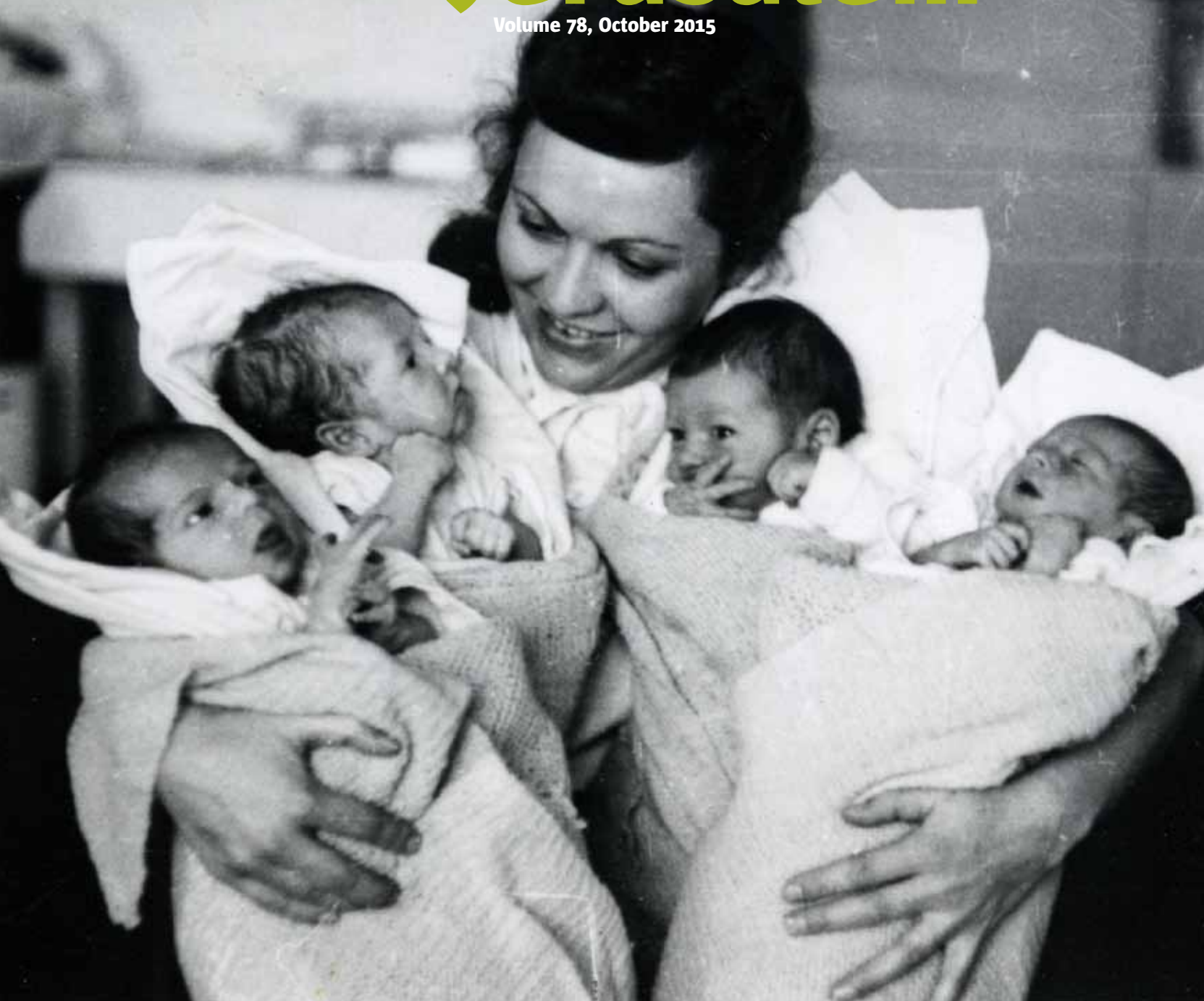


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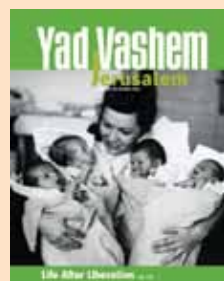
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■ On the cover:
*Babies born at the
DP camp in Bad
Reichenhall, Germany*

Dr. Ella Florsheim

■ Seventy years ago, as the Holocaust survivors began the slow and painful process of returning to life in the wake of the *Shoah*, many of them found themselves in, or were directed towards, Displaced Persons (DP) camps in Germany, Austria and Italy. Lasting from the end of WWII until the early 1950s, the period of the DP camps was short-lived, but is exemplified by the vibrant Jewish life created therein.

The living conditions of the thousands of Holocaust survivors who gathered in the various DP camps were characterized, primarily at first, by hardship and scarcity. The shock of liberation, the realization that many of them were alone in the world, and the physical and emotional scars and deprivations burdened many survivors who, even under American and British

In the first few weeks after liberation, the members of *She'erit Hapleita* began to express a vitality and wish to rebuild their lives

supervision, suffered antisemitic violence from time to time. A certain improvement in basic living conditions slowly emerged, yet even then the sense of transience and the yearning to leave the camps, whether for *Eretz Israel* or other destinations, remained dominant.

A significant change in the attitude towards the Jewish survivors and their living conditions in the DP camps took effect in the wake of the Harrison Report in the summer of 1945. Earl G. Harrison, envoy of US President Harry Truman, visited the DP camps in Germany to examine the military authorities' treatment of the Jewish survivors. Harrison's unequivocal report was not late in coming: "We appear to be treating the Jews as the Nazis treated them, except that we do not exterminate them," he declared in no uncertain terms. Harrison called for an immediate increase in food rations and clothing for the Jewish survivors, improved housing conditions, and the creation of separate DP camps for Jews. Truman adopted the Harrison Report, instructed

Life After Liberation

The DP Camps in Europe



■ Elementary school pupils dancing the "hora" in a DP camp, Schwaebisch Hall, Germany. Yad Vashem Photo Archives

the US Army to improve their treatment and attitude towards the Jews in Germany at once, and even ordered that a special advisor for Jewish affairs be appointed.

However, even before any major improvement in their living conditions, the members of *She'erit Hapleita* (Surviving Remnant) began to express in the first few weeks after liberation,

and increasingly during the development of the DP camps, a vitality and wish to rebuild their lives. Many survivors married, had children, and began to collect the fragments of their lives. This trend found a parallel expression in the public arena, too: local leadership from within the DPs sprouted quickly in the various camps, an education system and relief departments were

established and, with time, youth movements and sports organizations began to operate.

Another example of this desire to rebuild was the attempt to reestablish religious life, which was expressed in the many holiday assemblies, the founding of *yeshivot* in a number of the camps, and efforts to regulate kosher slaughter and other needs. Also noteworthy was the energetic cultural activity that developed among the members of *She'erit Hapleita*. This activity, most of which was conducted in Yiddish, included the publication of more than a hundred different newspapers, some of which became regular and wide-ranging publications. Yiddish theater blossomed in the camps, with numerous bands of amateurs and serious professionals taking part and performing for the benefit of the DPs. Another important venture that the survivors founded was the establishment of historical commissions in numerous camps and the beginning of gathering wartime testimony.

It should be noted that the public mood in the DP camps had a striking Zionist character, and the members of *She'erit Hapleita* waged an insistent campaign in favor of immigration to *Eretz Israel*. This last aspect was just another example of how the DPs themselves were active in the return to life after the long years of war, and fulfilled a prominent role in rehabilitating the fragments of the Jewish world after the Holocaust.

The author is Editor-in-Chief of Yad Vashem Publications.

2015-16 Calendar: The Return to Life

■ This year's Yad Vashem desk calendar offers a visual representation of the life of hundreds of thousands of Holocaust survivors in Europe in the period after liberation, illustrating their cultural, religious and communal ventures in the years immediately following the war.

Postwar conditions were difficult, with inadequate amounts of food, clothing, medicine and other crucial supplies. The survivors' stay in the Displaced Persons (DP) camps, in children's homes and in internment camps was regarded by most of the Jewish refugees as a temporary arrangement. Nevertheless, they

transformed their new communities into centers of social, cultural and educational activity: they celebrated Jewish holidays and held sporting events; they established theaters and orchestras, and published Yiddish newspapers; and they studied, acquired professions and raised families, preparing themselves for a new – and more hopeful – life after the Holocaust.

The 2015-16 desk calendar was produced with the generous support of the French Friends of Yad Vashem (Comité Français pour Yad Vashem).

The calendar is available for purchase in the Yad Vashem Online Store.



New Clothing, New Beginnings



■ *“First of all the starving people had to be fed... then the Typhus controlled... all their clothing had to be burnt... and tens of thousands of new garments needed to be found... As long as they wore the striped pajamas, they felt, and indeed looked, debased... But dress her up in a new smart frock, give her lipstick and some powder and everything changed. She walked differently, held herself erect, carried her head high.”*

From *Straight On* (1947), a memoir by Dr. William Robert Fitzgerald (Bob) Collis, an Irish pediatrician who treated survivors at Bergen-Belsen

Those who survived the horrors of the Holocaust were in pitiful physical condition and lacked even the barest necessities of life. Most had no remnants of their former identities, no documents, no personal items – literally nothing. The only clothing they had was the threadbare prison clothing or the rags they had worn in hiding. The clothes they received – or in some instances, crafted for themselves – at the moment of liberation, were therefore enormously significant. They could now rejoin society as self-respecting individuals, putting

Although it had been made for inmates, for Ehud, the coat symbolized freedom in the same way other survivors viewed their first civilian clothes

■ **Gucia Wald**

Teiblum (pictured at Bergen-Belsen, 1947) unraveled the wool of German soldiers' socks to knit herself a sweater in the Bergen-Belsen DP camp. Born in Poland in 1926, Gucia had been forced into the ghetto with her parents and siblings. In October 1942, she was sent to a labor camp and then to Auschwitz. In January 1945, the remaining prisoners at Auschwitz were sent on death marches. Gucia was taken to Bergen-Belsen, where she was liberated.



■ **Chaya Shwarzman Kaplan** (right, with her husband and cousin, 1947) from Lithuania, was deported to the Stutthof concentration camp. Here the prisoners' civilian clothes were marked with a red Star of David. Thus the coat Chaya (b. 1926) received there bore a red star. On her return to Kaunas after liberation, she had a seamstress remake the coat into a dress, hiding the star on the reverse side of the material. The dress subsequently served as Chaya's wedding gown.



■ **Ehud Walter** (pictured, with his parents and sisters in Hungary, 1940) was born in 1926 in Haifa to Hungarian parents who had immigrated to Israel and then returned to Europe. Ehud was sent to Buchenwald, where he survived the harsh winter in threadbare



clothes. Upon liberation, he took a striped prison coat from the storerooms. Although it had been made for inmates, for Ehud, the coat symbolized freedom and a new life in the same way other survivors viewed their first civilian clothes.



Survivors' First Garments after Liberation

Sara Shor

behind them the world in which the Nazis had tried to strip them of their humanity. Many survivors preserved the first garment they received upon liberation, and some of these have been donated to Yad Vashem's Artifacts Collection. These garments symbolize their return to life: a new beginning after the *Shoah*.



■ **Ahuva Ostereicher Sherwood** (left, with her family in Czechoslovakia, c. 1941), born in 1929 in Czechoslovakia, was sent with her family to Auschwitz. Despite the family's decision to stay together, Ahuva was pulled away from her mother and younger siblings by a Polish prisoner, who saved her life by attaching her to a group of young women who were sent to a labor camp. When the war was over, the women went to the neighboring POW camp, where they quickly made the abandoned sheets into clothing for themselves. Ahuva sewed a blouse that she preserved until she donated it to Yad Vashem's Artifacts Collection.



The author is Collections Manager in the Artifacts Department, Museums and Visitor Services Division.

From the Testimony Collection: Renewal of Religious Life in the Pocking-Waldstadt DP Camp

Esther Friedman

■ **The Yad Vashem Archives currently house some 125,000 video, audio and written testimonies, all of which enrich our knowledge and understanding of Jewish life before, during and after the Shoah.** One such testimony, given to Yad Vashem in 2009 by Miriam Griver, tells the story of her father, Rabbi Yehuda Aryeh Meisels, who survived the Holocaust against all odds and went on to be an active rabbi in the Pocking-Waldstadt DP camp in Germany.

In 1945, Jewish-American soldier Sidney Chachmaister noticed a man lying prone on top of a mound of corpses at the Pocking concentration camp in Germany, weakly blinking his eyes. This was Rabbi Meisels (b. 1910), about

Rabbi Meisels worked hard to rehabilitate Jewish spiritual life in the camp. He officiated at the weddings of hundreds of couples and released from their vows married women whose husbands' fate was unknown

whom Griver, Chairwoman of "Amutat Yesh" (Child and Orphan Holocaust Survivors in Israel) and recipient of the Patron of Jerusalem 2012 award recalled: "In 1942, my father was sent to forced labor because informants claimed he was hiding a refugee from Czechoslovakia," she said. "In the summer of 1944, he was deported to Auschwitz, and later put on a death march to Flossenbürg. Two days later, he reached Pocking."

After finding Rabbi Meisels and tending to him, the Americans appointed him the religious authority of the DP camp. "Pocking had been a forced labor camp. Many Jews who worked there were murdered, their bodies flung into a large mass grave," said Griver. "My father decided to move them into a Jewish grave, based on lists he had with him. Little by little, he made sure that the non-Jews who perished were buried in a separate place, in a Christian ceremony conducted by a priest."



■ *Memorial ceremony at the Pocking DP Camp, 1947. Courtesy: Miriam Griver*

Beyond his work with the deceased, Rabbi Meisels worked hard to rehabilitate Jewish spiritual life in the camp. He officiated at the weddings of hundreds of couples and, in his capacity as a member of the rabbinic court, released from their vows married women whose husbands' fate was unknown. Additionally, he obtained affidavits and helped the *She'erit Hapleita* – the surviving remnant of Holocaust survivors – immigrate to *Eretz Israel*. "He aspired not to leave any Jew on German soil," added Griver.

