official wreaths and those laid by survivor, veteran and public organizations.

■ Immediately following the wreath-laying, the annual “**Unto Every Person There is a Name**”

ceremony took place in the Hall of Remembrance, moderated by Director of the Hall of Names Dr. Alexander Avram. Many members of the public commemorated their loved ones and others murdered in the Holocaust by reciting their names out loud. The ceremony was also conducted in Israel's Knesset (parliament) building, where ministers, members of Knesset and visitors all participated in the national effort to remember those lost during the *Shoah*.

■ Later in the day, the **Main Memorial Ceremony** was conducted in the Hall of Remembrance, during which the Eternal Flame was rekindled

# 2015

For the first time, the thousands of visitors to Yad Vashem went "behind the scenes" to view films, documents, artworks and artifacts from its Collections – all presented by experts in their fields



## Mini-Site for Holocaust Remembrance Day

As in years past, Yad Vashem launched a mini-site marking Holocaust Remembrance Day with a variety of related online resources for the public, including the central theme, photo galleries of the official events, the stories and videos of the torchlighters, educational materials, names for name-reading ceremonies, related online exhibitions and "Snapshots of Memory" – images of the Yad Vashem campus throughout the day.



and prayers recited. Archives Director and Fred Hillman Chair for Holocaust Documentation Dr. Haim Gertner moderated the event.

This year, for the first time, the thousands of visitors to Yad Vashem during the day were able to go "Behind the Scenes" into the everyday work of the Remembrance Authority. At a number of stations throughout the campus, they heard lectures, saw films and viewed documents, artworks and artifacts from the Yad Vashem Collections – all presented by experts in their fields.

At the **Youth Movement Ceremony**, which was held towards the end of the day in the Edmond J.

Safra Lecture Hall in conjunction with the Ministry of Education's Youth and Social Administration, hundreds of youth movement members and representatives of youth councils listened attentively to the testimony of Holocaust survivor Mordechai Czechanower. Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev and the Ministry of Education's Director-General Michal Cohen also addressed the audience. The Yad Vashem Candelabra was lit by survivor Aryeh Milrad, accompanied by youth movement representatives, and Shenhav Mizrahi of "Maccabi Youth" spoke on behalf of all the movements.

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

# Education

## Educational Programs for Holocaust Remembrance Day Focus on the Anguish of Liberation and the Return to Life

Miri Bar, Tamar Don, Daphna Galili, Daniel Goldblatt, Merav Janou and Yochi Nissani

### “Mu-zika” Reaches 4,000 Youths in Ashdod

■ During the week of Holocaust Remembrance Day, the city of Ashdod hosted a series of ten performances from the project “Mu-zika: Ashdod Youth Sing Songs of the Holocaust.” “Mu-zika” enables youths from different artistic backgrounds to encounter the Holocaust in informal ways, and express themselves in a process of musical creation. Young people who find music a powerful means of expression composed, arranged and performed songs, whose lyrics were written by poets who survived the Holocaust and other members of their generation. In keeping with this year’s theme, the songs expressed the complex process of returning to life after WWII.

Preparations for the show included a seminar at Yad Vashem, during which the participants studied major periods of the Holocaust and discussed issues concerning the shaping of remembrance. A musical producer, a vocal development teacher and various professionals accompanied the learning and creative process.

Approximately 4,000 youths from the city of Ashdod watched the performances, including schoolchildren and youth movement members, who also took part in preparatory workshops ahead of the show.

### Special Program for “Masa” Participants

■ Some 2,600 young adults – including 1,000 participants of the Jewish Agency’s “Masa” work/study programs for Jewish youth from abroad – took part in special programs at the International School for Holocaust Studies on the eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day, before attending the State Opening Ceremony in Warsaw Ghetto Square. Activities included meetings with Holocaust survivors, workshops, and a discussion on Holocaust remembrance in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The following day, the School organized meetings with artists and academics, who shared their thoughts on Holocaust remembrance today. The unique program included a screening and discussion of the film *The Matchmaker* with director Avi Neshet and the film *Torn* with Holocaust survivor Prof. Jakub Weksler; a discussion



■ Some 4,000 young people watched performances of “Mu-zika: Ashdod Youth Sing Songs of the Holocaust” for Holocaust Remembrance Day 2015

with cartoonist and illustrator Michel Kichka about his book *Second Generation: Things I Never Told My Father*; and a musical and theater performance.

### “Memory through the Lens”: A Joint Project with ORT

■ In the lead-up to Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yad Vashem’s Family Plaza featured an exhibition entitled “Memory through the Lens,” displaying photographs of Holocaust survivors. Accompanying texts dealt with the survivors’ memories from the end of the war and their lives today, corresponding to this year’s annual theme: “The Anguish of Liberation and the Return to Life.” The exhibition was created by 10<sup>th</sup> - through 12<sup>th</sup> - grade students from ORT Israel schools, who interviewed Holocaust survivors in their communities after attending special seminars at Yad Vashem to enrich their knowledge about the Holocaust era as well as hone their interviewing skills. In a series of meetings with photographer Yaron Ben-Horin, the youths studied elements of the art of photography: technique, editing, composition, and more.

“The ‘Memory through the Lens’ exhibition is the product of a moving and fascinating encounter between young people and Holocaust survivors living among them,” said Masha Pollak-Rozenberg, Director of the International School’s Study Seminars Department. On

Holocaust Remembrance Day, the students and the survivors documented in their artwork came to Yad Vashem, where they explained the project to different educational groups who visited that day.

### Postcards of Memory

■ A few years ago, the International School for Holocaust Studies and the Faculty of Graphic Design at the Neri Bloomfield School of Design and Education in Haifa teamed up in a joint project in which junior-year students design a series of postcards about the Holocaust. This year, the students designed their entries with inspiration from Yad Vashem’s annual theme, marking 70 years since the end of WWII. “Our work deals with the complexity of remembrance: how survivors dealt with the memory of their lives before the Holocaust, and the void facing them as they rebuilt their lives afterwards,” said students Hadar Mizrahi and Mor Glick. “The postcards illustrate various ways of coping and the different outlooks among survivors.”

Another two students, Yasmin Weizmann and Galit Steinberg, noted that they sought to deal with two tiers in their design: the person before the war and the person they became afterwards. “We wanted to express the rupture and handle the questions that arose in its wake,” they explained.

*The authors work in the Guiding Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.*

## EU Delegation Seeks Further Cooperation

■ In March 2015, a delegation of the Mission of the European Union to Israel paid an official visit to Yad Vashem. Led by EU Ambassador to Israel H.E. Mr. Lars Faaborg-Andersen, the delegation met high-level staff, visited the Holocaust History Museum, took a behind-the-scenes tour of the Archives Division, and acquainted themselves with the International School for Holocaust Studies' various interdisciplinary projects, as well as its advanced pedagogical and educational tools

for perpetuating the memory of the *Shoah* across cultures.

A question-and-answer session with Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, Lily Safra Chair for Holocaust Education and International School Director Dr. Eyal Kaminka, and Director of the International School's European Department Richelle Budd-Caplan allowed the delegation to focus on the existing forms of official cooperation between Yad Vashem and the European Union and to reflect on how they

might be expanded in the future. "EU cooperation with Yad Vashem is ongoing in the 'Horizon 2020' program and bilaterally with some of our Member States," remarked Ambassador Faaborg-Andersen. "We hope to continue to work together through remembrance and education to perpetuate the memory of the *Shoah* and to sustain the values of morality and freedom shared by the EU and Israel."

## Furthering Holocaust Education in Italy

■ In the spring of 2015, Yad Vashem



Chairman Avner Shalev and Simonetta Saliera, President of the Emilia-Romagna Regional Legislative Assembly (a regional parliament based in Bologna), signed a memorandum of understanding to promote Holocaust education among Italian educators and pupils. Building on their successful prior ventures, including a seminar held at the Legislative Assembly for Italian Yad Vashem graduates, this agreement is expected to fortify the cooperative relationship between the institutions and further common goals.

In recent years, Yad Vashem has considerably enhanced relations with Italian educational authorities, as well as with the Italian Embassy to Israel. The Italian Ministry of Education, Universities and Research also extended official accreditation to seminars conducted at Yad Vashem for Italian educators.

## Christian Leaders Enrich Their Knowledge of the Holocaust

Dr. Susanna Kokkonen

■ The sixth annual International Christian Leadership Seminar took place at the International School for Holocaust Studies in April 2015. The seminar, co-hosted by the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem, was sponsored by the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ) German Branch and the Museum of the Bible, Washington, DC.

Dr. Stacy Lee, Senior Pastor of Covenant Kingdom International in Phoenix, Arizona, who has served in the Christian ministry for over 30 years, was one of the leaders attending the 2015 seminar along with his wife, Dr. Michelle Adair-Lee. "I believe that Christians can only stand with Israel if they know and understand what happened. I came to attend this seminar so I would know the truth about antisemitism, the Holocaust and Israel today," said Dr. Lee. "While I had previously learned about Hitler and his intent to murder the Jews, here at Yad Vashem I sadly discovered how ordinary people also became perpetrators of the crimes. In addition, I saw the propaganda against the Jews, and understood how that contributed to



■ Dr. Stacy Lee and Dr. Michelle Adair-Lee

the Holocaust. I consider the Holocaust to be the most important world event to be taught and remembered."

The Lees are determined to encourage more Christians to become connected with Yad Vashem. "I will be using my pulpit as well as my TV programs to speak about what I learned here," added Dr. Lee. "I will be confident in asking Christians to pray for Israel because I now have the knowledge I need."

*The author is the Director of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem.*

## New Schools Join ICHEIC Partner Network

■ In the spring of 2015, the Yad Vashem-ICHEIC (International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims) Partner School Network welcomed its latest member schools: the Heinrich Kleist School in Hesse, which joined in February, and North Rhine-Westphalia's Christian Dietrich Grabbe Gymnasium and Realschule St. Martin, which joined in March.