On Rabbi Meisels' initiative, a memorial was established at Pocking for those murdered in the Holocaust. In 1947, when a march of the survivors from the Pocking camp took place, a ceremony was held to inaugurate the towering memorial, which bore the names of those murdered. Aside from survivors from the DP camp, the American soldiers who liberated the camp and a local official were also present. After the DP camp was closed, Rabbi Meisels was offered a rabbinical position in Chicago. However, he declined "to remain in Exile," and immigrated to Israel with his family in 1949.

Yad Vashem's Oral History Section enables survivors from Israel and abroad to record their testimonies with professional interviewers proficient in assorted languages. Interviews can take place in the survivor's home or in various locations across Israel. To arrange an interview: tel: +972-2-6443752, email: testimonies@yadvashem.org.il

The author is the Head of the Oral History Section, Archives Division.

Education ■ ■

“When the Gates Opened”

■ In early July 2015, over 1,200 educators from across Israel attended Yad Vashem’s sixth biennial National Teachers’ Conference on Holocaust Education. Under the banner “When the Gates Opened: The Effects of the Holocaust on the Individual, Society and Thought,” the conference focused on the questions that arose after liberation, when the dimensions of the unprecedented disaster that had befallen the Jewish people started to become clear, and the long and painful journey back to life began.



■ Education Minister Naftali Bennett

The conference, which was opened by Education Minister Naftali Bennett, included lectures from experts, panels, discussion groups and workshops on the latest pedagogical advances, as well as guided tours of the campus for all the participants.

Shulamit Imber, Pedagogical Director of the International School and Fred Hillman Chair in



■ Conference panel sessions were attended by hundreds of teachers

Memory of Janusz Korczak, explained the idea behind the chosen theme of the conference: “Holocaust education has gone through many different stages over the decades since the end of the war,” she explained. “At first, it was important to simply tell the story of the

Shoah, to make sure the correct information was being disseminated. The second stage was a determined effort to teach about the event in a more three-dimensional way: to show the faces of the individual victims – who they were before the war – and understand their

New Educational Programs to Tackle Contemporary Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial and Distortion

■ Over recent years, graduates and colleagues of Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies have been reporting increasing encounters with various forms of antisemitic outbursts and attacks – in schools, on campuses, and via the Internet and social media, as well as other contexts of public discourse. Many teachers have been facing vehement anti-Israel bias from students who attempt to turn discussions of Holocaust history into outright dismissal of the basic facts and figures of the *Shoah*. At the same time, increasing numbers of Jewish students have been voicing their fears of social isolation and ostracism, and even physical danger, due to their commitment to the Jewish State and accurate Holocaust remembrance. Recent events, including terrorist attacks against Jews

and Jewish-related venues, have illustrated and magnified these very real concerns.

“Over many years we have developed a unique philosophy of Holocaust education, and now we need to apply our experience and expertise to resurgent antisemitism,” says Shulamit Imber, Pedagogical Director of the International School and Fred Hillman Chair in Memory of Janusz Korczak. “Our graduates in countries all over the world are requesting the tools to empower them in dealing with the latest and most troubling questions, questions that are arising with alarming frequency.”

Responding to these urgent requests, the International School, together with other Yad Vashem senior staff and external experts in the fields of advocacy, social media and the fight against antisemitism, is currently developing

new and unique educational programs to meet the challenges of contemporary antisemitism and Holocaust denial and distortion. In the first stage, seminars at Yad Vashem for teachers from abroad will include a chapter on the topic, and they will also be given material to help them respond to false and inaccurate statements at schools and on campuses back home. The initiative is spearheaded by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, who underscores the program’s crucial relevance: “Having witnessed and suffered the devastating effects of antisemitism, we know that this is the vital next step in Holocaust education.”

Once complete, the new programs will be made available online and systematically updated.

Israeli Teachers Examine Effects of the Shoah on Individuals and Society

Yael Richler-Friedman



■ Clockwise, from top left: in the Learning Center, at a specialized workshop, hearing a Holocaust survivor, visiting the new exhibition on children in the Holocaust

struggles to maintain their human spirit during the cataclysm of the Holocaust.

“Today, however, the *Shoah* is about more than memory. It is no longer about one day a year, or a particular visit, when we remember the events and the victims. It has become a focal point, a reference, for so many areas of life – in our day-to-day interactions with a diverse, global society. This conference, therefore, came at a new juncture: We are interested not only in how we teach the Holocaust, but also how that event has influenced every field of education – history, philosophy, social studies and more. This is reflected by the range of teachers wishing to take part in the conference: in addition to history teachers, applications came from English, literature, sport, Jewish studies and science teachers, and even kindergarten teachers. The educators who participated in our discussions described what aspects of their teaching have been touched by Holocaust education. This is a two-way street – we can provide the knowledge and the tools, but only if we know in what way the information is being utilized and absorbed both within the classroom and outside of it.”

One day of the conference featured a special gathering of Holocaust survivors whose lifetime achievements reflect Israeli society as a whole – rabbis, judges, pilots, doctors, teachers,

historians, artists and more. “We invited the survivors to talk about how, despite their terrible experiences, they managed to rebuild their lives and move the world forward in a positive direction,” said Dr. Eyal Kaminka, Lily Safra Chair of Holocaust Education and Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies. “We wanted those hundreds of teachers who teach thousands of students to be aware of the incredible contribution the survivors made to the building of our state and society.”

“I learned so much, and what I learned has taken my thoughts into new directions,” said one participant at the end of the conference. “The quality of the lectures, the faultless organization and the expert guidance all allowed me to enrich my knowledge and skills in teaching the *Shoah* in my classroom,” said another. “The wide range of topics we covered in such a short time has provided me with a different way of looking at this challenging topic, and applying it to our everyday lives.”

The Sixth National Teachers' Conference took place with the cooperation of Israel's Ministry of Education and Teachers' Union, and with the generous support of the Claims Conference, the Adelson Family Foundation, the Genesis Philanthropy Group and the Azrieli Foundation.

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

Educational Awards 2015

■ In mid-June, the Edmond J. Safra Auditorium was filled to capacity with students, teachers, parents, educators, Holocaust survivors and their families for the presentation of Yad Vashem's annual prizes for commitment and excellence in the field of Holocaust education.

The prestigious awards are given for outstanding matriculation papers and educational curricula on the Holocaust by students and teachers in Israel, as well as for children's Holocaust literature.

This year's Lifetime Achievement Award was awarded to Asher Aud. Aud survived the Lodz ghetto, Auschwitz and other camps, and a death march. His parents and siblings



■ Survivor Asher Aud – recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award

were deported and murdered. In November 1945, he immigrated to Israel; he and his wife Chaya have three children and 10 grandchildren.

Today, Aud generously devotes his time to speaking to soldiers, youth delegations, and the general public about his experiences during the Holocaust. Although retired, he remains active and travels to Poland many times each year. Despite the physical and emotional challenges of these journeys, he acknowledges their immense value. “It's not a trip, it's a job,” he notes. “Apparently, I survived to tell the coming generations. That is my mission in life. Every moment I am with children or soldiers, I experience victory. I stand here today, representing the six million Jews who were murdered in the Holocaust. *Am Yisrael Chai!*”

Among the Prize Donors: The Chuno and Blima Najmann Educational Achievement Awards, endowed by their children John, Herbert, Jochi and Hanna, for Outstanding Educational Curricula as well as the Lifetime Achievement Award in Holocaust Education; Sandra Brand, in memory of her only son Bruno Brand, who perished in the Holocaust, for Children's Holocaust Literature; The Luba and Mark Uveeler Foundation for Outstanding Matriculation Papers on the Holocaust; and Le Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah and the Aloumim Association for Outstanding Educational Curricula on French Jewry during the Holocaust.

www.yadvashem.org ■ for Asher Aud's testimony, recorded to mark the honor bestowed upon him as a torchlighter on Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day 2014

Graduate Spotlight

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



Urs Urech Switzerland

James Joseph McIntosh

■ After attending a seminar at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies in 2012, Urs Urech, a history teacher from Baden, Switzerland, embarked on an ongoing series of activities for educators in the German-speaking cantons of his native country. In the years since first visiting Israel, he has led several groups of German-speaking Swiss educators coming to study at Yad Vashem. Back home, he established the Shoah Education Network, where teachers can exchange ideas to promote International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

As Switzerland's diversity increases, Urech sees the value and importance of teaching about the Holocaust across different religious faiths and nationalities. As such, he played a key role in bringing Yad Vashem's traveling exhibition "BESA" to three different locations in northwestern Switzerland. Named after an Albanian word meaning "promise-keeping," the exhibition details the stories of Albanian Muslims who risked their lives and those of their families to rescue Jews during the Holocaust. "The stories of the Muslim Righteous in Albania were eye-opening to the teenagers from the Balkans, whose parents were often refugees or immigrants," explains Urech. "Albanians who saved Jews during WWII have become their role models; they are proud Albanians living in Switzerland."

With respect to the Swiss Muslim community, Urech has been serving on the advisory board of a joint Jewish-Muslim group dedicated to countering antisemitism and Islamophobia, where he offers guidance on Holocaust-related topics. As part of a Jewish-Christian dialogue group, he has organized memorial activities

commemorating the *Kristallnacht* pogrom, a Nazi state-sponsored night of violence against Jewish people and property in the Third Reich that occurred on 9-10 November 1938. "Although many Jews were safe in Switzerland, thousands were turned away when the Swiss authorities

"Although many Jews were safe in Switzerland, thousands were turned away when the Swiss authorities closed the borders in 1942. We need to do more research in order to tell the stories of those who were lost and to teach students about that part of Swiss history."

Urs Urech

closed the borders in 1942. We need to do more research in order to tell the stories of those who were lost and to teach students about that part of Swiss history," stresses Urech.

Having met a Holocaust survivor during Yad Vashem's seminars, Urech has also organized numerous educational encounters between students and survivors. Besides making



■ Yad Vashem graduate Urs Urech at an exhibition about Righteous Among the Nations Carl Lutz, the Swiss Ambassador in Budapest who saved 62,000 Jews by handing out (unauthorized) Swiss passports during the Nazi occupation of Hungary

friends with some of them, he recognizes that highlighting the voices and personal stories of Holocaust survivors has a lasting and profound impact on their audiences, and endeavors to acquaint his students with as many survivors as possible. In addition, Urech has guided groups to Holocaust-related sites, including the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum and the old Jewish quarter of Krakow. He is currently developing a new teaching aid based on the biographies of Jewish children who immigrated or fled to Switzerland during WWII. "We are late in the game of Holocaust education," concludes Urech, "but more and more teachers and educators in Switzerland want to make a difference."

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

Swiss "Teachers of Tomorrow" Study at Yad Vashem

■ In August, Yad Vashem hosted a contingent of German-speaking pre-service teachers (teachers in training) from the University of Lucerne in Switzerland. During the seminar, the participants broadened their base of knowledge about the Holocaust, studied and experimented with pedagogical strategies, heard a Holocaust survivor tell his story, and explored Israel.

The seminar is the culmination of long-term planning and coordination following the signing of a letter of intent between Yad Vashem and the University of Lucerne in March 2013. The participants, Switzerland's teachers of tomorrow, were enthusiastic about their experience at Yad Vashem, and expressed interest in putting what they had

learned into practice in the classroom. In addition, the International School is currently preparing to expand its cooperation to include French-speaking Swiss pre-service educators. This customized programming is planned to include a seminar at Yad Vashem for this cadre of future educators, particularly from Lausanne, in early 2016.

Hamburg Extends Commitment to Holocaust Education

■ On 19 June 2015, Yad Vashem formalized its ties with the Ministry of Schools and Vocational Training of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg. Signed by Minister Ties Rabe and Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, the Joint Declaration of Intent committed the parties to continue their cooperative efforts in educating the people of Hamburg about the genocide of European and North African Jewry.

The agreement constitutes another milestone in an ongoing process of reaching out to the educational authorities of the *Länder* (federal states) in Germany. In particular, the signing of an agreement between Yad Vashem and the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the *Länder* in the Federal Republic of Germany (KMK) in 2013 paved the way for the agreement with Hamburg.

Yad Vashem's Deborah Hartmann and Arik Rav-On, Director of the Society of Friends of Yad Vashem in Germany, were present and spoke at the signing ceremony. "The close cooperation between Yad Vashem and the city of Hamburg is another bond between the two countries and their memories," said Hartmann.

"A Huge Burden of Responsibility"

■ In July 2015, the International School for Holocaust Studies held its annual International Summer Seminar in English. This year, 37 educators participated in the seminar, hailing from Canada (sponsored by the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem), Hong Kong, Mexico, Serbia, South Africa and the United States. As with all Yad Vashem educational programs, the seminar was made up of academic lectures, pedagogical workshops and meetings with survivors, as well as trips to important religious and cultural sites around the country.

One of the participants was Athena Davis, a high-school English literature teacher from Cleveland, Tennessee. This was Davis' second trip to Israel – the first being a year ago after being awarded "Top Teacher" by a popular US television talk show, and winning a trip to the country as a reflection of her interest in Holocaust education. "Teaching the Holocaust is more relevant today than ever before," maintains Davis. "The *Shoah* took place in an educated, developed and diverse society, and its

legacy is that it can happen again, anywhere, at any time."

Davis first became interested in Holocaust literature as a student teacher, when she was tasked with creating a lesson unit on Elie Wiesel's *Night*. She went on to develop a curriculum on the topic, and has been teaching it for the past decade. "Holocaust literature is such a powerful way to explain that message – the survivors are, without exception, the most effective tellers of their own story."

While acknowledging that her time at Yad Vashem helped affirm her own approach to Holocaust education, Davis found the seminar gave her an "abundance" of knowledge, as well as new ideas to use in the classroom – such as the use of photographs and selected extracts of survivor testimonies to enhance the students' understanding of particular events and personalities. "Still, teaching about the Holocaust is a huge burden of responsibility. I want my students to get it, but not think: 'Oh, OK, now I know this,'" says Davis.



■ Athena Davis views exhibits in the International School for Holocaust Studies

As to future challenges, Davis sadly acknowledges that the time will soon come for all Holocaust educators to tackle the issue of Holocaust denial and distortion head on. "As the survivor generation dwindles, and technology advances – and with it the ease with which one can change or distort images and information – it will be our duty, as educators and as parents, to safeguard the truth," Davis warns. "But I believe that genuine interest in the *Shoah* will never wane. It's all about making it personal. If you can connect them with a story, it doesn't matter if it was 70 years ago or 300."

"People to People" – Educational Project with Jerusalem Bilingual School

Tamar Don and Rinat Maagan-Ginovker

■ "Often, conversations about the Shoah take a political slant, and there the dialogue ends. But during my tour of Yad Vashem and the meetings that took place there, I learned to lead these discussions in interesting, apolitical directions, such as the themes of rescue, mutual aid, and the nature of human beings and society."

A student at the Max Rayne Hand in Hand Bilingual School for Jewish-Arab Education

The summer months saw the conclusion of a new joint project of the International School for Holocaust Studies and the Max Rayne Hand in Hand Bilingual School for Jewish-Arab Education. The educational initiative was aimed at creating a dialogue on the topics of racism and persecution of minorities through the story of the Holocaust, by tailoring the program and

its methodology to students, both Jewish and Arab, who come from different neighborhoods across the capital.

Ninth-grade students from the Bilingual School attended three different meetings – two at their school and one on the Mount of Remembrance – led by Yad Vashem guides. They watched a film about Holocaust survivor Malka Rosenthal, discussed how the events of the Holocaust have influenced international society in attempting to prevent other genocides, and learned about different rescue attempts. At Yad Vashem, the youth toured the Holocaust History Museum, noting the radicalization of racist ideology over time, and the rest of the campus, with a focus on the world of Jewish children before, during and after the *Shoah*. At the end of the visit, the students and their teachers were encouraged to discuss their impressions using

phrases such as "It bothers me when...", "It is interesting that...", "I found it harder with...", and "I would like to talk more about..." For example, many of the students expressed the importance to deepen their historical knowledge about the Holocaust so that it can be used as a basis for further discussion of other topics such as racism and tolerance.

Yad Vashem's International School and the Jerusalem Bilingual School are committed to furthering the project with a series of meetings to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day in January 2016.

The joint project with the Jerusalem Bilingual School is generously supported by the Sam Spiegel Foundation.

Tamar Don is Middle-School Programs Coordinator and Rinat Maagan-Ginovker is Head of the Youth Section at the Guiding Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.

Strengthening Ties with Italian Educators

■ During a seminar for Italian educators affiliated with the Italian teachers' union UIL Scuola in July 2015, Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies coordinated a special full-day encounter with members of *Irgun Hamorim* – the Association of Secondary School Teachers in Israel. The visiting educators appreciated the chance to compare classroom experiences with Italian-speaking teachers in Israel, and discuss innovative ideas in Holocaust education.

Concurrent with the seminar for Italian educators, Italian Minister of Education, Universities and Research Stefania Giannini visited the International School as well as the



Yad Vashem Archives, where she was joined by Archives Division Director and Fred Hillman Chair for Holocaust Documentation Dr. Haim Gertner. Accompanying the Minister on her visit were Renzo Gattegna of the Union of

Italian Jewish Communities (UCEI) and Italian Ambassador to Israel H. E. Mr. Francesco Maria Talò. European Department Director Richelle Budd-Caplan spoke with Minister Giannini about potential joint activities in the wake of the December 2014 symposium of Yad Vashem graduates in Rome, which aimed at establishing a pan-European teaching network for Holocaust education. Minister Giannini confirmed that Italian educators attending Yad Vashem seminars will now receive formal accreditation. Dr. Eyal Kaminka, Lily Safra Chair of Holocaust Education and Director of the International School, described this as "a critical landmark" in Holocaust education and remembrance in Italy.

“Can These Bones Live?” Conferences for Ultra-Orthodox Educators

■ *“I always knew we were on a holy mission. Now I feel it even more strongly.”*

This response was one of many received by Yad Vashem following the conferences held for ultra-Orthodox educators during the Three Weeks – the traditional period of mourning for the destroyed Temples in Jerusalem.

The three conferences – for female teachers, male educators and seminary students – represent the pinnacle of the yearlong activities of the Ultra-Orthodox Department at the International School for Holocaust Studies. In total, some 1,150 educators participated in the three conferences, all of which centered on the theme of 70 years since the end of WWII: “Can These Bones Live? On Liberation and the *She'erit Hapleita* (Surviving Remnant).”

The female teachers heard a range of talks about the DP camps, including the revival of Jewish life, *halachic* issues such as weddings and *agunot* (married women whose husbands’

fates remained unknown), returning hidden children to Jewish homes, and rabbis serving in the liberating forces. In addition, they toured the campus, including the Museum Complex, Archives and Artifacts Collection, and listened intently to the concluding lecture by Justice Gabriel Bach, the deputy prosecutor in the Eichmann Trial.

The Annual Lecture for Haredi Teachers in Memory of Samuel and Edward Cohen (USA) on the moment of liberation was given by Yad Vashem Council Chairman Rabbi Israel Meir Lau (pictured), who was freed as a young boy from Buchenwald. Following this fascinating opening talk, the male educators, Talmud Torah teachers and school supervisors and principals took tours of the Mount of Remembrance, and participated in a number of workshops designed to enrich both their understanding of the events and their teaching skills. “The conference gave us more background, knowledge and tools to pass on to our students,” wrote one participant

Nava Weiss

at the end of the conference. “We must continue to nourish the commandment *‘zechor yemot olam* (remember the times gone by)’. Thank you for all your efforts towards this vital goal.”

The conferences for ultra-Orthodox educators were held in cooperation with the Division for Ultra-Orthodox Education at the Municipality of Jerusalem, and supported by the Azrieli Foundation and the Claims Conference.

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



International School Facebook Group: A Platform for Educational Discourse

■ The Facebook group of Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies is fast becoming one of the most popular locations for online Holocaust education-related discussions.

The concept behind the group (“The International School for Holocaust Studies”) is to maintain a community of School graduates and other interested parties dealing with the most challenging issues surrounding educating on Holocaust history, antisemitism and human rights. Group members from some 80 countries post items for discussion with increasing regularity, and on many different themes.

In addition, graduates of the International School often post about their activities with their students in their respective countries, providing the opportunity for an exchange of



Jane Jacobs-Kimmelman

knowledge and teaching models. The Facebook group also showcases Yad Vashem's educational materials, tools and programs, news and events from the campus, as well as external articles considered to be of relevance and interest to the ever-growing audience.

The Facebook group continues to gain recognition from Holocaust educators worldwide; it was recently cited at the Las Vegas conference of the Association of Holocaust Organizations as an example of “successful Holocaust education using social media.”

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

News from the Virtual School

MOOC on the Holocaust Dr. Na'ama Shik

■ Millions of people today learn through online courses, and this trend is on a consistent upward path. Most universities and educational institutions around the world offer a wealth of such courses, making knowledge and information available for a wide range of new audiences. Since 2012, this trend has turned into a prominent global movement with the establishment of MOOCs – Massive Online Open Courses – the first of which was the American “Coursera,” closely followed by other learning platforms such as the British “FutureLearn.” Today, for example, Coursera offers some 1,300 courses from 122 educational institutions, with 15 million students taking part. Over two million people have participated in FutureLearn since its establishment in 2013. The courses offered on these platforms are video-based, accompanied by presentations, educational material, reading lists, student assignments and more.

Viewing learning and teaching as one of its most fundamental missions, Yad Vashem recently decided to create a pioneering course on the Holocaust, which will be presented on these two main MOOC platforms. Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies, in

cooperation with Yad Vashem’s International Institute for Holocaust Research and Tel Aviv University, will launch “The Holocaust: An Introduction” in November 2015 on FutureLearn (www.futurelearn.com/courses/holocaust-part-1) and in January 2016 on Coursera. Thousands of people have already signed up to take part.

The course – the very first of its kind – is led by Prof. Havi Dreifuss, Head of the Research Institute’s Center for Research on the Holocaust in Poland and lecturer at Tel Aviv University. Staff from the Research Institute and the International School’s Educational Technology Department, as well as Yad Vashem researchers, contribute to its content. The expected sizable target audience is varied: students, teachers, educators and a wide array of people are interested in the topic. The course offers an overview of the Holocaust, while delving into the central subjects of Holocaust research, such as: from “traditional” hatred to Nazi ideology; from democracy to totalitarianism; Nazi Germany and the Jews; ostracism and separation; the development of the “Final Solution”; Jewish and non-Jewish responses to the Holocaust; and the final months of the war and its repercussions on the Holocaust of



European Jews. Sub-topics will include everyday life in the ghettos, the world of the camps, the Righteous Among the Nations, remembrance and commemoration, and more.

The archival material that accompanies the course – and represents an integral part of it – is taken from Yad Vashem’s Archives. This provides participants with access to Yad Vashem’s unparalleled resources, as well as a gateway to the latest knowledge and research on the Holocaust.

The new MOOC course, “The Holocaust: An Introduction” is generously supported by the Adelson Family Foundation.

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

Online Course on Auschwitz

■ Launched earlier this year, “Auschwitz: History of a Death Camp” is the latest in the series of Yad Vashem online courses on the Holocaust. This six-lesson course covers all major aspects of the infamous extermination camp, from its establishment to the arrival, selection and murder processes, as well as the daily life of prisoners, the perpetrators, resistance, and the reactions of the outside

Jonathan Clapsaddle



world. Throughout, the course uses a variety of tools and resources – original photographs and documents, research material, interviews, interactive visual environments and more – to complement the core material. As with all of Yad Vashem’s English-language courses,

participants may register for and begin the course at any time. Assignments are checked and graded by the course staff at the International School, who welcome participants’ questions and correspondence.

The online course on Auschwitz is generously supported by the Adelson Family Foundation. Visit the International School’s online courses page at: yadvashem.org/courses

New Videos Added to the Holocaust Education Video Toolbox

■ The Holocaust Education Video Toolbox is a unique video portal designed specifically for Holocaust teachers and educators as well as interested learners, offering short, hands-on videos on how to teach the Holocaust. The site has recently been updated with several new videos, with topics including the development of the “Final Solution,” guidelines for using *The Auschwitz Album* in the classroom, two videos on the survivors’ return to life, a case study for teaching about the perpetrators, and

teaching the Holocaust using art, photographs and Holocaust testimonies. Each video page includes additional pedagogical considerations and an extensive variety of teaching aids on the relevant topic.

The Holocaust Education Video Toolbox is supported through the generosity of Jan and Rick Cohen and the Panjandrum Foundation, USA. Visit the Holocaust Education Video Toolbox page at: yadvashem.org/toolbox

The author heads the Educational Technology Department’s English Desk, International School for Holocaust Studies.

Jonathan Clapsaddle



Fate and Identity

"Non-Jewish Jews" during the Shoah

Leah Goldstein

■ Between 6–9 July 2015, Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research held its annual summer workshop for scholars, traditionally dedicated to emerging, under-researched issues in Holocaust research. This year's workshop was dedicated to "Non-Jewish Jews" during the *Shoah*: Fate and Identity," and dealt with persons who did not fall into the regular Nazi definition of "full Jews": *Mischlinge* ("half" and "quarter" Jews); *Geltungsjuden* (those deemed Jewish but not falling into any category of the original Nuremberg Laws); converts; those who tried to prove that they were not "racially" Jews; and more.

"Most of the Holocaust research to date deals with 'clear-cut' Jews, not those who fall into marginal categories," explained Prof. Dan Michman, Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research and John Najmann Chair for Holocaust Studies. "This unique workshop dealt with people who became defined as Jews despite the way in which they identified themselves. It was fascinating to study how a rigid ideology and world view tried to cope with imposing bureaucratic definitions on the complexities of reality: some cases simply didn't fit, and suddenly, beyond the irrational and deadly racism espoused by the Germans, you see how completely senseless the system really was."

Participants at the workshop hailed from Austria, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Israel, the Netherlands, Poland, Serbia, the UK and the US, presenting a broad variety of aspects of the topic, including definitions, self-perceptions and rescue attempts.

Discussions were vivid and thought-provoking, shedding new light on the many layers of identity during the Holocaust period. Following each half-hour presentation, an additional half-hour was devoted to discussion, creating a fuller picture.

Many of the presenters focused on the lengths taken by Jews in individual countries to "prove" their non-Jewish ancestry. Jaap Cohen, a researcher at the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies (Amsterdam), discussed how a group of Sephardic Jews in the Netherlands set up a large-scale rescue operation in order to evade deportation. Based on a wide variety of arguments, they formulated a theory which tried to prove that they were of a different

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Name / Name	Relationship to head View and last Page no. d. Familienbogen	Date of birth Geburtsdatum	Nationality Staatsangehörigkeit Nationalität	Town, province and country of birth Geburtsort, Distrikt, Staat				
Hermann	all.	5.5.19	1/2 Jude	Lübeck, Deutschland				
Wife / Ehefrau								
Children / Kinder								

■ International Refugee Organization (IRO) application form filled out by DP Hermann Aub for a resettlement program. In the space marked "nationality," the applicant wrote "1/2 Jew." Courtesy: ITS Digital Archive, Bad Arolsen



Many of the presenters focused on the lengths taken by Jews in individual countries to "prove" their non-Jewish ancestry

"race" than Ashkenazi Jews. During this so-called "Action Portuguesia," the Sephardim claimed that their forefathers in the Iberian Peninsula had mixed, as *conversos*, with the old-Christian aristocracy. By the time they immigrated to the Netherlands, they supposedly had only a small percentage of "Jewish blood" remaining. This claim was "proven" by genealogical, physical-anthropological, cultural, political and psychological arguments, expressed by mostly non-Jewish scholars in a great number of reports, letters and other sources. Cohen expertly tackled the question of whether the Action Portuguesia was a scam for a noble



■ Pictures from the De Froe Report (1943) of Dutch Sephardic Jews who tried to prove that they did not belong to the Semitic, but rather to the Mediterranean "race." Courtesy: NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies

cause, or if the Sephardim really believed in their arguments. He also analyzed the German reactions to the Action Portuguesia, and the way the rescue operation was evaluated after WWII by both Sephardim and Ashkenazim.

"It was fascinating to study how a rigid ideology and world view tried to cope with imposing bureaucratic definitions: some cases simply didn't fit, and suddenly you see how completely senseless the system really was."

Prof. Dan Michman



■ "An open exchange of thoughts" – researchers from around the world gather at Yad Vashem to discuss the topic of "non-Jewish Jews" during the Holocaust.