With ten different schools located in various federal states in Germany, the network provides opportunities for German-speaking graduates of the International School for Holocaust Studies

to pursue closer cooperation between their schools and Yad Vashem.

The Hermann Leeser School in Dülmen, which has been a Partner School since September 2014, is currently writing a book geared for students about the life of Hermann Leeser. Leeser was a well-known local industrialist until his death following the *Kristallnacht* pogrom in November 1938. The school is located on the former site of Leeser's factory. The Refik Veseli School in Berlin, which renamed itself after an Albanian Righteous Among the Nations, joined the Yad Vashem-ICHEIC Partner School Network

in October 2014. On 9 March 2015, a group of 13 pupils from the school visited Yad Vashem, where they received a special guided tour and met with a Holocaust survivor.

A new project involving four Partner Schools in North Rhine-Westphalia (Annette von Droste Hülshoff Gymnasium, Hermann Leeser School, Christian Dietrich Grabbe Gymnasium, Realschule St. Martin) is currently being explored in conjunction with Villa Ten Hompel in Münster – a memorial site for offenses committed by the police and government administration during the National Socialist period.

## Youth Movement Congress Marks Ten Years

■ **How did youth movements change in the wake of the Holocaust, if at all?** What measure of responsibility and obligation did individuals have for the movements and their values during the war? And what role did they fulfill for individuals after liberation?

On 12 February 2015, the Youth Movement Congress met for its tenth annual gathering at Yad Vashem, this year focusing on the youth movements and their activity at the end of WWII. Approximately 350 members of various youth movements, young men and women performing a year of volunteer work around Israel before enlisting, participated in the congress, including Bnei Akiva, Hashomer

Hatzair, Beitar, the Israel Scouts and Druze Youth.

The day began with a comprehensive tour of the sites and memorials around the Mount of Remembrance, during which participants discussed the issue of liberation – a complex and multifaceted event for the Jewish survivors – and the postwar activities of the remnants of the youth movements. Following a joint guiding activity between the youth leaders and Yad Vashem guides, a fruitful discourse yielded fascinating insights and created a bridge between the participants, who represented many different groups within Israeli society.

Miri Bar



The congress concluded with an emotional encounter with Holocaust survivor Malka Rosenthal. At the end of the meeting, representatives of the youth groups gave Malka their written pledge: “We, members of the youth groups, commit to carrying the banner of the memory of the martyrs and heroes of the Holocaust in Israeli society. We assume the responsibility to continue leading in the study of the Holocaust, and to act in the spirit of its meanings.” At the end of the congress, a guide to activities in different communities around Israel leading up to Holocaust Remembrance Day was distributed to all the participants.

*The author is the Informal Education Coordinator of the Guiding Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.*



## Holocaust Remembrance Day 2015 – Educational Materials

Jonathan Clapsaddle

■ **In line with this year’s Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Day, the International School for Holocaust Studies launched a dedicated subsite focusing on this year’s theme: “The Anguish of Liberation and the Return to Life: 70 Years Since the End of WWII.”** The site ([ow.ly/MOjMe](http://ow.ly/MOjMe)) includes videos covering various facets of the years immediately after the war and how they can be approached in the classroom, as well as lesson plans and ceremonies, online exhibitions, photo galleries, discussion of survivor artwork, pedagogical and historical articles, background information and more.

The website also debuted two new educational videos, part of the Holocaust Education Video Toolbox project ([ow.ly/M0kpr](http://ow.ly/M0kpr)). These videos – “Liberated but Not Free” and “The Return to Life in the DP Camps” – focus on the immediate postwar experience of many of the survivors, from the moment of liberation

through the Displaced Persons (DP) camps and emigration from Europe. Incorporating video and photographic archival footage from the postwar period, survivor testimony and material incorporated into Yad Vashem study units on the subject, International School staff member Sheryl Ochayon stresses the importance, and the unique educational aspects, of teaching this period in history, a bittersweet period for the survivors. The war had ended, but in almost all cases survivors were left without most or all of their families, without a home to speak of, and with a difficult, uncertain future ahead.

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

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

## Seminar for Community Leaders from Latin-America, Spain and Portugal

■ **From 14–23 April 2015, the fourth annual seminar for Latin-American and Spanish community leaders was held in the International Seminars Wing of the International School for Holocaust Studies.** Seventeen participants, hailing from Argentina, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico and Miami, attended lectures by International School staff as well as by academics and experts in various fields. Attendees also participated in the official ceremonies held at Yad Vashem for Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Day.



*Yad Vashem seminars for educators from abroad are generously sponsored by the Claims Conference and the Adelson Family Foundation.*

# “I Have Survived, I Have Lost Everything”

## First Letters after Liberation

Dr. Iael Nidam-Orvieto

■ Upon liberation, many Holocaust survivors reached out in letters to their remaining family and friends. These letters provide firsthand genuine accounts, written in real time, about this painful chapter in Jewish history.

In the Yad Vashem Archives there are scores of first letters, written in various languages, many of which were donated to Yad Vashem in recent years through the “Gathering the Fragments” national campaign to collect Holocaust-era artifacts (see p. 15). Most of these letters are unknown, and have never been read by the public. At present, the International Institute for Holocaust Research, together with Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries Dr. Robert Rozett, is collating the letters and researching their authors and content, with a view to their publication – in Hebrew and English – in the near future.

One of the main goals of these invaluable testimonies was to give a first account of the horrors that the writers, their families and their communities experienced during the years of Nazi rule. Though often brief, they are dense with information. In this way, they believed they were upholding an unwritten testament of the victims: to tell and not to forget. These letters illustrate the state of mind of the writers in this crucial period, when they struggled to tally their losses and create new lives. After describing what happened to his family, one survivor wrote: “Don’t be angry with me for writing to you everything. It hurts, but it must be written. It must be known. That is the only thing we can do in order to honor the memory of our holy victims.” As such they reflect what the survivors wanted to communicate most to those who were important to them, and they constitute the first unsolicited survivor testimonies.

In addition to the survivors’ letters, there are those written by soldiers who came into contact with survivors as liberators. These are the earliest, raw, unadulterated accounts by external witnesses to the effects of the German machinery of exploitation, brutality and mass murder. Their empathy for the survivors and outrage at the Germans is palpable in their words. “Everything you have heard is true,” wrote one liberator. “Now I know why I was fighting, what I was fighting for.”



■ Postcard sent from Brussels, Belgium by survivor Heinz Benjamin to his brother Manfred in Eretz Israel, 10 October 1944. In the postcard, Heinz tells Manfred begs his brother to “do all you can to bring me to you.”

In addition to the survivors’ letters, there are those written by soldiers who came into contact with survivors as liberators. These are the earliest, raw, unadulterated accounts by external witnesses to the effects of the Nazi machinery of exploitation, brutality and mass murder

The main feeling that comes out of most of the letters is immense suffering. During the war, most Jews concentrated on surviving and couldn’t allow themselves to express their pain. But liberation changed this. All of a sudden they realized how many of their beloved ones were gone. The horrors they experienced, the feelings of loneliness and of mourning, were often overwhelming. “I have survived, I have lost everything,” reads one postcard. And one

survivor states: “I want so strongly to hug you, all of you, and just cry.” Sometimes they even express feelings of guilt for being alive. As one young girl wrote: “How can I justify myself to you for having survived, for having seen burning ovens, red flames in the sky? For having seen thousands of people brought daily to the gas chambers... By surviving, I betrayed everyone else. And there is no forgiveness for that.”

And yet we also see in these letters the seeds – the very first signs – of recovery, the will to return to life and find the strength to rebuild their lives and be reunited with family or friends. “When I received your letter I started shaking with happiness,” wrote one survivor. “I had tears in my eyes. ‘Am I dreaming?’ I thought. ‘Is it possible?’ Yes, it’s the reality. I am reading your letter, my dear brother. I have no patience. I want to already be with you.”

Undoubtedly this anthology will be of use to different audiences. It will provide previously unknown source material for researchers and the public at large; eyewitness accounts for use in the classroom; and moving readings for ceremonies. But perhaps most saliently, this anthology will open a stirring, new and panoramic window on the humanity of survivors and liberators both.

The author is Director of the International Institute for Holocaust Research.

# “I Cried Once More When I Got Your Letter”

## The Story of Brothers Henry and Menni Stern

Miriam Urbach-Nachum

■ In the wake of the *Kristallnacht* Pogrom in November 1938, anxious Jewish parents in Europe began searching for ways to save their children from future threats. Approximately 10,000 Jewish children, mostly from Germany, were sent to Britain on the *Kindertransport* between December 1938 and the outbreak of the war in September 1939.

One of those children was 14-year-old Henry (Heinz) Stern. His older sister, 17-year-old Ruth, was too old to be included in the group; their parents, Albert-Avraham and Hertha-Hanna Stern, also registered their younger son, 11-year-old Menni (Hermann)-Naphtali, but the quota of children permitted to leave was filled and Menni stayed with them in Germany. Some of the extended family immigrated to Ecuador in February 1941. Albert and Hertha hoped to immigrate with their children to the US, but their visa application was denied.



■ Brothers Menni and Henry Stern reunited in Italy after the war, August 1945

On 1 December 1941, 318 Jews from Stuttgart, including the Stern family, were put on passenger trains heading eastward. After four days, the train reached Skirotawa, where the passengers' agonizing tribulation began. Under a torrent of beatings and yelling, the deportees were marched approximately ten kilometers to the Jungfernhof concentration camp, near the city of Riga. Within this camp, which was designed to hold 450 inmates, some

5,000 Jews from various cities in Germany were imprisoned in terrible conditions of fierce cold, starvation and overcrowding.