Another area covered was how Nazi persecution urged the "non-Jewish Jews" to deal with their identities, which was often extremely complex. Diverse lectures included the fate of children from mixed marriages during and in the aftermath of the Holocaust (Prof. Joanna Michlic, University of Bristol); how the Nazi regime related to Germans who had converted into Judaism before the war (Dr. Assaf Yedidya, Yad Vashem); and the attitude of the Vatican to Jewish converts to Catholicism ("non-Aryan Catholics") (Dr. Suzanne Brown-Fleming, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum). Dr. Susanne Urban from the International Tracing Service (ITS) spoke about the impact of these definitions in her discussion on how these people struggled for a new life after 1945. Many wrote on their own registration papers "half-Jew" or other labels the Nazis had assigned to them. That is, these identities had become so ingrained in their sense of self that they continued to use them even after the Nazi threat had abated. She also focused on the Allied responses, how they categorized the applicants and how they decided eligibility for assistance and immigration visas.

Yad Vashem Academic Advisor Prof. Yehuda Bauer, a leading figure in the field of Holocaust research, attended the entire workshop and actively contributed to the high-level discussions. "When talking about 'non-Jewish Jews' we assume the right to determine post factum what the identity of a person was. Is that correct?" he asked. "Should we not respect

the definition the person made for herself or himself? However, that may be skewed by the fact that people considered themselves obliged, in order to save their skins, to say whatever the authorities wanted to hear. It's a complicated issue indeed."

Praising the atmosphere as "the best of its kind," "extremely amicable" with "an open exchange of thoughts," the participants viewed the workshop as a vital aid to peer networking, with some committing to submit versions of their papers to *Yad Vashem Studies* for publication. "Never has a community of scholars dealt solely with this issue in this type of setting – there are books written, and articles, but a week-long workshop with this as the topic has, as far as I know, never happened anywhere," said Prof. Michman. Participants certainly found both the guidance by established scholars at Yad Vashem and the peer group setting most beneficial to their particular research topics. "It was very interesting to see that the situation and the persecution of the 'Non-Jewish Jews' was somewhat different in most of the regions controlled by the Nazis," said PhD student Maximilian Strnad (University of Munich), whose presentation focused on intermarried German Jews in the final stages of the *Shoah*. Indeed, Strnad showed that in the German Reich regional particularities gained much more importance in the last stage of the persecution of Jews towards the end of WWII, and that this persecution was shaped more and more by the

pretext of security policy in order to evict the last German Jews step by step from territories that were declared war zones. Interestingly, the status of "privileged" mixed marriages, which had protected the Jewish spouse against persecution until then, lost its meaning. In sum, Strnad explained, "marriage with a non-Jewish spouse by no means guaranteed the survival of German Jews. Their fate remained a negotiable matter until the very end. Still, their status delayed deportation, so that most of them had the fortune to survive."

In her summation, Yad Vashem Chief Historian Prof. Dina Porat pointed out some difficulties that lie in assessing survivor testimonies from this category given the passage of years after the events, as well as the role of the historian to find the correct balance between written documents and verbal testimony. Her main comments, however, concentrated on the theme of Jewish self-identity, and the lengths one would go to – as demonstrated by most of the presentations – to save one's own life, or those of others. "All those that took steps, out of dire necessity, to save themselves, were thinking of better times in which they could return to their former identities and traditions," she said. "But in the meantime, these actions caused great difficulties and ruptures within their own hearts. In some cases, the survivors kept their new identities, even after the war ended."

The workshop on "Non-Jewish Jews" was generously supported by the Gutwirth Family Fund.

New on the Shelf



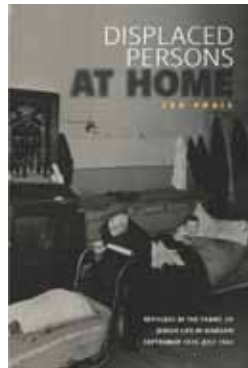
Displaced Persons at Home by Dr. Lea Prais

Dr. Ella Florsheim

■ Between 1939 and 1942, Poland became the testing ground for the Third Reich's policy of racial imperialism. The dismemberment of Poland, the annexation of its territory by Germany and the USSR and the establishment of the Generalgouvernement triggered the displacement and flight of hundreds of thousands of people in all directions. This vast wave of refugees resulted from the Nazis' plans to cleanse the area of those it deemed "subversive" or "alien," and to resettle "ethnic Germans" in their stead. The massive population transfers that the Germans carried out in order to change the entire ethnic structure of the annexed territories had drastic consequences for the Jewish population.

Dr. Lea Prais is a researcher at the International Institute for Holocaust Research, and head of "The Untold Stories," Yad Vashem's online research project on the sites of mass

murder in the Former Soviet Union. Her latest book, *Displaced Persons at Home: Refugees in the Fabric of Jewish Life in Warsaw, September 1939-July 1942*, discusses the unique features of the waves of escape and deportation of Jews to Warsaw. It documents the Jewish refugees' places of origin and the responses of the public and the community leadership in the periphery to the impending deportations and migrations. The refugees who streamed into Warsaw were received by a community that



suffered from persecution as well. The weak socio-economic status of the refugees, their interaction with the local Jewish population and the substantial differences and conflicts between the two groups constitute the focal point of this study. The author examines the impact the arrival of the refugees had on the fabric of Jewish life – the housing situation, employment, health and mortality rates in Warsaw before and after the establishment of the ghetto – accompanied by a discussion of the community's response to the phenomenon and its sociological implications. In addition, the study details how the refugees served as information carriers and provided details about the implementation of Nazi policies.

Once the Warsaw ghetto was sealed, it became a trap for both the Jews that had become refugees in their own country and the local Jews who were now refugees in their own city.

Studying Human Behavior during the Holocaust

Dr. David Silberklang

■ How should we approach the study of human behavior during the Holocaust? What factors impacted the reactions of Jews to their persecution and of their neighbors to their plight? Of course, scholars have addressed such questions for years, yet the answers remain elusive. Three articles in the new issue of *Yad Vashem Studies* (43:1) – by Prof. Guy Miron, Dr. Anna Hájková and Prof. Jan Grabowski – contribute significant insight into these central questions emerging from the Holocaust. Whereas Miron and Hájková look at aspects of Jews' experiences, Grabowski examines the "bystanders."

Miron discusses the factor of waiting in the experience of German Jews under the Nazis. Waiting was a central aspect of Jewish experience during the Holocaust that has previously not been seriously addressed by scholars. Jews everywhere under Nazi control frequently found themselves waiting – for an authority's decision, for food, for the next decree, for a transport, for blows, for death – as well as facing the very decision of whether to wait or to attempt some sort of action. Miron focuses on German Jews' waiting over time, from 1933 through the war period, yet his framing of this new research subject and

questions shed light on Jews in general. Indeed, this is reflected in the cover photo of *Yad Vashem Studies* (43:1) of newly arrived Dutch Jews in Theresienstadt waiting for food.

This cover photo is also connected to Hájková's fascinating analysis of coping mechanisms in Theresienstadt of Dutch Jewish deportees and German Jewish refugees in Holland. Interestingly, Hájková finds that the German Jewish refugees deported from Holland adapted better and were far more adept in learning the ways of the camp than the native Dutch Jews. The same seems to have been true at Auschwitz-Birkenau, she adds. Moreover, the native Jews' death rate was considerably higher. Both Miron and Hájková cite aspects of the Jews' culture and history in each country as impacting upon and being impacted by their experiences.



In analyzing the role of "bystanders" in the implementation of the "Final Solution," particularly in Poland, Grabowski posits that "bystanding" was simply impossible. Where the murder of the Jews was public, and temptation, greed and awareness of impunity abounded, the result was not widespread indifference to the Jews' plight, as some have argued, but rather the opposite – decisions by local non-Jewish Poles to act, often to the Jews' detriment. Where the Holocaust was brought right into their homes, the very notion that people could have maintained neutrality misses the mark.

In their groundbreaking and meticulous conceptual and research work, Miron, Hájková and Grabowski have defined new frames of reference and opened the way for extensive future research and discussion of the behavior of the victims and of the incorrectly-termed "bystanders" during the Holocaust.

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

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

Completing the Picture

New Information Allows Couple to be Recognized as Righteous Among the Nations

Irena Steinfeldt

■ Despite the passage of time, staff members of Yad Vashem's Department of the Righteous Among the Nations are today sometimes in a better position to find the missing pieces in unresolved cases. The creation of large collections of survivor testimonies, the growing accessibility of archival catalogues, modern communications and access to Internet search tools often enable them to complete the picture.

In 1996, Holocaust survivor Eduard Frumin asked Yad Vashem to bestow the title of Righteous Among the Nations on his wartime rescuers, Anna and Stanislaw Tomczyk of Poland. When requests for authenticating documentation went unanswered, the case remained open. Almost two decades later, as part of a new project funded by the Claims Conference to complete unsolved files, Yad Vashem established contact with Frumin's daughter, Yelena Shraga. Shraga related that her father had been killed in a car accident shortly

The director of an orphanage in Saratov told her that a boy resembling the child in her photo had been adopted by a local family. Anna began a long and painful battle to have the child she believed erroneously was her son returned to her

after having written to Yad Vashem. With her help, the Department's researchers could now fill in the details of the case.

Eduard Frumin was born in 1939 in Grodno, Poland. When the Germans attacked the Soviet Union, Eduard's father, Boris, enlisted in the Red Army and was killed shortly thereafter. His mother Anna and little Eduard were evacuated by the retreating Soviets. Soon after they left Grodno, Anna fell off the truck that was carrying

Shraga related that her father had been killed in a car accident shortly after having written to Yad Vashem

them. She managed to stop another vehicle and eventually reached the Soviet side, where she began searching for her son. Little did she know that the truck carrying Eduard had been hit in the crossfire, and that its occupants never reached the frontier. Eduard was found in the wreckage and taken back to Grodno, where one of the Frumins' former neighbors, Anna Tomczyk, recognized him. Knowing that the Jewish infant was in mortal danger, Tomczyk decided to take him to her home. Despite the great risk, and the fact that some of the neighbors also recognized the child, Anna and her husband Stanislaw cared for Eduard until the liberation of Grodno. When Anna passed away that same year, Stanislaw decided to move to Poland with his six children. He brought Eduard to an orphanage in the hope that his parents would come back from the war to claim him. When no one did, he was given up for adoption to a Jewish family, who settled in Lwow.

Many years later, Eduard began to search for his biological family. He travelled to Grodno with his wife and daughter, and found that he had been brought to the orphanage by Stanislaw Tomczyk, who gave his real name and those of his parents. He further learned why his mother had never returned to claim him: Believing him also to be in the Soviet Union, Anna began going from one orphanage to another, showing her son's photo. After two years, the director of an orphanage in Saratov told her that a boy resembling the child in her photo had been adopted by a local family. Anna began a long and painful battle to have the child she believed erroneously was her son – and who bore a similar birthmark to Eduard – returned to her. When Eduard was reunited with his birth mother Anna Frumin in Uniechia in the Briansk district of Russia in 1978, he also met the other "Eduard," the son she had raised, believing it was him.



■ Stanislaw Tomczyk (left) and survivor Eduard Frumin, 1970s



■ Stanislaw Tomczyk, his son Janusz and the survivor Eduard Frumin (sitting on a bicycle), 1942

Only when Frumin's heirs brought the documents from the orphanage and other information to Yad Vashem, some 19 years after the initial request had been submitted, could the Commission for the Designation of the Righteous finally recognize the late Anna and Stanislaw Tomczyk as Righteous Among the Nations.

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

Yad Vashem Online



Dana Porath

New Online Community: Nieśwież

■ Exactly 73 years after the first armed uprising in the ghettos during WWII broke out in Nieśwież, Poland (today Belarus), Yad Vashem held a special event marking the uploading of a fascinating account of the Nieśwież Jewish community to its website. The site describes the diverse, dynamic and flourishing community before the Holocaust, and relates the story of the uprising there on 21 July 1942. The story of Nieśwież joins that of other Jewish communities across Europe featured in the Yad Vashem online mini-site “Here Their Stories Will Be Told... The Valley of the Communities at Yad Vashem.”

At the event, Dana Porath, Director of Yad Vashem’s Internet Department, presented the story of the Nieśwież community and the ghetto



■ From left: Dr. Israel Peleg, Avner Shalev, Micha Harish and Adv. Mordechai Bas at the launch of the Nieśwież online community

uprising to the Chairman of the Company for the Location and Restitution of Holocaust Victims’ Assets Micha Harish, the Company’s CEO Dr. Israel Peleg, and Adv. Mordechai Bas, Chairman



of the Committee for Aid to Holocaust Survivors and Commemoration of the Company’s Board of Directors, which helps support Yad Vashem’s Online Communities Project.

Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev pointed out the importance of the online project “to understand our history and strengthen Jewish continuity: this is both a *kesher* (link) and *gesher* (bridge) to the next generations.” He added: “Although it was distinctive in its implementation of a fierce uprising against its oppressors, Nieśwież represents a microcosm of the passion for culture and education, mutual assistance and creativity that characterizes the Jewish people – then and now.”

Chairman of the Restitution Company Harish emphasized the importance of commemorating the destruction of precisely the hundreds of small communities that had few or no survivors, and thanked Yad Vashem for its support over the years. Adv. Peleg called the subsite “remarkable, moving and professional... built exceptionally well and with great insight.”

Follow Yad Vashem on Instagram

■ In addition to a very active presence on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and YouTube, Yad Vashem has an active presence on Instagram – a social networking app made for sharing photos and videos from a smartphone. Due to the inherent viral nature of social media – every message, post, tweet or pin has the potential of being seen by tens of thousands, who can then in turn share it with thousands more in a matter of minutes – continuous efforts are made by Yad Vashem’s Internet team to maximize the opportunities presented by each platform and to target the most potentially relevant audiences in its outreach efforts.



Online Exhibitions on Righteous – Now in Spanish and German

■ Reflecting a growing global interest in Righteous Among the Nations, Yad Vashem recently launched two related exhibitions in Spanish and German. The exhibition “‘Their Fate will be My Fate Too’: Teachers Who Rescued Jews during the Holocaust,” now translated into Spanish,

relates how some non-Jewish teachers felt it was their duty not only to educate and instill values in the classroom, but also to live by those ideals, even at the risk of their lives – while others merely watched as their Jewish students were harassed, discriminated against and finally murdered.