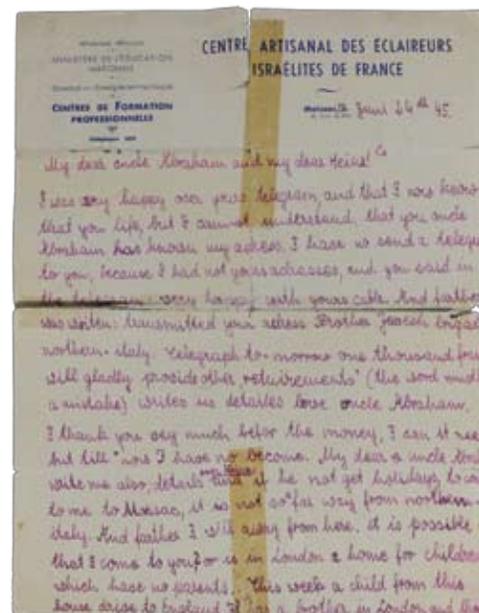
On 26 March 1942, the camp was liquidated. Under false promises of being moved to a place with improved conditions, most of the camp's

### After receiving a letter from Henry, Menni informed his brother of the sad news about their parents and sister

prisoners – including Albert, Hertha and Ruth Stern – were taken to the nearby Bikernieki Forest, where they were shot to death and buried in mass graves. Menni was one of the few hundred kept back to destroy all previous traces of the camp. For the next three years, he was sent from one camp to another, escaping death over and over, among other reasons due to his great resourcefulness.

After liberation, Menni finally reached a convalescent home in Moissac, southern France. He sent a telegram to his family members in Ecuador, asking his uncle to inform his brother Henry in England that he had survived. In July, after receiving a letter from Henry, Menni informed his brother of the sad news about their parents and sister. “Today I sent off the form to search for relatives... I want to tell you, so that there will be no illusions whatsoever, that there is in fact no hope that our parents are still among the living.” In his next letter, Menni related the terrible day their parents and sister were murdered. “The time for farewell had come, and our dear parents and Ruth went where we will never see them again... That was the last time that I cried bitterly – when I saw Mother getting in the truck and realized that the murderers meant the worst... For the first time, after almost four years, I cried once more when I got your first letter.”

Henry Stern had enlisted in the Jewish Brigade in 1944, serving as an interpreter for German POWs. In August 1945, while he was in Italy with his unit, the brothers finally met



■ Letter from Menni Stern in Moissac, France to his older brother Henry (Heinz) in London, 24 July 1945

for three days, catching up on each other's story since they had parted seven years earlier.

Although desperate to take vengeance on his persecutors, Menni decided to sail for Israel and fight in the War of Independence. After demobilization in 1950, he settled in Jerusalem, and in 1951 he married Erna, a Holocaust survivor whom he met in Moissac. Meanwhile, Henry became one of the founders of Kibbutz Lavi in the Galilee.

In 2014, Henry gave Yad Vashem the letters that his brother wrote to him after the war. These letters document the power of the brothers' reunion, which gave Menni strength, after the terrible years of war, to rise from the ashes and look forward with hope: “September 10, 1945: To my dear Heinz, from his brother, who has been reborn and looks out at the world, smiling!”

*Yad Vashem runs the “Gathering the Fragments” campaign in cooperation with the Ministry for Senior Citizens, Ministry of Education and the Landmarks National Heritage Program at the Prime Minister's Office. Since the campaign's inception four years ago, over 7,300 people have donated some 150,000 Holocaust-related personal items, including 83,000 documents, 60,000 photographs, 3,150 artifacts, 500 works of art and 174 original films.*

*The author is a researcher in the “Gathering the Fragments” Campaign, Archives Division.*

## New Exhibition

# Stars Without a Heaven

## Children in the Holocaust

■ *“I was alone in the world, a boy alone in the world... but the light, there was always some sort of light.”*

Holocaust survivor and author  
Aharon Appelfeld

On 12 April 2015, “Stars Without a Heaven: Children in the Holocaust,” opened at Yad Vashem’s Exhibitions Pavilion. The new exhibition presents a collection of anecdotes, narratives and memories of Jewish children



caught up in the crucible of the Holocaust, an event of horrifying genocide and unspeakable cruelty. Of the six million Jews murdered in the *Shoah* were approximately one-and-a-half million children. Only relatively few survived, against all the odds.

“It is especially difficult to present the world of Jewish children during the *Shoah*, as there is an extreme paucity of materials available illustrating their personal stories,” explains the exhibition’s curator Yehudit Inbar, Director of Yad Vashem’s Museums Division. “Consequently, the starting point for this exhibition was that everything that could assist in reflecting the lives, dreams and achievements of the children had a potential use. On exhibition are items from Yad Vashem’s Artifacts, Art and Archives Collections, enhanced by films made about the children, artworks created by their relatives, music composed to accompany lyrics written by them during the Holocaust, and more.”

The Holocaust put an abrupt end to childhood. In many cases, children became the breadwinners of the family and encouraged their parents to continue the desperate struggle

for survival. Nevertheless, they remained children, and whenever they could, they played, laughed, wrote stories and drew pictures expressing their fears and hopes. “The drawings, diaries, poems, music, letters, and toys offer a fascinating look at childhood in the shadow of the Holocaust,” says Inbar. “Their vitality, creativity, imagination, perceptiveness regarding interpersonal relationships, determination to survive and maintain their optimism despite the circumstances - all portray the depth of children’s capabilities.”

To augment the displays, Yad Vashem contacted the Department of Ceramics and Glass Design of the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, Jerusalem, and the Department of Visual Communication Design of the Holon Institute of Technology-HIT. Students from both institutions were invited to a day of study, during which they were exposed to various stories of children gleaned from survivor testimonies. The students created works of art from ceramics, porcelain and glass, thus enriching the visual representation of the lives of children during the *Shoah*.



Following the entrance lobby, in which Designer Niv Ben-David presents “Childhood before the Holocaust,” Exhibition Designer

Chanan de Lange, a long-standing partner of Yad Vashem in visual displays, created a symbolic “forest” structured around eight major themes: play, learning, friendship, identity, work, home, family and rites of passage. Each one of the 33 “trees” contains a main story, with additional stories played on digital screens. A few trees present more general themes, such as orphanages and youth groups.

One of the trees is dedicated to the story of Martha Goren, who as a young girl was given refuge by a Polish family and their housekeeper. Martha took on her new “Polish” identity so well that at the end of the war, it was extremely difficult for her to leave her adopted family and



Christian customs behind. Exhibited in the “tree” are a few childhood photographs of Martha, a copy of the religious icon she wore around her neck during her time in hiding, the certificates bestowing the title of Righteous Among the Nations upon her rescuers, and part of a filmed testimony she gave at Yad Vashem. Also on display is a delicate glass sculpture depicting her struggle with her religious identity, and two animated films illustrating the emotional turmoil she experienced in parting both from her biological mother and from her adopted mother. “I am so moved that you have found a way to commemorate my family within this exhibition,” said Martha at a pre-opening visit. “I don’t think my mother could have ever imagined



The starting point for this exhibition was that everything that could assist in reflecting the lives, dreams and achievements of the children had a potential use

Leah Goldstein



that I would survive, that I would come to Israel and I would manage without her – that I would have a husband and children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren... It is so difficult for people who weren't there to imagine what it was like, but this exhibition will help both adults and young people connect to the emotional world of the children during the *Shoah*."

"Martha's story represents so many other children who are unable tell what happened

to them," summarizes Yehudit Inbar. "She also embodies the positive energy so many of these innocent minors emitted in a world turned upside-



Students created works of art from ceramics, porcelain and glass, or animation, thus enriching the visual representation of the lives of children during the *Shoah*

down. Martha is a shining example to us all of how, with the right combination of chance, as well as assistance and optimism, it is possible to raise oneself from the lowest depths and make one's life – and the world – a better place."

*The exhibition was made possible by the Warren family, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren in honor of Nomi Warren (USA), survivor of Auschwitz, Ravensbruck and Bergen Belsen; and through the generosity of Yvette Graubart Blaiberg (Belgium); The Paul & Pearl Caslow Foundation, Esther and David Mann and Betty Breslaw (USA); and Carter's Inc. in honor of Avraham Bondi Livnat (USA).*

# Yad Vashem Online



Dana Porath

## “Our Goal is that All of You Will Die Along the Way” The Death March to Volary: New Video-Based Online Exhibition



■ On 20 January 1945, some 1,300 female Jewish prisoners were forced to begin a march from Silesia in western Poland. The infamous death march ended 106 days and 800 km later in the town of Volary in Czechoslovakia, not far from the border with Germany and Austria: 106 days of rigorous marching through snow

Their testimonies portray in painful detail what happened to them and to some of the other women along the way, including whippings and beatings and horrific public executions

and icy winds, 106 days of gnawing hunger and sickness, humiliation, torture and murder. Along the way, women from other camps were forced to join the march – most were murdered, few escaped. By the end of the march, only 350 women had survived, against all odds.

In a new, video-based online exhibition, drawing upon the most updated research on the death marches, some of the survivors tell their powerful story. Their testimonies portray in painful detail what happened to them and to some of the other women along the way,

including whippings and beatings for having wet or dirty clothes while being forced to dig anti-tank trenches in the snow; defenseless, starving women shot by drunken German officers; horrific public executions after escape attempts; and the “five weeks in Hell” in the Helmbrechts concentration camp in Bavaria. As survivor Herta Goldman recalled when she asked an SS officer where they were taking them: “We don’t have a destination,” he said. “Our goal is that all of you will die along the way.”

Also integrated into this exhibition are video testimonies from the soldiers who liberated the women. “My first glance at these individuals was one of extreme shock, not ever believing that a human being can be degraded, can be starved, can be so skinny and even live under such circumstances,” recalled Major Aaron S. Cahan, a US medical officer appointed to oversee the care of the survivors. “When I entered the room I thought that we had a group of old men... I was surprised and shocked when I asked one of these girls how old she was and she said 17... at least fifty percent of these women would have died within twenty-four hours were they not located and given the best of care.”

“The Death March to Volary” concludes with a short film depicting how, despite their terrible physical and emotional traumas, the survivors managed to return to civilization and begin their lives anew.

## Armenian Righteous Among the Nations

■ Among the rescuers of Jews during the Holocaust were Armenians, some of them motivated by the memory of the atrocities committed against them at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. These acts of rescue took place in countries to which the Armenians fled subsequent to the genocide – Ukraine, Crimea, France, Hungary and Austria. A new online exhibition featuring their stories joins others in a series that focuses on different aspects of the Righteous Among the Nations.



## “Women of Valor” – Now in Spanish

■ The online exhibition “Women of Valor: Stories of Women Who Rescued Jews during the Holocaust” was launched in Spanish on International Women’s Day, reaching Spanish-speaking audiences on Facebook throughout Women’s History Month.

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

# “We Believed We Were the Only Ones”

## Teacher from Moscow Discovers Family in Israel

Deborah Berman

■ On 30 March 2015, two cousins who found each other thanks to Yad Vashem's Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names met for the first time. The emotional and unexpected meeting between Tatiana Zuckerman of Moscow (66) and Shalhevet Sara Ziv of Kfar Sava (67) took place during an educators' seminar at the International School for Holocaust Studies, coordinated in partnership with the Holocaust Foundation based in Moscow.

Tatiana had come especially from Moscow to take part in the seminar. All her life she believed that she had almost no extended family. Apart from her mother, Rachel Perelman (Milenki) (87), an Auschwitz survivor who now lives in New York, and a very small number of distant cousins, none of her family members survived the Holocaust. During her visit, Tatiana asked for assistance searching Yad Vashem's databases to check for information about her family and their fate during the Holocaust. To her surprise, Tatiana found a Page of Testimony in the Names Database commemorating her grandmother Tzeril Milenki, who was murdered in the Minsk ghetto. The Page of Testimony



■ Shalhevet Sara Ziv (right) shows a picture of her mother Elka Kodinvinski to Tatiana Zuckerman

connection and talked for hours, comparing their family narratives and history as well as their lives today. Shalhevet showed Tatiana the family pictures and documents that she had gathered over the years and explained how her grandmother, Sarah Soreh Mara Milenki, Tzeril's sister, was burned alive along with other Jews of her town in the synagogue in Rakov. The women also remembered additional members of the family who were murdered in the Holocaust: Eta, Malka, Avraham, Mordechai Motel and Rechavam Milenki.

The meeting was especially poignant for Shalhevet, who has invested many years and

During her visit, Tatiana asked for assistance searching Yad Vashem's databases. To her surprise, she found a Page of Testimony commemorating her grandmother

much effort investigating the roots of her family. As a tribute to her grandmother Sarah (after whom she was named), and her mother, Elka Kodinvinski, Shalhevet has made it her mission to share her family's legacy. She is now able to further her research of the family tree, making corrections and additions based on information she has learned from her newly found cousin. Shalhevet is preparing to publish a book based on her research, in which she was able to trace the roots of her family as far back as 1838. For her part, Tatiana feels that she has been given the gift of a family: "I cannot wait to share this discovery with my mother; she will be deeply moved to know that others survived. All these years we believed we were the only ones."



■ Teachers from the educator's seminar in the Hall of Names

was submitted in 2011 by Shalhevet Ziv, who wrote that she was a great-niece of Tzeril.

Using social media networking to investigate, Yad Vashem staff helped Tatiana locate Shalhevet within a few hours. With translation help by Serafima Velkovich from Yad Vashem's Research and Information Services, who also assisted in finding the Page of Testimony, they confirmed that they are in fact related: their grandmothers were sisters. Shalhevet came to Yad Vashem the next morning so that she could meet with her cousin before Tatiana returned to Moscow. The two women immediately felt a strong family

■ To date, Yad Vashem has identified 4.5 million of the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust. They are commemorated and their biographies documented in the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names ([www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org)), a one-of-a-kind resource available in English, Hebrew, Russian, Spanish and German. The public is invited to search records, submit new Pages of Testimony, and add photos and personal documents. For assistance in Israel, please call: 02 644 3808. For assistance in other parts of the world, please contact: [names.proj@yadvashem.org.il](mailto:names.proj@yadvashem.org.il)



■ Leaders of the EHRI project present its achievements to date, guided by Director of the Yad Vashem Archives and Fred Hillman Chair for Holocaust Documentation Dr. Haim Gertner (second from right), Berlin, March 2015

■ On 26 March 2015, a special event took place in Berlin launching the portal of EHRI (European Holocaust Research Infrastructure) – the most important and comprehensive project in Europe today in the field of Holocaust research. This online resource contains information on more than 1,800 Holocaust-related archival institutions in 51 countries, as well as descriptions of the archival materials they hold – allowing researchers of the period to locate original documentation within their fields of investigation scattered across the continent.

Coordinated by the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies in Amsterdam, Yad Vashem has been a leading partner in the EHRI project since its inception in 2010. Over the past four years, researchers and experts from institutions in Europe and Israel have

worked together to make archives accessible and to connect collections.

At the presentation of the portal (<https://portal.ehri-project.eu>), Robert-Jan Smits, the European Commission’s Director-General of Research and Innovation, summarized the achievements of the first four years of the project, and announced the EU’s support of the next phase of EHRI’s work, with eight million Euro of funding under its “Horizon2020” program. In the second phase, EHRI will expand its activities to other countries, reaching those regions where much valuable Holocaust source material is located, but where access has hitherto been problematic, especially in southeastern and Eastern Europe.

“This is an historic landmark in European mobilization,” remarked Yad Vashem Chairman

Avner Shalev. “Specifically at a time when we are witnessing a struggle between different narratives of memory, Europe is giving the Holocaust a unique position within the common European historical narrative.”

In addition to the portal, EHRI is creating an international community of researchers to enhance the exchange of ideas, new information and a multi-disciplinary approach to Holocaust research – such as the creation of online forums in the fields of names collection, documentation preservation, photograph identification and the use of Holocaust-era artwork as an historic resource. This “people-to-people network” stimulates and enables research, contributes to the strengthening of local community consciousness, and offers educational opportunities at a local level.

## “Tommy” Passes Away

■ On 8 March 2015, Holocaust survivor and the inspiration for a book of beautiful drawings Thomas “Tommy” Fritta passed away. Tommy was drawn by the Czech artist Bedrich Fritta in 1944 as a present for his son Thomas on his third birthday – a birthday celebrated in the book the way people would celebrate outside of the Terezin ghetto in which they were imprisoned – with a party including cakes, presents and a clown. Fritta illustrated the book with drawings of the life he remembered outside the ghetto walls. He wanted to teach his son about all the things in a normal world, such as trees, parks, birds, and flowers – for the day

in the future when he hoped Tommy would face a better life. The book did not reflect reality – instead, it was a gift of optimism.

Fritta was head of the Theresienstadt ghetto’s technical department, whose workers were Jewish artists imprisoned in the ghetto. Forced to prepare propaganda for the Germans, whenever possible they also secretly documented the grim reality of their daily lives.

Bedrich Fritta was murdered in Auschwitz, and his wife Hansi died in Terezin. After the war, Tommy was adopted by his father’s friend and fellow artist Leo Hass and his wife Erna, who also recovered the manuscript.

The book was published by Yad Vashem in 1999, in both adult and children’s versions.



## Combatting Global Antisemitism

■ **The Global Forum for Combating Antisemitism, sponsored by Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, held its fifth biannual international meeting from 12-14 May 2015.** Some 500 participants – both Jews and non-Jews – took part, including public figures, political leaders, clergy, journalists, diplomats and educators.

Since the Forum's inception, representatives from Yad Vashem have played an active role in its assessments of the different forms of

antisemitism across the globe, and its strategies for effective responses. Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries Dr. Robert Rozett serves as a co-chairman of the working group combating Holocaust denial and distortion. The goal of each of the 12 working groups is to create an action plan to help guide and coordinate worldwide governmental and societal activities in the struggle against antisemitism.

In a filmed interview ahead of this year's forum, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev

said: "Seventy years after the conclusion of WWII and the horrors of the Holocaust, we could – and should – have expected that antisemitism would be a sad phenomenon of the past. Instead, it remains a menacing danger of the present. Clearly, a great challenge remains: to learn about the *Shoah* and its meanings as a counter-balance against antisemitism and as a barrier against hatred."

## Ambassadors for Names Recovery – the Genealogical Community Zvi Bernhardt

■ **Since its inception, Yad Vashem has been dedicated to identifying the names and collecting biographical information about the victims of the Holocaust.** Initially, the goal was to find out about those who were murdered and to keep their memory alive, in order to defy the Nazis' attempt to erase their personal identities and stories.

When Yad Vashem uploaded the Central Database of *Shoah* Victims' Names to the Internet in 2004, commemoration was its primary goal. "Pages of Testimony" comprised the majority of the database source material. These special memorial forms, filled out by relatives and friends about loved ones, became an essential tool for Jewish genealogists as they contained vital biographical information about the victims, their ancestral towns and family members. Defined as a work in progress, the Names Database expanded as Yad Vashem continued to collect and digitize various source material

about victims – both archival sources and lists alongside new Pages of Testimony.

Yad Vashem's cooperation with the Jewish genealogy community evolved together with the development of the Database, including joint projects with organizations like JewishGen and representation at genealogy gatherings in Israel and abroad. When Yad Vashem updated its Names Database, its experts sought feedback from the genealogy community to ensure that the Database continued to meet the needs of researchers and to remain user friendly.

Researchers have helped Yad Vashem realize the importance of recording and including information about those victims who suffered greatly at the hands of the Nazis but thankfully were able to survive. Last year, the Names Database was revised to express this extended emphasis. Along with the 4.5 million names of those who were murdered by the Nazis currently collected, the online Database now includes

details on hundreds of thousands of victims of Nazism whose fate is not clear. What is known about them is that they were inmates in camps or ghettos, were used in forced labor, or were persecuted by the Nazis or their accomplices in other ways.