“‘Women of Valor’: Stories of Women Who Rescued Jews during the Holocaust,” now also presented in German, tells some of the stories of courageous women who initiated rescue attempts and acted independently to save Jews during the *Shoah*.

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



■ On 22 July 2015, Croatian film producer and Holocaust survivor Branko Lustig donated to Yad Vashem the Oscar awarded to him by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for *Schindler's List*. The Oscar is being displayed in Yad Vashem's Visual Center – the world's digital film library for Holocaust-related films.



■ Branko Lustig looking at a facsimile of the original *Schindler's List* in the Holocaust History Museum

The event took place during the official visit to Yad Vashem by Croatian President H.E. Ms. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, in which a joint declaration on Holocaust commemoration and education between Yad Vashem and Croatia was signed.

After the signing, a special symposium took place in Yad Vashem's Auditorium, in cooperation with the Embassy of Croatia. At the event, Visual Center Director Liat Benhabib presented a lecture on "Reflections: Holocaust Memory in Film." "Film will forever influence the way the *Shoah* is formed in collective memory," said Benhabib. "*Schindler's List* touched the hearts of millions worldwide and enhanced Holocaust remembrance

and education, eventually becoming an icon of Holocaust commemoration."

Branko Lustig was born in Osijek, Croatia to a Jewish family. During WWII, he was imprisoned in Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen for two years. After liberation, he was reunited with his mother, Vilma. The majority of his family members, including his father, Mirko, were murdered during the Holocaust. A renowned film producer based in Croatia and Hollywood, Lustig has produced many prominent films and mini-series and won a number of prestigious awards, including two Oscars (*Schindler's List* and *Gladiator*).

Shalev praised Lustig for "finding the golden path to providing a difficult narrative to the general public... *Schindler's List* was not the first feature film about the Holocaust, but was a



■ From left: President Grabar-Kitarovic, Branko Lustig, Avner Shalev and Visual Center Director Liat Benhabib standing by the Oscar on display in the Visual Center

'hurricane' in Holocaust awareness." Recognizing the courage it took for Lustig to make such a remarkable film, especially as a survivor, Shalev

thanked him also "for your decision to separate yourself from your Oscar – which is so meaningful for any creator – and to give it to Yad Vashem, on the Mount of Remembrance, where it will be seen by millions of visitors and become another step in enhancing Holocaust commemoration."

President Grabar-Kitarović highlighted Lustig's ongoing promotion of tolerance and education in Croatia. "Education is the strongest weapon against any kind of radical ideology or racism," she said. "History is the teacher of life. This Oscar represents a beacon of light – of the Righteous Among the Nations who made the right choice despite the risk of being cruelly punished. I celebrate Branko Lustig's mission to make the world a better place – his *tikun olam*."

An emotional Lustig explained how as a young survivor, he used the medium of film to try to tell what he had witnessed. "I talk and talk, so the younger generations will be aware and try to stop intolerance and racism wherever they see it," he remarked. "This Oscar is for all the victims and the survivors – all that they went through. It represents all the people who were killed and asked us to tell their stories."

The Yad Vashem Visual Center collects, catalogs and preserves Holocaust-related films of all genres. The Collection comprises 10,000 titles from all over the world, as well as tens of thousands of survivor testimonies, recorded by the USC Shoah Foundation Institute established by Steven Spielberg, and by Yad Vashem. All of the testimonies and most of the films in the Collection are available for viewing at the Visual Center. The Visual Center's film database is available online.

UK Film Director David Evans: Winner of Yad Vashem Chairman's Award 2015

Liat Benhabib

■ *A Nazi Legacy: What Our Fathers Did* by British director David Evans garnered the 2015 Avner Shalev Yad Vashem Chairman's Award for Artistic Achievement in Holocaust-related Film, at the 32nd Jerusalem International Film Festival this July. This was the award's tenth consecutive year, endowed by Michaela and Leon Constantiner of New York.

The jury chose *A Nazi Legacy*, based on the research of renowned human-rights lawyer Philippe Sands, "for courageous documentary filmmaking, recording the attempt by two sons of notorious Nazi war criminals to make sense of their fathers' actions, in the course of their encounter with a Jewish expert on international law, who lost many family members in Galicia/Ukraine during the Holocaust as a direct consequence of the crimes committed by the fathers of his interlocutors. The film deals with the complexity of the second generation's confrontation with history, which continues,

relentlessly, in the present." Upon receiving the award, Evans, known for episodes he directed in the award-winning television series *Downton Abbey*, *Whitechapel* and *Shameless*, said: "Our film was born in a spirit of friendship, first between me and Philippe Sands – we were students together at Cambridge University – and then between him and the other two contributors. I'm particularly pleased that it was so well received in Jerusalem, and very gratified that the jury chose the film for this important award."

At the festival, Magnus Gertten, the Swedish director of the documentary *Every Face Has a Name*, received an Honorable Mention "for thoughtful and creative documentary research, which leads to an increased awareness of the basic human dignity of every individual; and for the preservation of knowledge and information by virtue of its exemplary use of archival footage."

The author is Director of the Visual Center.

Brauner to Support Acquisition of Translated Films

■ Artur Brauner, a leading West German film producer in the postwar period, created more than 260 feature films during a career that spanned more than 60 years. A veteran supporter of the Yad Vashem Visual Center, Brauner donated 25 of the films he produced about the Holocaust to the Center in 2009, and in 2011 he supported the upgrading of the Center's computer stations. A recent further donation by Brauner will allow the Center to acquire copies of films vital to Yad Vashem's educational work that have been translated into Hebrew. As such, Artur Brauner's support will enable the Visual Center to continue to bring quality films, originally produced in foreign languages and with a limited distribution, to its Israeli audience.

The Initial Turmoil: The First Months of Nazi German Occupation in Poland

Prof. Havi Dreifuss

■ How have the initial behaviors of the German occupation forces vis-à-vis the citizens of occupied Poland been described, and what was the role of Nazi ideology in everyday conduct towards the local Jewish population? What struggles existed within the Nazi occupation forces by the beginning of the war and how did the first acts of deportation and death (marches) develop?

From 22-24 June, researchers from Israel and abroad attended a ground-breaking workshop held by the Center for Research on the Holocaust in Poland at Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research



■ Researchers discuss the first months of Nazi occupation in Poland

to discuss various aspects of the first few months of German occupation during WWII. While the study of the Holocaust in general, and that of Polish Jewry in particular, has been the focus of research in Israel and abroad for years, most studies deal with the later years, when the persecution and murder of the Jews reached their apex. The early months of the occupation constituted the first encounter with the German occupier for the vast majority of the Jews living in Poland, and the first rupture in their lives as they had lived them until then.

Among the topics presented and discussed at the workshop were Jewish-Polish relations in the beginning of the occupation; fleeing eastward and the Jewish waves of refugees that came in its wake; the plunder and fate of artistic assets of Jews; the beginning of the policy of forced labor and its significance for the Jewish population; and the death marches.

The workshop was made possible thanks to the generous support of the Aharon Gutwirth Fund and the Danek Gertner Yad Vashem Research Scholarship.

The author is Director of the Center for Research on the Holocaust in Poland, International Institute for Holocaust Research.

Yad Vashem-Haifa University Summer Course: The Holocaust in the Soviet Union

■ For the second year in a row, the International Institute for Holocaust Research's Center for Research on the History of Soviet Jews during the Holocaust organized a course this summer at the University of Haifa, in the framework of the Weiss-Livnat International MA Program in Holocaust Studies. The course, held in cooperation with the Ghetto Fighters' House Museum, enabled the program's students substantially to expand their understanding of the Holocaust and the unique character of the fate of Soviet Jewry during WWII.

The course's lecturers included Prof. Dina Porat, Yad Vashem Chief Historian; Prof. Dan Michman, Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research and John Najmann Chair of Holocaust Studies; Dr. David Silberklang, Senior Historian at the Research Institute; Dr. Arkadi Zeltser, Director of the Center for Research on the History of Soviet Jews during the Holocaust; Dr. Leonid Rein from the Research Institute; Katya Gusarov from the Righteous Among the Nations Department; and Dr. Kiril Feferman, whose lecture on the fate of Oriental Jews in the Soviet Union - Krymchaks, Mountain Jews and Karaites - was important to understanding the essence of the Holocaust. The Nazis' attitude regarding these Jews emphasizes the racial foundations of their antisemitism: Krymchaks were recognized as Jews by the racial "specialists" and so were murdered, while the Nazis did not manage to determine the issue of the Mountain Jews, and so only some of them were murdered. The Karaites were recognized as non-Jews, and the Nazis did not target them at all.

Additionally, a seminar for students with two lecturers from abroad featuring two guest lecturers took place at Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research on 16 July. Prof. Olga Gershenson of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA, presented pertinent clips during her lecture, entitled "The Holocaust on Soviet Screens." Prof. Joshua Rubenstein, Associate of Harvard's Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, spoke about Soviet-Jewish author and journalist Ilya Ehrenburg - a man who simultaneously was an influential figure in Soviet propaganda and had an outstanding Jewish awareness.

The summer course on the Holocaust in the Soviet Union was generously supported by the Genesis Philanthropy Group.

Research Scholarships 2015

■ On 25 June, the International Institute for Holocaust Research held its annual scholarship ceremony for MA students and doctoral candidates in Israel who are researching the Holocaust. The scholarships support the study of the Holocaust and passing on its memory to future generations.



Some 80 people attended the event, among them representatives of the Yad Vashem funds that granted the scholarships, the student recipients and their family members. Sixteen scholarships were granted during the ceremony: ten to MA students and six to doctoral candidates who wrote extensively about the Holocaust in various disciplines and topics.

Dr. Zehava Tanne, member of the Yad Vashem Directorate, delivered an address on behalf of the funds' representatives. Every year, Dr. Tanne contributes a scholarship in memory of Ida Rothman née Schwarz, a native of Vilna, and Shraga Rothman, a native of Lodz, and their family members murdered in the Holocaust. Ronen Haran spoke on behalf of the scholarship recipients. In presenting his final degree paper, entitled "The *Sonderkommando* Uprising in Auschwitz: The Feminine Aspect," Haran spoke about the aid and contribution of the Jewish women working in the German ammunition plants to the insurgents among the *Sonderkommando* in Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1944. He described the solidarity of four women who were caught, tortured and ultimately executed, but did not betray their friends.

Joint Research Workshop for PhD Candidates from the UK and Israel

Eliot Nidam Orvieto

■ One of the goals of the International Institute for Holocaust Research since its inception in 1993 has been to support and encourage young Holocaust researchers. This is why the Institute established a program of annual international research workshops for PhD candidates investigating Holocaust-related

topics. These workshops are conducted jointly by the Research Institute at Yad Vashem and a research establishment or university from abroad. The workshops are held either in Israel or in the home country of the partner institution.

This year's summer workshop for PhD candidates was hosted by the Wiener Library in London, England. The participants, the majority of whom are from the UK and Israel, gave interesting and informative presentations on a range of topics, including the deportation of Dutch Jewry to extermination camps; British policy and the postwar internment of Jewish refugees in Cyprus; missing persons in the

aftermath of the Holocaust; archaeological research at Sobibor; hiding Jews in convents in France; and the misrepresentation of female guards in Hollywood films. A guest professor or specialist on the presented topic was invited to respond to each student's presentation, which greatly stimulated discourse among the participants. The discussions after each presentation were fruitful, displaying the academic prowess of these young scholars. A reciprocal workshop is set to take place in Israel in the near future.

The workshop took place with the generous support of the Gutwirth Family Fund and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

PhD Candidate Studies Fate of German-Jewish WWI Veterans in Nazi Germany



■ Over the summer months, a number of PhD candidates from around the world came to Yad Vashem to make use of its comprehensive

archives and libraries. One such candidate, Michael Geheran from the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University, Massachusetts, USA, is researching "Betrayed Comradeship: German-Jewish WWI Veterans under Hitler" – a multidisciplinary analysis of Jewish war veterans in Nazi Germany during the Holocaust. Drawing upon primary and autobiographical sources collected from archives in Europe, Israel and the US, Geheran is examining how the bonds of military comradeship forged between Jews and other Germans during the First World War gave way to indifference, conflict and betrayal under the Nazis. Geheran's studies scrutinize the ways these relations changed with shifting political and military conditions in the Third Reich as Jewish veterans were declared outcasts from the Nazi racial community, contributing to a key issue of scholarship on German-Jewish relations under National Socialism.

During his two-week visit to Yad Vashem, Geheran examined various testimonies and collections of private documents housed in the Archives. These documents were mainly from German-Jewish WWI veterans or their families, who successfully escaped the Third

Reich and emigrated to Mandatory Palestine or the UK, and included diaries, memoirs and legal documents that proved vital to reconstructing the routines of daily life under the Nazis. In addition, he devoted several days at Yad Vashem to perusing the database of the International Tracing Service (ITS), allowing him to locate several pieces of documentation in the prisoner records of Buchenwald and Theresienstadt that cast light on the fates of several key individuals he is following in his study, and helping him establish which criteria the Nazis used to deport Jewish veterans at different times during the war.

"My stay at Yad Vashem was an immensely rewarding experience, both professionally and personally," says Geheran. "Not only did I locate a significant amount of material crucial to the completion of my dissertation, but the intellectual environment at the Institute also stimulated dialogue that brought me into contact with scholars and fellow PhD students in my field from all over the world.

"The biggest archival 'find' was a Gestapo report I discovered in the database of the ITS. Perusing documents regarding Jewish war veterans from the city of Würzburg, I found portions of an individual's Gestapo file which was thought to have been lost. The documents include correspondence between a Jewish former officer and a high-ranking NSDAP member in Munich (also a veteran), and show how many Germans, even Nazis, distinguished their Jewish former comrades with whom they had served during the war from other 'ordinary' Jews."

New Visionaries: Gerald Schwartz and Heather Reisman

■ On 18 June, Gerald Schwartz and Heather Reisman dedicated a plaque in Yad Vashem's Entrance Plaza in the presence of Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev. Gerald is the founder, Chairman, and CEO of Onex Corporation, Canada's largest private equity firm, and Heather is the founder, Chair, and CEO of Indigo Books and Music, Canada's leading book retailer.