This change has made the Names Database, already central to genealogical searches, more essential still. Information on a vast number of individuals not previously incorporated into the Database has now been added, and Yad Vashem has reached out to the genealogy community in Israel to publicize and explain this change. On 6-10 July 2015, Yad Vashem will be a sponsor and partner in programming at the 35<sup>th</sup> IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Jerusalem, allowing these important changes to be exposed to the wider genealogical community.

*The author is Deputy Director of the Hall of Names Department and Deputy Director of the Reference and Information Services Department, Archives Division.*

## Restoring the Identities of Fallen Soldiers Deborah Berman

■ **"Faces of the Fallen" is a volunteer project, established in 2012, to research the lives of fallen soldiers in Israel and complete the details engraved on their tombstones.** Sponsored in cooperation with the memorial unit of Israel's Ministry of Defense, the project works collaboratively with Yad Vashem to research soldiers who were born in Europe and immigrated to Israel either prior to or immediately following the Holocaust. Yad Vashem serves not only as a source of vital information about the soldiers' lives, but also helps shed light on the soldiers' family backgrounds and sometimes locates living relatives by making use of information in the Central Database of *Shoah* Victims' Names.

Many of the fallen in Israel between the years 1940-1950 were soldiers who immigrated before WWII. The majority of the families they left behind were murdered in the Holocaust. Other soldiers were themselves survivors of the horrors of the Holocaust who were recruited into

the army soon after their arrival and fell in the battle for Israel's independence. Often there is very little information about their experiences



during the war or their family background. "Faces of the Fallen" is currently researching the lives of some 300 soldiers from Europe, mainly Holocaust survivors. Headed by Dorit Perry and Uri Sagi, the project arranges for volunteers to "adopt" soldiers and research their biographies in archives in Israel and abroad.

The cooperation with Yad Vashem allows the project team to access archival databases and learn more about the fallen soldiers. Thanks to information in Yad Vashem's Names Database, project staff were able to learn more about Moshe Willinger, a survivor of Auschwitz and Buchenwald, who fell in the line of duty on 15 August 1948 at the age of 20. Tracing the history of Brent Willinger, Moshe's father, volunteers found evidence that Moshe's sister may have been murdered together with her father. They also found the name of his mother, as well as further information about his family's experiences during WWII. During an emotional ceremony held on 21 April 2015 at the military cemetery on Mount Herzl, attended by Moshe's cousins, his friends from the Bnei Akiva youth movement as well as the young volunteers who had tirelessly researched his story, Moshe Willinger's tombstone was replaced with a new stone containing the newly discovered information (pictured).

During February–May 2015, Yad Vashem conducted 144 guided tours for some 1,500 official visitors from Israel and abroad. These guests included heads of state and local government, members of royalty and ambassadors, NGO officials and families of Righteous Among the Nations. Following is a small selection of our honored guests over these four months:

■ **Ireland’s Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Charles Flanagan** visited Yad Vashem on 18 February. After an in-depth tour of the Holocaust History Museum and a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance, Minister Flanagan wrote in the Yad Vashem Guest Book: “It is not enough just to visit here and see. We must redouble our efforts to resist antisemitism throughout our world.”



■ After touring the Holocaust History Museum and participating in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance on 12 May, **German Minister of Defense Ursula von der Leyen** wrote in the Guest Book: “We are responsible for what we did, and so we hope that the coming generations will learn from what happened and never repeat those acts... we must rely upon each other for a common future.”



■ **CEO of Apple Inc. Tim Cook** visited Yad Vashem on 25 February and toured the Holocaust History Museum and Information Technology Division. In the Guest Book, Mr. Cook wrote: “I share in the enduring hope that their memory will give light to human potential to work for a greater good... and to strive for a better future.”



■ On 22 February, **President of the Chamber of Deputies of Romania Valeriu Zgonea** toured the Holocaust History Museum.



■ On 30 April, **Albanian Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Edmond Panariti** (left) visited Yad Vashem. His visit was especially meaningful because his relatives Isuf and Niqi Panariti were recently honored by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations. After a tour of the Holocaust History Museum and a memorial ceremony, Minister Panariti, along with Dr. Agron Panariti (right), son of the Righteous, visited the Garden of the Righteous, where their family members’ names are inscribed on the wall. Minister Panariti expressed how proud he was of his family and their “small contribution” to humanity, as well as his dedication to Holocaust commemoration.



## Wladyslaw Bartoszewski (1922-2015)

■ **Yad Vashem mourns the death of Wladyslaw Bartoszewski at the end of April 2015 in Poland.** Bartoszewski was a man of many talents: a historian, writer and diplomat whose life achievements encompassed much of 20<sup>th</sup>-century history. Imprisoned in Auschwitz during WWII, he wrote a detailed account of what he witnessed. He then joined Zegota, dedicated to rescuing Jews, and for this he was recognized as a Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem in 1965, one of the earliest such designations. Later in his life, he became Ambassador and Foreign Minister of Poland, and also served as the Chairman of the International Auschwitz Council.

“I had the privilege to work closely with Wladyslaw on the International Auschwitz Council, where I served as his deputy,” said Avner Shalev, Chairman of Yad Vashem. “He was an iconic figure in Poland and a true friend of Israel. His passing is a loss to humanity as well as to me personally. He will be greatly missed.”

## Prof. Robert Wistrich (1945-2015)

■ **Yad Vashem mourns the unexpected passing of Prof. Robert Wistrich, a foremost expert on antisemitism.** Prof. Wistrich headed The Vidal Sassoon International Center for the Study of Antisemitism at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and his research included important studies on contemporary antisemitism, as well as about the nature of Nazism. “Prof. Wistrich’s discussions with educators at the International School for Holocaust Studies of Yad Vashem, in explaining the phenomenon of modern antisemitism to teachers from Australia, New Zealand, the United States, China and other countries around the world, added an important dimension to their studies,” said Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. “He was able to simplify a complex and centuries-long phenomenon in a way that could be understood and tackled.”

■ **Yad Vashem also mourns the unexpected passing of historian and author Dr. Boaz Neumann.** A lecturer at Tel Aviv University, Dr. Neumann’s main field of interest was Modern German History, including Nazism and the *Shoah*, as well as the history of the early Zionist settlement of *Eretz Israel*. “Boaz was a brilliant and mindful scholar, and he will be sorely missed,” said Prof. Dan Michman, Head of Yad Vashem’s International Institute for Holocaust Research and John Najmann Chair for Holocaust Studies. “He assisted our academic work through his thought-provoking lectures, and his research has greatly benefitted our researchers and educational staff.”

# News from the International Institute for Holocaust Research

## “Jews Rescuing Jews” Symposium Marks Book Release

■ On 15 March 2015, a day symposium was held at Yad Vashem on the occasion of the release of *Rise With Me to My Fate: Jews Saving Jews Faced with Extermination* (Hebrew), a collection of historical sources edited by Dr. Avraham Milgram of the International Institute for Holocaust Research.

The anthology highlights attempts made to rescue Jews in German-conquered territory by those who were themselves potential victims of the Nazi regime during the implementation



of the “Final Solution,” 1941-1945. While conscious of the common fate that awaited all Jews, there were those who refused to flee, even in the face of clear danger to their own lives. The Jewish rescuers often sought to save Jews they did not even know; their motivation going beyond the bounds of the personal or the emotional, with something other than family ties or friendships providing the impetus to endanger themselves for others, and save as many Jews as possible.

Many of the symposium’s participants belonged to the generation of Holocaust survivors, keen to hear more about a subject of such interest and discussion. During the first session, Dr. Jeannine (Levana) Frenk presented the work of *Unzer Vort*, the underground newspaper of the left-wing Poalei Zion movement in occupied Belgium, in rescuing Jewish children, as well as the partnership between newspaper activists and the Belgian anti-Nazi underground. In the same session, Irena Steinfeldt, Director of Yad Vashem’s Department of the Righteous Among the Nations, addressed the cooperation which sprung up between Gentile and Jewish rescuers. In his fascinating testimony, David Gur (pictured), a member of the Hashomer Hatzair youth movement in occupied Budapest,

recounted how he and his friends established a document forgery workshop to protect Jews in Budapest both from the Germans and from the murderous Arrow Cross henchmen in the last quarter of 1944. In the second session,

While conscious of the common fate that awaited all Jews, there were those who refused to flee, even in the face of clear danger to their own lives

Prof. Dan Michman, Head of the International Holocaust Research Institute and Incumbent of the John Najmann Chair for Holocaust Studies, addressed the subject of rescue and its portrayal in Holocaust historiography, and Dr. Milgram addressed the objective and subjective difficulties that led to failure in the rescue attempts.

*The day symposium took place with the generous support of the Gutwirth Family Fund.*

## Workshop on Rare Diary from Dutch Concentration Camp

■ On 12 March, architectural historian and Holocaust scholar Prof. Robert Jan Van Pelt (left) of the University of Waterloo and University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, gave a special workshop at the International Research Institute. Prof. Van Pelt is particularly known in the field of Holocaust research for



his studies of the architectural plans of the Auschwitz death camp, as well as for his expert-witness testimony in the UK trial of Holocaust denier David Irving 15 years ago. At a workshop held for research fellows in the Institute, Prof. Van Pelt spoke about the diary of David Koker, a brilliant, young Dutch Jew murdered in the *Shoah*. The first edition of the diary, published in Dutch in 1978, contained

no commentary or explanations. Prof. Van Pelt annotated an English edition, which has thus far been translated into German and will soon be published in Hebrew by Yad Vashem. In his captivating lecture, Prof. Van Pelt expanded on Koker’s multi-faceted persona as a young, gifted intellectual coping with his Jewish identity at the end of the 1930s. As it is, very few concentration camp diaries – especially by Jews – are in circulation, which imbues this journal from the Vught camp in Holland with unique value. Prof. Van Pelt read aloud and analyzed a series of selections from the diary, highlighting unusually interesting and in-depth observations regarding Jews and Germans in the camp; various phenomena in the daily life of the camp; and the personality of Koker himself. The most fascinating section was a description of Heinrich Himmler, the commander of the SS (which also included the entire German Police), and his visit to the camp – a unique, real-time and remarkably non-stereotypical description of a top Nazi by an ordinary Jewish camp prisoner.

## Bankier Memorial Lecture: “Were the Italians Good Guys?”

■ Marking five years since the passing of former Head of the International Research Institute Prof. David Bankier, ז”ל, guest historian Prof. Gustavo Corni from the Department of Humanities in Trento University, Italy was invited to a two-day gathering at Yad Vashem. Maintaining Prof. Bankier’s desire to encourage young scholars, the first day was dedicated to a workshop for Israeli PhD candidates, in which Prof. Corni presented a methodological discussion on analyzing historical documents and gave useful feedback to the researchers present. The following day, Prof. Corni (pictured) gave a stimulating lecture, open to the general public, dealing with the changes of Italian historiography vis-à-vis the Holocaust in Italy and its influence on the public discourse on the myth of the “Good Italian.”



# Events at Yad Vashem: February-May 2015

Limor Karo

## Annual Purim Event

■ **Yad Vashem hosted its annual reading of *Megillat Esther* (The Scroll of Esther) on Purim in the Synagogue, attended by members of the Association of Cracovians in Israel and its President, Lili Haber, Holocaust survivors and other guests.** The story of Esther was read by



Director-General of the Shaare Zedek Medical Center Prof. Yonatan Halevy (right) from an antique parchment estimated to be hundreds of years old. After the liquidation of the Krakow

ghetto, the parchment was found in a trash heap in the Jewish quarter. Berl Schor, who was present at the Megilla reading, delivered it to Yad Vashem for eternal safekeeping. Senior Assistant to the Chairman of the Directorate Yossi Gevir (left) and Director of the Guiding Department in the Commemoration and Public Relations Division Naama Galil moderated the event.

## 71 Years Since of the Murder of Hungarian Jewry

■ ***“When does a man cry? When he is in pain. When does a Jew cry? When he remembers... The day will come when the last Holocaust survivor vanishes from the world, and there will not be a Jew left who can say ‘I was there,’ ‘It happened to me’... With the death of the last of the survivors, the world will be left without witnesses, only testimonies.”***

These moving words were uttered by Meir Gal (pictured), Chairman of the Association of Hungarian Jews in Israel, at the annual assembly marking 71 years since the annihilation of



Hungarian Jewry. Dozens of Holocaust survivors and their families participated in the gathering, which was held on 18 March at Beit Wolyn in Givatayim. Dr. Frumi Shchori, Director of the Givatayim branch of the International School for Holocaust Studies, delivered an address, as did Ambassador Gideon Behar, Director of the Department for Combating Antisemitism at Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who lectured about antisemitism in Hungary and around the world.

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

## New Benefactor: Ariel Picker

■ **Philanthropist Ariel Picker, born and raised in Mexico, is the son of Simon and Golda Picker.** Ariel’s paternal grandparents moved from Lvov to Israel in the 1930s, where they were able to safely raise their family. Sadly, his paternal grandmother (from the Gottlieb family) lost many relatives in the Holocaust.



An industrial engineer, Ariel is married to Vicky Rajunov, an attorney, and together they have three young children: Alan, Uri and Tali. Ariel and Vicky are active members of their community, who generously support various charitable initiatives, specifically Jewish and Holocaust-related organizations.

Ariel Picker is a modest and sensitive person with a warm heart, who strongly values and identifies with the State of Israel and the Jewish people. Yad Vashem welcomes him as a new Benefactor, and looks forward to partnering with him in its endeavors in the future.

## Rachel Boymel, z”l

■ **Yad Vashem mourns the passing of Holocaust survivor and Yad Vashem Benefactor Rachel Boymel, z”l.**



Rachel survived the Holocaust together with her two brothers in hiding in Ukraine with the help of Righteous Among the Nations Vasily and Fedora Stripchuk.

Rachel met her husband, Sam, shortly before the end of the war. They lived in a Displaced Persons (DP) camp in Germany before moving to the United States, where they created a successful business. Most of Rachel’s and Sam’s families were murdered in the Holocaust.

Sam and Rachel wrote a book about their war experiences, *Run, My Child* (Yad Vashem, 2010). They also dedicated Yad Vashem’s Panorama in Tribute to Holocaust Survivors who Fought in Israel’s War of Independence in honor of Rachel’s brothers, Yosel, who was killed in the war, and Menachem Czerkiewicz.

Yad Vashem extends its heartfelt condolences to Sam and all the family.

## Erna Weil Leiser, z”l

■ **Yad Vashem mourns the passing of Yad Vashem Trustee Erna Weil Leiser, z”l.**



Erna was born in Freiburg, Germany almost 100 years ago. During WWII, she and her sisters, one of them her twin, escaped from the Gurs detention camp, leaving behind their parents, who were unable to escape. They arrived in Baltimore in 1939, traveling via England with only three dollars in their pocket.

Having started medical school in Germany, Erna found work as a nurse for a family in Baltimore. She then left to attend Johns Hopkins University, and became an industrial engineer. The three sisters soon established successful careers in the building industry, and with great creative ingenuity they managed to obtain forged passports, secure the release of their parents and bring them to America.

Erna Weil Leiser was a great supporter of Yad Vashem, dedicating the Flag Terrace in memory of the family members she lost and in honor of those who survived.

# Friends Worldwide

## USA

■ Four generations of the Halpern family were joined by family and friends from all over the globe for the dedication of the Children's Terrace on 7 April 2015. The Terrace, situated at the exit of the Children's Memorial, was dedicated by **Fred and Cheryl Halpern**, **David and Sharon Halpern**, **Jack Halpern**, and **Murray and Batsheva Halpern** in honor of their parents, survivors **Sam, z"l** and **Gladys Halpern**.



■ On a recent visit to Yad Vashem with his wife **Niza Shprung** (left), Holocaust survivor and Yad Vashem Builder **Ernst Hacker** (right) rekindled the eternal flame during the Holocaust Remembrance Day Memorial Ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance.



■ Yad Vashem Benefactor **Mark Moskowitz** (second from right) laid a wreath on behalf of the **American Society for Yad Vashem** at the Holocaust Remembrance Day Wreath-Laying Ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance. He was joined by his mother, survivor **Rose Moskowitz** (third from right) and family (left to right): **Paula Moskowitz**, **Irene Moskowitz**, **Jake Moskowitz** and **Julia Gordon**.



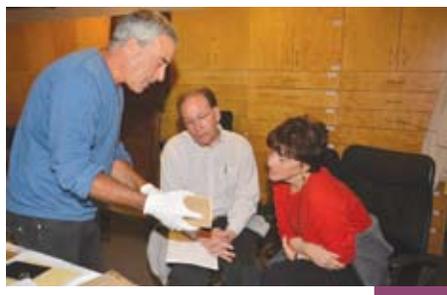
■ **Thomas Guttman** (right) and **Moshe Flaishman** (center) explored the Holocaust History Museum and took a behind-the-scenes tour of the Yad Vashem Archives with International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (left).



■ The March 2015 Houston Federation Mission opened their visit to Yad Vashem with a commemoration of Holocaust survivor **Walter Kase, z"l**. Yad Vashem Sponsor **Steve Finkelman** (center) and Yad Vashem Builder **Benjamin Warren** (right) shared insights about the legacy of this esteemed community member, and received from **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (left) a copy of Mr. Kase's prisoner card from Mauthausen, which is held in Yad Vashem's Archives.



■ **Dr. Hyman Penn** (center) and his wife **Lynn Gordon** (right) took a full day to tour Yad Vashem, including behind-the-scenes visits of the Archives, the Valley of the Communities and the International School for Holocaust Studies. Director of the Artifacts Department **Michael Tal** (left) also showed them several items from the Artifacts Collection.



■ During his recent visit to the Mount of Remembrance with his son and grandchildren, Yad Vashem Sponsor **Israel Roizman** (left) took a special tour of the Holocaust History Museum.



■ During their visit to Yad Vashem, Holocaust survivor **Jerry Warski** and **Sue Park** toured the Holocaust History Museum and the Valley of the Communities. Born in Ozorkow, Poland, Mr. Warski survived the Lodz ghetto as well as the Auschwitz and Mauthausen death camps. Many members of his family were murdered in the Holocaust.



■ During a recent visit to Yad Vashem, **Myra and Mike Gilfix** and their children were given a special behind-the-scenes presentation in the Archives with **Shaya Ben Yehuda**.



# Friends Worldwide

■ **Josh Troderman** (left) visited Yad Vashem with American Society Development Director **S. Isaac Mekel**. Mr. Troderman toured the Holocaust History Museum and took a behind-the-scenes look at Yad Vashem's Archives with **Sara Pechanec** (right), daughter of Righteous Among the Nations **Mustafa and Zejneba Hardaga**.



■ Yad Vashem's traveling exhibition "Private Tolkatchev at the Gates of Hell" was one of the main attractions at this year's Limmud FSU conference in New York. American Society Executive Director **Dr. Ron Meier** (left) was in attendance alongside (left to right): Chairman of Limmud FSU **Matthew Bronfman**, Chairman of the Limmud FSU Executive Committee and representative of the Claims Conference **Chaim Chesler** and President of Israel Bonds **Izzy Tapoochi**.



■ The National Infantry Museum in Columbus, Georgia displayed Yad Vashem's traveling exhibition "Architecture of Murder: The Auschwitz-Birkenau Blueprints" as part of their Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony. This partnership, initiated by Yad Vashem Trustee **Robert Book** and implemented with the help of **Col. (ret.) Greg Camp**, has helped teach new audiences about the events and meanings of the Holocaust.