Gerald and Heather recently made a significant donation to Yad Vashem, becoming major partners in Yad Vashem's efforts to keep the memory of the Holocaust and its meanings for the younger generations alive, today and in the future. Their donation will enable Yad Vashem to bring more soldiers and youth to the International School for Holocaust Studies, train additional educators to teach about the *Shoah*, and reveal new exhibitions and displays to Yad Vashem's millions of visitors.

The ceremony was attended by IDF soldiers and members of the HESEG Foundation, which was created by Gerald and Heather to provide full academic scholarships and living expenses to qualified applicants.

Yad Vashem warmly welcomes Gerald Schwartz and Heather Reisman to its honored community of dedicated and generous supporters in fulfilling its vital mission of Holocaust education and commemoration.

■ **“By facing reality via the visual arts, the Holocaust no longer can be defined as indescribable; it constitutes a reaffirmation of the human experience by the victims.”**

Yehudit Shendar, former Senior Art Curator at Yad Vashem

In February 2015, Yad Vashem organized an international workshop on Holocaust art, under the framework of EHRI – the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure, a trans-national project to support Holocaust research. Art curators, art historians and researchers from eight countries gathered on the Mount of Remembrance to explore the role of the visual arts in the attempt to build a historical narrative of the *Shoah*, examining the phenomenon through an array of approaches.

Israel Concludes ITS Chairmanship

■ **In June, Yad Vashem hosted the annual meeting of the International Committee of the ITS (International Tracing Service), culminating the Israeli chairmanship of the Committee.**

Located in Bad Arolsen, Germany, the ITS is a center for documentation, information and research on Nazi persecution, forced labor and the Holocaust. Its archives document the fate of millions of victims, preserving their names and memory. The ITS is governed by an international

In his opening remarks, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev emphasized the importance of the creation of art during the Holocaust, in the harshest of circumstances, as a component that preserved the artists' human spirit. He also pointed out the educational and commemorative value of these works as historical testimony in Yad Vashem's Museum Complex. Keynote speaker Prof. Barbara Kirschenblatt-Gimblett, Director of the Core Exhibition at the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, argued for removing the focus on art specifically to an emphasis on a broadly defined “visual culture.”

Discussion topics included the language of art: hidden testimonies; artists as recorders of history; and the integration of Holocaust art in the narrative of museums. The final day focused

committee comprised of the representatives of 11 countries. The Israeli chairmanship was held by Ronny Leshno-Yaar, Deputy Director General of the Division for International Organizations at Israel's Foreign Ministry, with the assistance of Yad Vashem Archives Director and Fred Hillman Chair for Holocaust Documentation Dr. Haim Gertner and Yad Vashem CIO Michael Lieber.

Over the past year, meetings were held with the ITS administration and German government

on another aspect of art and the Holocaust: looted art. This topic is particularly relevant to Holocaust documentation and the core activities of the EHRI project. The series of presentations addressed the Nazi art confiscation apparatus as well as resources for research regarding the origins of plundered pieces.

At the conclusion of an intense three days, the participants expressed gratitude for the exchange of knowledge and ideas with their colleagues in the intimate atmosphere of this first-of-its-kind workshop, and emphasized the need to continue the exchange in various frameworks, including EHRI. In addition, they stressed the necessity to acknowledge Holocaust art as a mainstream subject in the field of art history.

ministries to map strategic goals and discuss the challenges facing the organization. Yad Vashem led a workshop for experts in reference services from Member State institutions at Bad Arolsen, dealing specifically with ITS material regarding the fate of the Jews. Additionally, Yad Vashem's Information Technology Division assisted the ITS in digitally scanning some two million pages of documentation, contained in 1,100 microfilm reels.

Traveling Exhibition in Peru

■ **The Yad Vashem traveling exhibition “No Child's Play” depicts the struggle of Jewish children to hold on to life and maintain their childhood during the Holocaust.** Since January 2015, the exhibition in Spanish has been displayed at the Jewish Museum in Lima, Peru, arousing great interest among the local population. Graduates of Yad Vashem educators' seminars guide visitors from across Peru, who come from a range of backgrounds: teachers and students, diplomats, religious leaders and members of the Lima Jewish community. Due to growing demand, the exhibition has been extended through 2016.

“No Childs Play” (in English) is also due to open in the Belfast Synagogue, Northern Ireland

in November 2015 to mark the anniversary of the *Kristallnacht* pogrom.

Other Traveling Exhibitions around the World:

■ **“Spots of Light: To Be a Woman in the Holocaust”** will be displayed at the Center for the Persecuted Arts, Kunstmuseum in Solingen, Germany from 8 December 2015-24 January 2016. Creating space for the unique female narrative, the exhibition describes how women struggled to cope with the ever-changing realities of the *Shoah*, by focusing on subjects such as motherhood, love and friendship.

■ **“With Me Here are Six Million Accusers: The Eichmann Trial in Jerusalem”** addresses the capture and trial of Adolf Eichmann, one of the key architects of the Holocaust. The exhibition's opening event in Frankfurt (Oder), Germany, on 8 November will include a concert at the Brandenburg Orchestra concert hall. The exhibition will close on 30 November.

■ **“I Am My Brother's Keeper,”** which tells the story of the Righteous Among the Nations, was displayed at the University of Nevada in Reno from May-August 2015. In light of the extensive media coverage of the exhibition, including an hour-long radio program, the exhibition was extended for two extra weeks.

■ **“BESA – A Code of Honor”** features photographs by the American photographer Norman Gershman of Muslim Albanians who rescued Jews during the Holocaust. The exhibition will be displayed at the Freeman Family Foundation Holocaust Education Centre, Winnipeg, Canada, from 1-14 November 2015.

For more information on these and other Yad Vashem traveling exhibitions:
traveling.exhibitions@yadvashem.org.il



Yad Vashem Plays Prominent Role at International Jewish Genealogy Conference 2015

Deborah Berman



■ Deborah Berman of Yad Vashem's Names Recovery Project helps complete nine Pages of Testimony submitted by a conference attendee



■ Rabbi Israel Meir Lau delivers the keynote address at the conference



■ Archives Director Dr. Haim Gertner helps researchers use Yad Vashem's databases and resources

■ Yad Vashem played an active partnering role in the 35th annual International Conference on Jewish Genealogy (held once every decade in Israel), which took place on 6-10 July at the Ramada Hotel in Jerusalem. The keynote address at the opening plenary session was delivered by Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council. Explaining how the suffix to Jewish surnames derived from biblical sources changed when Jews wandered from place to place in the Diaspora (for example, Jacob became Jacobson), Lau spoke passionately about the importance of roots to memory: "The past goes with us," he emphasized. "Whoever breaks with his past loses his identity."

The rich conference program, attended by some 800 researchers and Jewish genealogy enthusiasts from around the world, included nine presentations by Yad Vashem speakers, guided assistance and access to Yad Vashem's databases at the conference venue and an information booth in the exhibition hall. An optional day at Yad Vashem offered dozens of participants a special menu of activities, including searching

The rich conference program, attended by some 800 researchers and Jewish genealogy enthusiasts from around the world, included nine presentations by Yad Vashem speakers, guided access to Yad Vashem's databases and an information booth

Holocaust-related documents in the Library Reading Room, tours of the Museum Complex exhibits, a behind-the-scenes tour of the Archives and lectures on a variety of *Shoah*-related topics.

The conference provided a remarkable moment for IAJGS participant Susan Edel from Petah Tikva, Israel. Edel, a seasoned genealogist,

has served for several years as a dedicated volunteer on Yad Vashem's *Shoah* Victims' Names Recovery Project and also volunteers in the tracing department of the Magen David Adom, handling many Holocaust-related queries.

During a lecture given by Yad Vashem Archives Director and Fred Hillman Chair for Holocaust Documentation Dr. Haim Gertner, Edel was surprised to see an image of the sheet music of her great-great-grandfather, the famed Jewish composer I. M. Japhet, projected on the screen before the crowded lecture hall. The document was recently donated to Yad Vashem and is housed in its Archives. "I always get very emotional when anyone talks about my great-great-grandfather," recalled Edel. "He was very close to Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch, and he served as the choirmaster in his synagogue in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. Seeing his music in this context, knowing that this book had survived *Kristallnacht* and the *Shoah* and that it had been restored to its rightful owners and now is preserved at Yad Vashem for generations to come, moved me deeply."

Unexpected *Shoah* Victims: Jews of the Caribbean

■ Included in the Central Database of *Shoah* Victims' Names, accessible on Yad Vashem's website, are the names of 175 Jews born or residing within the extended Caribbean basin, including the surrounding Latin-American countries, who were in Europe at the outbreak of WWII. These individuals were on family or work visits, or had immigrated to the continent, and subsequently became victims of Nazi persecution during the *Shoah*.

In preparation for the dedication of a monument to Holocaust victims in Paramaribo, the capital of Suriname, by the local Jewish community at the end of 2015, Dr. Alexander Avram, Director of Yad Vashem's Hall of Names, undertook painstaking research to uncover the fate of these Jews during WWII. Results indicate that 170 of them were murdered: 120 from Suriname; 16 from Cuba; 13 from Mexico; 10 from Curaçao (one from the island of Saba);

three from Venezuela; and the remainder from Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Trinidad and Tobago, Guadeloupe and Saint Thomas. About one-quarter were Sephardic Jews, as attested by their Spanish and Portuguese surnames, originating mostly from Suriname and Curaçao. The fate of the other five remains unknown.

During June–September 2015, Yad Vashem conducted some 250 guided tours for more than 3,000 official visitors from Israel and abroad. These guests included heads of state and local government, ambassadors and NGO officials, directors of educational and cultural institutions, and sports and entertainment personalities. Following is a small selection of our honored guests over these four months:

■ **US Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter** (third from left) was accompanied by Israel’s Minister of Defense Moshe Ya’alon (left) and Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev (fourth from left), and guided through the Holocaust History Museum by Dr. David Silberklang (second from left), Senior Historian at the International Institute for Holocaust Research. “My country will never forget the tragedy recorded here,” wrote the Secretary of Defense in the Guest Book, “and that memory is a buttress for our long and everlasting relationship as friends and security partners.”



■ **Poland’s Foreign Minister Grzegorz Scheytna** (left) was accompanied by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev (right) as he visited the tree dedicated to the Righteous Among the Nations “Zegota” wartime rescue organization.



■ On a recent trip to Yad Vashem, **American television and radio talk show host Larry King** (front right) toured the Holocaust History Museum and Children’s Memorial.



■ **Italian Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Matteo Renzi** (second from right) was accompanied by Israel’s Minister of Education Naftali Bennett (left), Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev (second from left) and Dr. Iael Nidam-Orvieto (right), Director of Yad Vashem’s International Institute for Holocaust Research, during his visit on 21 July.



■ **The Rt. Hon. Philip Hammond MP, the UK Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs** (left), visited the Yad Vashem Synagogue, where rescued and restored Judaica from Europe is displayed. “I was deeply humbled by my visit here today,” wrote the Secretary of State in the Guest Book. “The Shoah was a devastating blot on human history... that is why, by law, every child in Britain studies the Holocaust as part of our National Curriculum.”



■ **Greek Foreign Minister Nikolaos Kotzias** (second from left) was guided through the Holocaust History Museum by Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries Dr. Robert Rozett (left).



■ **Lithuanian Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Algirdas Butkevicius** (left) visited Yad Vashem on 8 September. The Prime Minister toured the Holocaust History Museum guided by Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries Dr. Robert Rozett (right), and was presented with the Yad Vashem Album, *To Bear Witness*. The Prime Minister later wrote in the Guest Book: “The Lithuanian Jews, lost in the Holocaust, were our fellow citizens... Now it is our duty to remember the Holocaust victims, to further promote the common values of humanity and to preserve and cherish the unique Lithuanian heritage.” Later in the day, the Prime Minister participated in the annual ceremony at Yad Vashem commemorating the murder of the Jews of Lithuania during the Holocaust and 72 years since the liquidation of the Vilna ghetto.



■ **Dutch Foreign Minister Bert Koenders** (second from right) was guided through the Holocaust History Museum by Nannie Beekman (right) of the Righteous Among the Nations Department. In the Guest Book, the Foreign Minister inscribed: “Discrimination and antisemitism are still alive today. We owe it to the millions who were murdered in the Holocaust to continue to fight this evil through remembering the past and by educating today.”



■ During his tour of the Holocaust History Museum on 3 June, **Canadian Foreign Minister The Hon. Robert Nicholson** visited the Hall of Names.



■ On 7 September, **Zambian Foreign Minister Harry Kalaba** toured the Holocaust History Museum, participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance, and visited the Children's Memorial.



■ On 26 July, **Israeli basketball player and NBA star Omri Casspi** (second from left) brought a delegation of American NBA basketball players to visit Yad Vashem for the first time. During their visit, the basketball players toured the Holocaust History Museum, visited the Hall of Remembrance, toured the Children's Memorial and signed the Yad Vashem Guest Book.



Samuel Pisar (1929-2015)

■ **Yad Vashem mourns the recent passing of Dr. Samuel Pisar, who dedicated his life to Holocaust remembrance and was a global advocate of human rights.** Born in Bialystok, Pisar survived Majdanek, Auschwitz and Dachau, as well as a death march, from which he escaped aged 16 at the end of WWII. He was the only survivor of his family: his mother Helena, father David and younger sister Frieda were all murdered by the Nazis. Pisar was later to become an accomplished author; his books – including the award-winning memoir, *Of Blood and Hope* – have been translated into 20 languages. He was also appointed UNESCO Honorary Ambassador and Special Envoy for Holocaust Education. As a private lawyer, Pisar dealt with issues of government, multinational corporations and charitable foundations, and at the height of the Cold War developed relations with the Soviet Union and China, achieving the release of many political dissidents from Soviet prisons.

Together with other survivors, Samuel Pisar founded the French Society for Yad Vashem, whose first mission was to raise funds for the establishment of the Valley of the Communities. Working tirelessly for Holocaust commemoration, Pisar took an active part in events and conferences at Yad Vashem: In 2002 he participated in the International Conference on the Legacy of Holocaust Survivors, and in 2012 he closed the International Educators' Conference. In his speech, Pisar recalled some of the outstanding events of his life, and played an excerpt of his libretto, "A Dialogue with God" from Leonard Bernstein's masterpiece "Kaddish - Symphony No. 3" that was performed at Yad



■ *Samuel Pisar closes Yad Vashem's International Conference on Holocaust Education, 2012*

Vashem in 2009 as part of a special event. "For me, the performance reaches its climax when I recount a heart-wrenching lullaby about how loving, caring and merciful is our God, one my beloved grandmother used to sing to me before her voice was silenced in the ovens of Treblinka. At that moment, I feel as if I am saying *Kaddish* for her, for my family, for my people," recalled Pisar.

"In the 'Kaddish' libretto, the survivor engages in a dialogue with God, beseeching the Creator to guide us toward reconciliation, tolerance and solidarity on this small, divided, fragile planet," said Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, a personal friend of Pisar for over two decades. "That work was Sam Pisar's passion for the last decade-and-a-half of his life. He would travel extensively to read it in person. He had a great love for the arts, as well as a universal outlook and deep understanding of humankind. He will be sorely missed."

Deaf-Blind Visitors Tour Museum

■ **On 1 June 2015, a group of deaf-blind visitors toured the Holocaust History Museum.** Explanations by trained guides from Yad Vashem were translated simultaneously using both sign language and tactile signing. In order to enhance their experience in the Museum, the visitors were also permitted, as an exception, to touch some of the artifacts on display. Yad Vashem is engaged in an ongoing endeavor to make its facilities accessible to all visitors.

For more information, please contact: group.visit@yadvashem.org.il



EU President Shown Behind-the-Scenes Work of Yad Vashem Archives

■ During a visit to Yad Vashem in September, European Commission President Donald Tusk and his delegation toured the Holocaust History Museum, participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance and visited the Children's Memorial. After signing the Yad Vashem Guest Book, President Tusk talked about the imperative of Holocaust

remembrance for contemporary Europe today. The delegation was also given a behind-the-scenes tour of the Yad Vashem Archives, where they were shown how archivists and historians gather the many fragments of the puzzle to piece together an individual's story from the Holocaust.



Events at Yad Vashem: June-September 2015

Limor Karo Assia

"Mashiv Haruach": Concert of Jewish Soul Music



■ **"Klezmer music has two purposes... to bring us happiness and to bring our hearts closer together.** This is the tradition that we have taken upon ourselves to continue," said flautist Prof. Haim Knobler, one of the musicians at the annual "Mashiv Haruach" concert that took place at Yad Vashem on 4 August 2015.

Some 70 musicians from Israel and overseas came to play Jewish soul music and thus breathe the spirit of creation into Yad Vashem's Valley of the Communities, in whose

walls are carved the names of thousands of communities destroyed or damaged during the Holocaust. By twilight, the Valley took on a festive appearance, filling up with colors and sounds. The concert attracted hundreds of Holocaust survivors and their families, moved by the traditional Jewish melodies played in memory of the Klezmer artists murdered in the Holocaust, as well as of the unique art form that the Nazi Germans and their collaborators tried to destroy.

Remembering Janusz Korczak

■ **"How many loaves of bread did you bake, how much did you sow, how many trees did you plant, how many bricks did you lay... what did you contribute?"**

Janusz Korczak on Polish radio, 1930s

On 9 August 2015, dozens of members of the Hamahanot Haolim youth movement learned about Janusz Korczak's life and educational philosophy during a special day of activities at Yad Vashem. The event marked 73 years since Korczak, his associate Stefania Wilczyńska, and the children of the Warsaw orphanage were all murdered at Treblinka. It concluded

with an assembly at Janusz Korczak Square, attended by three former members of the orphanage – Yitzhak Belfer, Yitzhak Skalka and Shlomo Nadel – as well as members of the youth movement and Israel's Korczak Educational Institute. Also in attendance were Na'ama Galil, Director of the Guiding Department of the Commemoration and Community Relations Division; Batia Gilad, Chairwoman of the International Janusz Korczak Association; and Consul Aleksandra Krystek and Attachée Magdalena Pieńkos of the Polish Embassy to Israel. At the end of the



assembly, the participants flew kites outside the Hall of Remembrance in the spirit of Korczak's worldview, sending the world an educational message of respect, love and equality.

The Jewish Refugees in WWII: The Dominican Republic as a Test Case

■ **"I stand here today at Yad Vashem, the place that symbolizes Jewish continuity more than anything else, thanks to the Dominican Republic, which opened its arms and welcomed us when no one else in the world would."**

So said Marcel Salomon, one of the hundreds of Jewish refugees who received a life-saving entry visa from the Dominican Republic during WWII, during a special encounter on 17 June 2015 to mark 75 years since Jewish refugees arrived at the shores of Sosúa after fleeing occupied Europe. At the international Evian Conference, which met in July 1938 to debate the problem of Jewish and other refugees, the Dominican Republic was one of the only countries that consented to accept

refugees, while other, Western countries refused to alter their immigration quotas.

The event took place in the presence of (pictured) H. E. Mr. Alexander de la Rosa, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to Israel, who addressed the gathering; Ambassador



Daniel Saban; representatives of delegations from the Dominican Republic and Guatemala; and Dr. Iael Nidam-Orvieto, Director of Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research, who moderated the event. In honor of the occasion, the Embassy of the Dominican Republic issued a special commemorative stamp. Dr. David Silberklang, Senior Historian at the Research Institute, and Yehudit Shendar, former Senior Art Curator at Yad Vashem, also spoke, expanding the participants' knowledge regarding the Jewish refugees during WWII from both the historical and artistic aspect.

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

Friends Worldwide

USA

■ The American Society for Yad Vashem hosted its “Unite for Remembrance” Benefit Gala in Los Angeles, commemorating 70 years since the end of WWII. Yad Vashem Builder **Stanley Black** received the Leadership Award and WWII veteran **Larry Weinberg** and his wife **Barbi** received the Courage Award. American Society Chairman **Leonard Wilf** delivered the opening remarks and actor **Mike Burstyn** filled the role of Master of Ceremonies. After an introduction by Yad Vashem Builder **Adam Milstein**, Chairman of Yad Vashem Council **Rabbi Israel Meir Lau** delivered the keynote address. **Richard Ziman** introduced **Mary Jean Eisenhower**, granddaughter of

President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in Europe. Israeli musician **Tal Ramon**, son of Israeli astronaut **Ilan Ramon z”l**, gave a moving musical presentation after being introduced by

producer **Avi Lerner**. Special guests included California Congressman **Ted Lieu** and actors **Jon Voight** and **Martin Landau**. A special tribute was made in memory of Yad Vashem Benefactor **David Shapell z”l**.



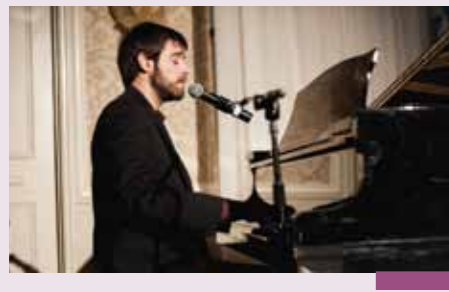
■ Cong. Ted Lieu, Larry and Barbi Weinberg, Jon Voight, Leonard Wilf



■ Richard Ziman, Mary Jean Eisenhower, Leonard Wilf



■ Cong. Ted Lieu, Stanley Black, Leonard Wilf



■ Tal Ramon



■ Adam Milstein



■ Rabbi Israel Meir Lau

■ The Spring Luncheon of the American Society for Yad Vashem was held on 13 May at the Jewish Museum in New York City. The event was co-chaired by **Selma Gruder Horowitz**, a survivor, and **Daniella Pomerance**, a member of the American Society’s Young Leadership Associates (YLA). This year’s honoree, **Danielle Karten** (pictured, with her son **Izzy**), emphasized how remembrance needs to be combined with education, to ensure that global society does not repeat the mistakes of the past. The featured speaker at the Luncheon was international bestselling author **Alyson Richman**. YLA member **Rachel Shnay** reflected on the multi-generation trip she took with her grandfather, a survivor, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

■ On 8 July, the American Society Young Leadership Associates hosted their second annual evening at Yankee Stadium. Before the game, New York Times reporter **Nicholas Kulish** shared with 20 young professionals his experiences tracing a Nazi war criminal’s escape to Egypt, as detailed in his 2014 book, *The Eternal Nazi*.

Goldrich (right). JCC Executive Director **Rabbi Mendel Mintz** (left) was also present.



■ **Rebecca and Raphy Nissel**, both children of Holocaust survivors, toured the Holocaust History Museum and the Children’s Memorial during their recent visit to Yad Vashem. While there, they discussed the activities and programs of the International School for Holocaust Studies.



■ The Yad Vashem traveling exhibition “No Child’s Play” is currently on display at the Jewish Community Center in Aspen, Colorado. Former Director of Development for the American Society **S. Isaac Mekel** (center) spoke at the opening reception, which was chaired by Yad Vashem Benefactor **Melinda**



Friends Worldwide

■ **Joel Greenberg** (sixth from left) and **Marcy Gringlas** (seventh from left) visited Yad Vashem and learned more about Yad Vashem's educational programs. They toured the Holocaust History Museum and viewed "Stars Without a Heaven," the new exhibition on children in the Holocaust.



■ Holocaust survivor and Yad Vashem Supporter **Sigmund Rolat** (left) visited the Holocaust History and Art Museums with family and friends on 19 August.



■ On a recent visit to Yad Vashem, **Lauren Rutkin** of the Martin and Lauren Geller Family Foundation paid a visit to the International Seminars Wing classroom dedicated by the Foundation.



■ Yad Vashem Builders **Evyan** and **Robert Koenig** (fourth and third from left) visited Yad Vashem together with friends on 10 June. The group took a behind-the-scenes tour of the Yad Vashem Archives, and visited the Holocaust History Museum and the Children's Memorial. They also viewed the Builders Wall in the Square of Hope.



■ Yad Vashem Benefactors **Jane** and **Mark Wilf** marked the bar mitzvah of their son **Andrew** at Yad Vashem on 16 June. During the visit, Andrew participated in a twinning ceremony at the Yad Vashem Synagogue. The family met with Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** and visited the Holocaust History Museum and the Children's Memorial.



■ Patrons of the Yad Vashem Library **Marilyn** and **Jack Belz** (seated, left) visited Yad Vashem with their daughter and son-in-law, Yad Vashem Builders **Jan** and **Andrew Groveman** (seated, right), on 29 June. They also toured the Visual Center accompanied by Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries **Dr. Robert Rozett** (standing, back), the Museum of Holocaust Art and the new exhibition "Stars Without a Heaven: Children in the Holocaust."



■ Yad Vashem Builders **Barbara** and **David Blumenthal** (right) visited Yad Vashem on 3 June for meetings regarding the Dorothy's Hope Program for Special Needs Children. They met with Lily Safra Chair of Holocaust Education and International School for Holocaust Studies Director **Dr. Eyal Kaminka** and visited the Holocaust History Museum and the new exhibition "Stars Without a Heaven: Children in the Holocaust."



■ Together with their family, Yad Vashem Benefactors **Gail** and **Colin Halpern** (left) marked the bar mitzvah of their grandson **Luke** (sixth from left) at Yad Vashem on 10 August. The family also unveiled a plaque in their honor in the Yad Vashem Archives.



■ Yad Vashem Builders **Adina** and **Lawrence Burian** (left) visited Yad Vashem together with family and friends to celebrate the bar mitzvah of their son **Ethan** in the Yad Vashem Synagogue. Prior to the ceremony, Adina and Lawrence unveiled a plaque in their honor on the new Builders Wall.



■ Yad Vashem Pillars **Barry** and **Marilyn Rubenstein** (center) visited Yad Vashem together with their friends **Toby** and **Jerry Pollak** (right) on 1 September. They took a behind-the-scenes tour of the Yad Vashem Artifacts Collection and visited the Museum of Holocaust Art, guided by Curator and Art Department Director **Eliad Moreh-Rosenberg**. Throughout their visit they were accompanied by American Society Executive Director **Dr. Ron Meier** and International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda**.



■ **Sidney Weiman** (left) and three generations of his family marked the bar and bat mitzvah of Sidney's two grandchildren, **Ross** (fourth from left) and **Remi Weiman** (third from left), and the bar mitzvah of Ross' good friend **David Cohen** at the Yad Vashem Synagogue on 18 August. They also unveiled the inscription in honor of the Ernest Oppenheimer Residuary Trust on the new Builders Wall.



■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of Polish-born Holocaust survivor **Sara Stawski z"l**, mother of Benefactor and American Society Board Member **Dr. Axel Stawski**.



Together with her late husband **Moniek z"l**, Sara set an example for Holocaust remembrance and education. She and Moniek were major supporters of Yad Vashem's Valley of the Communities. Yad Vashem extends its deepest sympathies to her children **Dr. Axel Stawski**, **Estera Stawski**, **Irene Fogel**, **Dr. Mike Stawski** and **Naomi Altholz**, as well as the extended family.

■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of Holocaust survivor and Yad Vashem Benefactor **Bernard Aptaker z"l**.



Bernard survived the Holocaust with his father and brother after being selected for forced labor in the Budzyn and then Wieliczka and Flossenbürg concentrations camps, as well as being forced on the death march from Flossenbürg to Dachau. They were liberated in 1945 by the Allied Forces.

Following the war, Bernard immigrated to the United States and worked in many small jobs, including as a dance instructor, before embarking on his successful real estate business in Houston, Texas.

Bernard became a dedicated philanthropist to causes with a "mission to defend the Jews in both Israel and the Diaspora." He was a devoted supporter of Yad Vashem, where he dedicated the Warsaw Ghetto Square Garden in memory of his family members murdered in the Holocaust.

■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of lifelong friend and Yad Vashem Builder **Barbara Arfa z"l**.



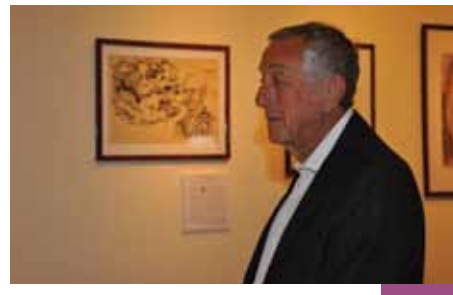
Barbara was born in 1947 in Munich, Germany, the only child of **Regina** and **Salo Gutfreund z"l**, Holocaust survivors and early supporters of the American Society for Yad Vashem. Barbara attended the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, and eventually made her career as President of the men's outerwear company, **Gruner & Co., Inc.**, founded by her father in 1949.