■ The American Society's Young Leadership Associates (YLA) 2015 Winter Gala was held on 26 February at the Metropolitan Pavilion, NY, with the participation of 600-700 young singles and couples. The event highlighted Yad Vashem's "Auschwitz Album: The Story of a Transport" traveling exhibit, providing the guests with an additional viewpoint of the tragedy of the *Shoah*. Pictured: Chairs and Committee Members of the YLA 2015 Winter Gala



■ In March 2015, the YLA hosted a dinner at Prime at the Bentley, NY, co-chaired by **Jackie Carter** (right) and **Alexandra Lebovits** (left). The evening featured a conversation with **Eli Rosenbaum** (center), the longest serving prosecutor and investigator of Nazi criminals and other perpetrators of human rights violations in world history, who worked at the United States Department of Justice for almost 25 years.



■ In April 2015, the YLA held a dinner at Bowery Chabad House, NY, co-chaired by **Josh Gelnick** and **Michael Shmueli**. The attendees were treated to a presentation by Former Director of Yad Vashem's Righteous Among the Nations Department and Current Adjunct Visiting Professor of Jewish History at Yeshiva University, **Dr. Mordecai Paldiel**. Left to right: **Barry Levine**, **Abbi Halpern**, **Michael Shmueli**, **Josh Gelnick**



■ The American Society's Education Department held its 17<sup>th</sup> Conference on Holocaust Education on 22 March 2015 at the Ramaz Middle School in New York City. This conference, organized by American Society Director of Education **Dr. Marlene W. Yahalom** and created by Executive Board Member **Caroline Massel**, was recently awarded the 2015 President's Award for its contributions to Social Studies education and for implementing best practices in Holocaust Studies. Left to right: **Helene Alalouf**, **Caroline Massel**, YLA Co-Chair **Abbi Halpern**, **Prof. Karen Shawn**, **Dr. Marlene W. Yahalom**, Association of Teachers of Social Studies / United Federation of Teachers Past President **Caroline Herbst**, American Society Executive Director **Dr. Ron Meier**, YLA Co-Chair **Barry Levine**



■ During their recent visit to Yad Vashem, **Mary and Jonathan Aaron** (left) viewed the Artifacts Collection with Director of the Artifacts Department **Michael Tal**. They also met with **Shulamit Imber**, Pedagogical Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies and Fred Hillman Chair in Memory of Janusz Korczak. The Aarons then met with Chairman **Avner Shalev**, American Society Development Director **S. Isaac Mekel** (right) and International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda**.



■ The American Society for Yad Vashem held a cocktail reception at the home of **Caroline** and **Daniel Katz** (right) in Boca Raton, Florida. At the event, Holocaust survivor **Louis Koplin** (second from left) shared his testimony, and **James Fry** (back, center) presented the legacy of his father, Righteous Among the Nations **Varian Fry**. Chairman **Leonard Wilf** (left) and American Society Board Member **Shelly Pechter Himmelrich** (third from right) participated in the event. Yad Vashem Benefactor **Jack Pechter** (third from left) was also in attendance.



## CANADA

■ At the 2015 Queen's Park Tribute to Holocaust Survivors, coordinated by the **Canadian Society for Yad Vashem** and the Premier's office, Premier **Kathleen Wynne** recognized 12 Holocaust survivors for rebuilding their lives after the *Shoah* and contributing to the province of Ontario. Left to right: **George Landesman**, **Manny Langer**, **Jan Blumenstein**, **Max Iland**, Premier **Wynne**, Minister **Eric Hoskins**, **George Stern**, **Martin Kulbak**, Israel's Consul General to Toronto **DJ Schneeweiss**, **Gitta Ganz**, **Dave Gold**, **Norman Srebrolow**, Canadian Society National Chair **Fran Sonshine**, MPP **Monte Kwinter**, Canadian Society Executive Director **Yaron Ashkenazi**. Front: **Lore Jacobs**



■ Some 120 students of varied faiths and cultures from five secondary schools across Ontario and Quebec were brought together with eleven Holocaust survivors by the Canadian Society for its "Ambassadors of Change" program to hear the stories of the survivors and discuss the relevance of the Holocaust in today's world.



■ At the 2015 National Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony, organized by the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem, Minister of National Defence and of Multiculturalism, **the Hon. Jason Kenney**, lit a candle in memory of the six million Jews murdered in the *Shoah*. Joining him were supporters of Yad Vashem: Holocaust survivor **Victor David**, **Carole** and **Howard Tanenbaum**, Holocaust survivor **Joe Gottdenker**, RBC (which sponsored the event) representative **Tyler Bagues**, Senator **Linda Frum** and **Lou Greenbaum**.



■ Guardians of Yad Vashem **Marc** and **Michelle Moll** visited Yad Vashem in April 2015, along with their daughters **Melissa** and **Amanda**, **Helen Scolnick** and **Joel Axelrod**.



■ Israel's Ambassador to Canada, **H.E. Mr. Rafael Barak**, lit a candle on the Yad Vashem menorah at the National Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa to commemorate the 1.5 million Jewish children who were murdered in the *Shoah*. Assisting him were Minister of Transport **the Hon. Lisa Raitt**, Associate Minister of National Defence **the Hon. Julian Fantino**, Minister of State **the Hon. John Duncan** and Minister of State (Multiculturalism) **the Hon. Tim Uppal**. Also pictured is **Yaron Ashkenazi** (right).



■ Guardians of Yad Vashem **William** and **Linda Hechter** (right) examined the *Nuremberg Trials Album* they donated to Yad Vashem during their December 2014 visit with their friends **Hiroyuki** and **Harumi Kamano**.



■ Yad Vashem Builders **Mark** and **Anne Mandell** had a memorable visit to Yad Vashem with their family in October 2014, including their son **Elie Teitelman** and their granddaughter's husband **Avrom Mordechai Goldman**.



# Friends Worldwide

## AUSTRALIA

■ **Australian Friends of Yad Vashem** President **Joey Borensztajn** (center) and Committee members **Natalie Herscu** (left) and **Ellie Ajzner** (right) display Yad Vashem brochures at their stand during the Melbourne "One Voice" Festival on 15 March 2015. The Festival celebrates the diverse, unique and vibrant Jewish community of the city of Melbourne, Australia.



■ **Jacov and Rita Weinberg** (second and third from left), together with Cantor **Shimon** and **Veronika Farkas** (right) attended the Holocaust Remembrance Day State Opening Ceremony at Yad Vashem on 15 April, accompanied by International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (left).



■ **Prof. Louis** and **Wendy Waller** were accompanied by Director of the English Language Desk in the International Relations Division **Searle Brajtman** (center) to the Holocaust Remembrance Day State Opening Ceremony.



## UK

■ During her visit to Yad Vashem on 25 March, **Hanna Nyman** (second from left) unveiled a plaque commemorating her recent commitment to the Chuno and Blima Najmann Educational Achievement Awards.



■ On 2 February, the **Yad Vashem-UK Foundation** hosted a well-attended and inspiring Dinner at the St. Johns Wood Synagogue. Guest speaker **Dr. Bernd Wollschlaeger** addressed the audience on his transition from learning that he was the son of a war-decorated Nazi to becoming Jewish, making *aliya* and serving in the Israeli army. Pictured: Yad Vashem Benefactor **Michael Gee** (right) with Yad Vashem-UK Foundation Chair **Simon Bentley**



■ **Isaac** (center) and **Myrna Kaye** (second from left) visited the Holocaust History Museum on 11 March with their friends **Gavyn Davies OBE** (right) and his wife **Baroness Sue Nye** (left).



## SINGAPORE

■ **Philip Ong** visited the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial on 30 January, along with his wife **Elizabeth** and daughter **An-gian**.



## SWITZERLAND

■ During his visit to Yad Vashem on 15 January, **Samuel Wennek** toured the Art Museum with Curator and Art Department Director **Eliad Moreh-Rosenberg**.



## GERMANY

■ A ceremony honoring Righteous Among the Nations was held on 15 December 2014 at the Supreme Court building in Berlin. The ceremony was attended by the families of the Righteous and the Holocaust survivors they rescued, Israel's Ambassador to Germany **H.E. Mr. Yaakov Hadas-Handelsman**, Chairperson of the **Society of Friends of Yad Vashem in Germany** **Hildegard Müller** and other dignitaries. The Keynote Speaker was **Prof. Dr. Jan Philip Reemtsma**.



## FRANCE

■ A delegation of French mayors of cities with memorials dedicated to the Righteous Among the Nations took part in the Holocaust Remembrance Day Wreath-Laying Ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance. President of the “Reseau Villes et Villages” **Thierry Vinçon** and Mayor of Nice **Martine Ouaknine** laid a wreath on behalf of the entire delegation, which also included: **Robert Cotte**, **Danielle Dard**, **Henri Dreyfus**, **Brigitte Garenger-Rousseau**, **Alain Gremillon**, **Jean-Yves Houssemaine**, **Philippe Lacampagne**, **Yves Lamartres**, **Daniel Maillard**, **Jacques Marsac**, **Daniel Moitie** and **Danielle Valero**.



■ Members of the **French Friends of Yad Vashem** were joined by Israel’s Leader of the Opposition **Itzhak Herzog** in Warsaw Ghetto Square following the Holocaust Remembrance Day State Opening Ceremony. Left to right: **Thierry Librati**, **Patricia Fazel**, **Willy Fazel**, **Itzhak Herzog**, **Raphael Darlet**, **Maxi Librati**, **Martine Ejnes**, Director of the International Relations Division French-Speaking Countries and Benelux Desk **Miry Gross**, **Helena Litvak-Rusk**, **Laura Rusk**, **Omer Goralik**



## AUSTRIA

■ On 2 March 2015, over 250 members and supporters of the **Friends of Yad Vashem in Austria** joined the General Assembly in the ballroom of the Academy of Sciences in Vienna. The Keynote Address was given by Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research and John Najmann Chair for Holocaust Studies **Prof. Dan Michman**.