Barbara and her beloved husband **Harvey** dedicated themselves to Holocaust remembrance and education. To ensure that the torch of remembrance would be passed on, they supported Holocaust education at New York's Ramaz School, as well as many other Jewish causes. To maintain this legacy, the family recently endowed the American Society for Yad Vashem's **Barbara Arfa Holocaust Education Fund**.

Barbara is survived by **Harvey**, their daughter **Caroline Arfa Massel** (American Society Executive Board member and Founding Chairperson of the Society's Young Leadership Associates) and son-in-law **Morris Massel**, and three treasured grandchildren – **Rebecca**, **Alexander** and **Michael**.

UK

■ Yad Vashem Pillar **Michael Gee** visited Yad Vashem on 3 June for meetings and to tour the new exhibition "Stars Without a Heaven: Children in the Holocaust" as well as the Museum of Holocaust Art.



FRANCE

■ Yad Vashem mourns the recent passing of **Joseph Zauberman z"l**, one of the founders of the **French Friends of Yad Vashem**. Originally from Poland, Joseph and his wife **Marie** arrived in



France after the war and sought to restart their lives in a new and unfamiliar country. Their families were all murdered during the Holocaust. Through hard work, they raised a family and built a business, and in time become pillars of the Jewish community in France. In addition to his activity within the French Friends, Joseph also held many senior roles in the Paris Jewish community.

In 1989, when **Charles Corrin** called on him to help form the French Friends, together with other survivors including **Sylvain Caen** and **Paul Schaffer**, Joseph took on the position of Treasurer under the leadership of **Samuel Pisar**. While Joseph would never speak about his terrible experiences of the Holocaust, he always worked to ensure that the memory of the *Shoah* would be transmitted to younger generations. Yad Vashem conveys its deepest condolences to **Marie Zauberman** and her children.

Friends Worldwide

CANADA

■ Yad Vashem Benefactor **Victor David** (center) unveiled his family's dedication on the Mount of Remembrance in May in the presence of International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (left), **Hana Weinman**, Victor's only surviving cousin originally from Poland, her husband **Dov Weinman** and their son **Israel Weinman**.



■ **Sylvia Soyka** (center), her son **Marc-Adam Soyka-Steinman** (right) and their friend **Moody Talaat** (left) visited Yad Vashem in June.



■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of Yad Vashem Builder **Danny Saltzman z"l**. Known for his kind-heartedness, generosity and good humor, Danny will be sorely missed by his wife Vivienne; his children and their spouses Lawrence and Lucy, Susan and Jason Lehner, Jason and Heather, Nicole and Eric Greenwood, and Mark; and his siblings and their spouses Albert and Shelah, and Jerry and Marilyn. Danny's legacy of strong commitment to his family and the community at large will live on in his grandchildren Josh, Michelle, Julia, Rachel, Kate, Michael, Dana, Emma and Victoria.



■ Pillars of the **Canadian Society for Yad Vashem Sheldon** and **Francine Libfeld** (third and fourth from right) visited Yad Vashem in June along with **Dr. Peggy Richter** and **David Kornhauser**.



■ **Coby Tanentzap** (fourth from left) marked his bar mitzvah with parents **Eitan** and **Jodi Tanentzap** (third and sixth from the left), grandparents and Yad Vashem Benefactors **Ed** and **Fran Sonshine** (fourth and third from right) and other family members at Yad Vashem's Synagogue, which showcases Judaica from destroyed synagogues in Europe.

Coby was presented with a certificate of recognition for twinning with Holocaust victim **Iacov Landes z"l**, bestowed as part of Yad Vashem's Bar and Bat Mitzvah Twinning Program (see p. 31).



■ Educators from across Canada attended the International Summer Seminar at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies in July (see "A Huge Burden of Responsibility," p. 9).



AUSTRALIA

■ **Ian Gandel** (right), son of Yad Vashem Benefactors **Pauline** and **John Gandel AO**, visited the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial on 2 July with friends, and met with Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** (left).



■ President of the **Australian Friends of Yad Vashem** **Joey Borensztajn** visited Yad Vashem on 13 July with his wife **Julie**. In addition to a tour of the Holocaust History Museum, the couple took a behind-the-scenes tour of the Yad Vashem Archives with Archives Director and Fred Hillman Chair of Holocaust Documentation **Dr. Haim Gertner**, and also visited the Australian Wall in Yad Vashem's Memorial Cave.



■ Yad Vashem donors **John** and **Debbie Schaffer** toured the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial with friends and family on 3 July. They also visited the wall in the Garden of the Righteous on which the name of John's parents' rescuer is engraved, and viewed their plaque in the International School for Holocaust Studies.



■ Yad Vashem donors **Ian** and **Jillian Green** visited the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial with friends and family on 22 June. They also viewed their plaque in the International School for Holocaust Studies.



■ **Wendy Kozica** visited Yad Vashem on 7 July with her husband **David O'Callaghan** and son **Sam Kozica-O'Callaghan**. In addition to a tour of the Holocaust History Museum, they were guided through the Museum of Holocaust Art by Curator and Director of the Art Department **Eliad Moreh-Rosenberg**.



MEXICO

■ **Vivian** and **Moises Becker** (fourth from right and third from left) were joined by their family and Director of the Latin-American, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Friends Desk **Perla Hazan** on the occasion of the bnei mitzvah of their grandsons **Brandon Oberfeld** (fourth from left) and **Dylan Becker** (fifth from left) and the bat mitzvah of granddaughter **Alexia Becker** (third from right). A plaque was also unveiled in their honor in the Square of Hope.



■ **Sharon** and **David Sitt** (right and second from left) were joined by their family on the occasion of the bar mitzvah of their son **Daniel** (second from right) and the unveiling of a plaque in honor of their sons **Edward** (left), Daniel and **Alan** (center) on the new Builders Wall.



■ **Jane** and **Isaac Ladelsky** (back) were joined by their daughter **Shira Alchalel Ladelsky** (center row, right) and granddaughters on the occasion of the bat mitzvah of their granddaughter **Rosie Alchalel** (left) and the unveiling of a plaque in honor of Rosie in the Administration Building.



■ **Maya** and **Bernardo Kanarek** (eighth and second from right) were joined by their family on the occasion of the bar mitzvah of their son **Moises** (eight from left).



■ **Nina Medrez** (third from left) was joined by her family and **Perla Hazan** on the occasion of the bar mitzvah of her grandson **Joshua Snaiderman** (center) and bnot mitzvah of granddaughters **Gabriela Mercado** (third from right) and **Ariela Medrez** (fourth from right), and the unveiling of a plaque in honor of her

late husband **Abraham Medrez** in the Square of Hope.



FSU

■ **Dr. Michael** and **Laura Mirilashvili** met with Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev**, Diaspora Affairs Desk Director and Special Advisor to the Chairman **Arie Zuckerman** and Archives Division Director and Fred Hillman Chair of Holocaust Documentation **Dr. Haim Gertner** (left) during their visit to Yad Vashem on 8 July 2015. Dr. Mirilashvili's donation has enabled the establishment and maintenance of activity of the Center for Research on the History of Soviet Jews during the Holocaust at Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research.



■ On 27 August, the Bershadscky family visited Yad Vashem. Following a tour of the Holocaust History Museum guided by **Liz Elsbey** (right), the family met with **Arie Zuckerman**, Development and Projects Officer **Dina Maslova** and **Dr. Arkadi Zeltser**, Director of the Center for Research on the History of Soviet Jews during the Holocaust, and Project Director of "The Jews in the Red Army, 1941-1945" online research project, which is supported by the Blavatnik family, friends of the Bershadsckys.



Friends Worldwide

VENEZUELA

■ **Fanny Cohen Cohn** (second from left) visited Yad Vashem with a group of friends, accompanied by Director of the Latin-American, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Friends Desk Perla Hazan.



■ **Anita and Natan Ghetea** (left and center) visited Yad Vashem and unveiled a plaque in memory of **Wilhelm (Willy) Jaegerman z"l** in the Memorial Cave.



SPAIN

■ Yad Vashem Pillars **Anneliese and Moises Grajew** (second from right and second from left) were joined by Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev**, Yad Vashem Director General **Dorit Novak**, Director of the Latin-American, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Friends Desk **Perla Hazan** and International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** for the unveiling of a plaque in their honor at the entrance of the Holocaust History Museum.



■ **Atara Mazin** (seventh from left) was joined by her daughter **Dafna** (sixth from right) and sons **Miguel, Ariel and Daniel** (third and fourth from right and fifth from left) and her family at the unveiling of the plaque in honor of **Anneliese and Moises Grajew** and in memory of the Community of Horodiezj.



BRAZIL

■ **Claudia and Renato Ochman** (left and second from right) were joined by family and friends on the occasion of the bar mitzvah of their son **Felipe** (second from left).



■ **Thereza and Gustavo Halbreich** visited Yad Vashem on the occasion of the bar mitzvah of Felipe Ochman.



CHRISTIAN DESK in partnership with ICEJ

■ An international group of Jesuits participating in a Formation Program at the Pontifical Institute in Jerusalem visited Yad Vashem for a special tour. The Jesuits shared a moment of reflection by the tree of Jesuit priest and Righteous Among the Nations **Father Roger Braun**. Accompanying

the group was group coordinator **An Cao Gia** (fourth from left) and Director of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen**.



■ **Pastor Becky Keenan** from Houston, Texas is a long-term friend of Yad Vashem and the Director of "One With Israel" educational journeys. Pastor Keenan (second from left) recently brought to Yad Vashem an exclusive group of Conservative Christian leaders joined by President and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston **Lee Wunsch** (right). Dr. Susanna Kokkonen (left) and International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben-Yehuda** (second from right) welcomed the group.



■ ICEJ Czech Republic branch, under the leadership of **Dr. Mojmir Kallus**, organized a study tour of the Czech Republic and Israel with an emphasis on the Holocaust for a delegation of Czech, German and Israeli youth. Yad Vashem was a central part of the tour, and the youth spent a full day touring the Holocaust History Museum and attending special workshops at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies.



Bar/Bat Mitzvah Twinning Program at Yad Vashem

Connecting the Past to the Future

■ A Bar/Bat Mitzvah marks the beginning of a young child's lifelong adult connection to the Jewish people. Bar/Bat Mitzvah twinning projects are an increasingly popular way in which to strengthen a child's identification with his or her Jewish heritage by forging a bond with an individual child who was murdered during the Holocaust.

Enrich your child's coming-of-age experience in Israel with a unique visit to Yad Vashem that resonates with the past, present and future.

"Although today is a day for rejoicing, I ask you to remember Yitzchak and all the boys and girls like him who were never given a chance to grow up and take their place in the world of adults"

Michael S., 13 years old

A Memory for a Lifetime

Your visit to Yad Vashem will begin with a customized tour of the Holocaust History Museum, specifically suited to meet your family's individual needs. With a focus on the fate of children and teenagers during the Holocaust, Yad Vashem's expert guides take into account your personal family background and the interests of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah child.

Yad Vashem will twin your son or daughter with a child who was murdered in the Holocaust and did not have a chance to mark his or her

own Bar/Bat Mitzvah. The boy or girl being remembered will share something in common with the child celebrating – a birthday, a name or place of origin. At the end of the tour, your child will be presented with a Page of Testimony of the boy or girl that he or she is commemorating, as well as a special certificate acknowledging participation in the twinning program.

For more information and to reserve your Bar/Bat Mitzvah event:

Tel: +972-644-3802;

E-mail: twinning.program@yadvashem.org.il



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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Elsternwick, VIC 3185
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■ For information on societies in other countries, please visit:
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The International Institute for Holocaust Research: Publications

The Holocaust in Hungary: Selected Papers of the Tauber Fund for Research on the Holocaust in Hungary and Hungarian Jewish History, Volume 2 The Political Career of Marton Horvath, 1906-1987

Balint Horvath

NIS 36 / NIS 27

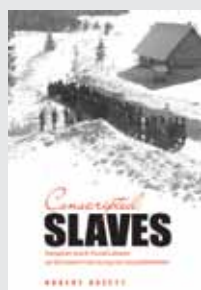


■ An outline of the remarkable career of Marton Horvath, a journalist and a Communist politician. This paper explores an unusual motif in political history: a leading politician who stood up to the very power structure of which he was part. This collection includes primary sources – writings, tape recordings, correspondence, personal statements and anecdotes.

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

Robert Rozett

NIS 174 / NIS 128



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

My Nitra: A Family's Struggle to Survive in Slovakia

Hani Kedar-Kehat

NIS 74 / NIS 56



■ Hani Kraus was five years old when Slovakia became a client state of Nazi Germany and eleven when it was liberated by the Red Army. In her memoirs, she recalls the gripping story of her family intertwined with the fate of the entire community. She describes the family's escape from the Nazis and the Guardsmen of the Slovakian Fascist regime, and their miraculous survival in hiding thanks to the assistance of their Slovak rescuers. When Hani and her family returned home to Nitra, they realized that most of the members of the once-thriving community had been murdered.

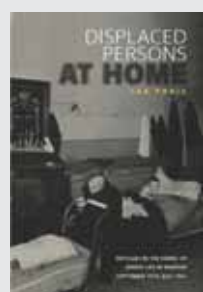
Gates of Tears: The Holocaust in the Lublin District

David Silberklang

NIS 174 / NIS 128



■ Lublin was a contradictory district – few ghettos, yet little survival. This book examines the Shoah in Lublin: forced population movements and compulsory labor, constants in German policy, the bitter early memory of which influenced the later actions of Jews in the area. Many hid or fled, fearing an extreme return to their earlier experience. Ultimately, however, the Jews of Lublin could not affect their collective fate.



Displaced Persons at Home: Refugees in the Fabric of Jewish Life in Warsaw, September 1939 - July 1942

Lea Prais

NIS 174 / NIS 128



Yad Vashem Studies, Volume 43:1

Editor: David Silberklang

NIS 80 / NIS 60

For reviews of these two new books, see p. 14.

Yad Vashem Jerusalem Magazine

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