Guests included: Austrian Minister for Social Affairs, Labor and Consumer Protection **Rudolf Hundstorfer**, Israel’s Ambassador to Austria H.E. **Mr. Zvi Heifetz**, Hungarian Ambassador to Austria H.E. **Dr. János Perényi**, International Relations Division Director of German-Speaking Countries and German Swiss Desk **Arik Rav-On** and Austrian Friends Chair **Günther Schuster**.



## LIECHTENSTEIN

■ On 27 January, more than 50 guests, including several Members of Parliament, marked International Holocaust Remembrance Day at the Liechtenstein National Museum. After an introductory speech by **Society of Friends of Yad Vashem in Liechtenstein** Chairperson **Dr. Florian Marxer**, the Society’s Honorary President **Evelyne Bermann** spoke about the importance of Holocaust remembrance today.



## NETHERLANDS

■ Yad Vashem Benefactor **Paul Baan** (second from left) visited Yad Vashem on 1 April 2015 with Noaber Foundation Board members **Rutger Baan**, **Laurens van der Tang**, **Matthijs Blokhuis** and **Gerard Honkoop**. The group met with Director of the Yad Vashem Archives and Fred Hillman Chair for Holocaust Documentation **Dr. Haim Gertner**, Yad Vashem CIO **Michael Lieber**, International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** and Director of the French-Speaking Countries and Benelux Desk **Miry Gross**.



■ Members of the **Friends of Yad Vashem in the Netherlands** received an award for their role in preserving the memory of the Holocaust and its transmission to future generations. Front row, left to right: Netherlands Friends Treasurer **Joop Waterman** and Board Member **Dr. Bloeme Evers**, Israel’s Ambassador to the Netherlands H.E. **Mr. Chaim Divon**, Netherlands Friends Chairman **Joop Levy** and Secretary **Bettie Lievendag**. Back row, left to right: Netherlands Friends Board Member **Abby Israëls** and Vice Chair **Lea Jacobs**.



## COSTA RICA

■ **Dr. Max Gutreiman** visited Yad Vashem in February, joined by his wife and son.



# Friends Worldwide

## SPANISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

■ Attending the Holocaust Remembrance Day Opening Ceremony were (left to right): **Sara and Rodney Weisleder** (Costa Rica), **Dalia Grinbaum** and **Sergio Starosielski** (Argentina), **Claudio Rusak** (Argentina), **Eva Saraga** (Mexico), Director of the Latin-American, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Friends Desk **Perla Hazan**, **Saul and Silvia Befeler** (Costa Rica), **Joan Dachner** (Costa Rica), **Vivian Senerman** and **Philip Unger** (Costa Rica), **Ruthie and Henry Horvath** (Ecuador) and **Yair Naturman**.



## ARGENTINA

■ **Beatriz and Roberto Wolff** visited Yad Vashem in February, joined by their granddaughter.



## PERU

■ **Clara** (center) and **Adolfo Weinstein** (right) and their children visited Yad Vashem in February. They were joined by Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** (left).



## MEXICO

■ **Diana and Moises Mercado** (first and fourth from left) visited Yad Vashem on the occasion of the bat and bar mitzvah of their daughter **Naomi** and son **Abraham** (second and third from left).



■ **Vicky** (fourth from left) and **Ariel Picker** (third from left) visited Yad Vashem in April on the occasion of the bar mitzvah of their son **Alan** (second from right). They were joined by **Chief Rabbi of Israel David Lau** (right) and members of their family, as well as Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** and International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda**. A plaque was unveiled in their honor at the Museum.



## VENEZUELA

■ **Orly and José Cohen** and Orly's parents **Nira** and **Jaime Meir** (right and left) were joined by their extended family and friends and Director of the Latin-America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** on the occasion of the bar mitzvah of **Samuel Cohen Meir** (second from right).



■ The Kugler family was joined by their extended family and friends and **Perla Hazan** on the occasion of the bar mitzvah of **Max Kugler** (center).



■ During his visit to Yad Vashem in March, a plaque was unveiled in honor of **Aharon Szkolnik's** late father.



## CHRISTIAN DESK in partnership with ICEJ

■ Left to right: ICEJ Executive Director **Dr. Juergen Buehler**, **Vesna Buehler**, ICEJ General Manager **Barry Denison** and International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** at the Holocaust Remembrance Day State Opening Ceremony



■ On 24-25 March 2015, Christian leaders and PR experts from the USA met at Yad Vashem to discuss the best ways of educating about the Holocaust and promoting Yad Vashem within the Christian communities. Participants met with various department heads, followed by discussions to develop new strategies.



■ **Pastor Mark Jenkins** and **Terrie Jenkins** (right) with **Shaya Ben Yehuda** and Director of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen** at the Holocaust Remembrance Day State Opening Ceremony



## SWEDEN

■ **Georg** and **Elisabeth Citrom** of the Holocaust Survivors Association, Sweden standing among the wreaths in the Hall of Remembrance



## RUSSIA

■ Vice-President of the Euro-Asian Jewish Congress **Dr. Michael Mirilashvili** and **Laura Mirilashvili** with Yad Vashem Chairman of the Directorate **Avner Shalev** (second from right), Special Advisor to the Chairman of the Directorate **Arie Zuckerman** (right) and **Meni Bushuev**, Personal Assistant to Dr. Mirilashvili (left)



■ The management of Yad Vashem major supporter Genesis Philanthropy Group (GPG) participated in the Holocaust Remembrance Day State Opening Ceremony on 15 April. Left to right: GPG Chairman **Gennady Gazin**, GPG-Israel Regional Director **Anna Perelman**, **Arie Zuckerman**, Yad Vashem Director General **Dorit Novak**, GPG Chief Executive Officer **Ilia Salita**



## Your Support Helps Make a Difference

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

### ■ To make tax-deductible donations:

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#### UK:

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#### AUSTRALIA:

Australian Friends of Yad Vashem  
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### ■ Donations may also be sent to:

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

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# The International Institute for Holocaust Research: Publications

## *Fighting for Her People: Zivia Lubetkin, 1914–1978*

Bella Gutterman

NIS 174 NIS 128



■ Zivia Lubetkin's determined personality was formed during her childhood in Byten, Poland. Standing out in the training communes of the Zionist youth movement Freiheit, she became one of its foremost activists. With the onset of WWII, she turned into an inspired and courageous leader in the Zionist underground in the territories of the Soviet Union and in the Warsaw ghetto as well as during the Polish uprisings. Later still, she and her husband Yitzhak (Antek)

Zuckermann led the efforts to rehabilitate the Holocaust survivors, and established Kibbutz Lohamei Hagetaot. This book constitutes the first comprehensive research into the life of one of the more outstanding and impressive figures in modern Jewish history – a woman known simply as “Zivia.”

## *Search and Research: Lectures and Papers 21 Conceptualizing the Unconceptualized Preliminary Study on the Booklet La Vida de Adolf Hitler: El Hama Moderno, Salonika, 1933: Text and Context*

Shmuel Refael

NIS 36 NIS 27



■ *La Vida de Adolf Hitler: El Hama Moderno*, a 30-page tract in Ladino published in Salonika in 1933, contains a hitherto unknown and surprising biography of Adolf Hitler. The author subjects the booklet to socio-literary investigation, traces the circumstances under which the work was written, and follows the Ladino press and its reportage on Hitler's accession to power and events in Europe. This study sheds new light on the history of the Jewish community of Salonika long before it

was deported in the death trains to the extermination camps in Poland in the spring of 1943.

*To order these and other Yad Vashem publications:*

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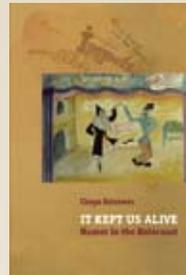
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## *It Kept Us Alive: Humor in the Holocaust*

Chaya Ostrower

NIS 174 NIS 128



■ Humor and laughter can help strengthen and heal mental and physical health, but can it assist in dealing with a trauma as severe as the Holocaust? This book demonstrates how humor helped in coping with the terrible reality of the *Shoah*. Interviews with survivors describe horrific events, intertwined with macabre humor. The author classifies the types of humor, and studies their functions in the ghettos, concentration camps and death camps. Included in the book

are humorous ditties, songs and cabaret sketches, as well as the unique stories of two ghetto clowns.

## *Remembering Regina: My Journey to Freedom*

Fanny Bienenfeld Lust

NIS 74 NIS 56



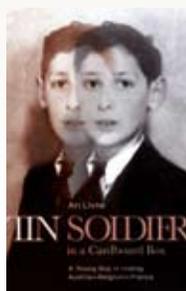
■ Fanny Bienenfeld and her family moved from Tarnow, Poland, to Berlin in 1930, but returned to Krakow shortly before the outbreak of WWII. A series of events set in motion the family's flight from Europe. This book describes the life of Fanny and her family in Europe and their remarkable escape, orchestrated by Fanny's mother, Regina. By air, land, and sea, the family crisscrossed their way to freedom through Trieste and Genoa in Italy, Tangier (Morocco), back to Seville, on to

Lisbon, and, finally, to the US.

## *Tin Soldier in a Cardboard Box: A Young Boy in Hiding – Austria-Belgium-France*

Ari Livne

NIS 74 NIS 56



■ Born in Vienna, Henri (Ari Livne)'s life changed irrevocably when he was eight years old. After escaping with his parents to Belgium and several years of avoiding arrest, Henri was taken in by “Aunt Angele,” a local woman living in Nazi-occupied Brussels. Henri adopted a false identity as a French-speaking Christian boy. His knack of staying calm under pressure, his acting abilities and his improvisation skills helped him escape from near-fatal traps time and again. With psychological

depth and unrelenting tension, the complex relationship between the author's adopted and real identities comes to the fore in the descriptions of his daily fight for survival.