

A large crowd of people is gathered for a memorial service. In the foreground, a man in a blue checkered shirt and a purple baseball cap embraces a woman in a white shirt. They are holding a bouquet of yellow flowers. In the background, many people are seated, including several in military uniforms. The scene is outdoors on a paved area.

# Yad Vashem Jerusalem

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**Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day 2016**

(pp. 4-9)

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■ **On the cover:** *Asher Aud (Anshel Sieradzki), Holocaust survivor from Zdunska Wola, and Reut Hershkowitz, Yad Vashem employee and Chairperson of the Organization of Former Residents of Zdunska Wola, at the 2016 Holocaust Remembrance Day wreath-laying ceremony, Warsaw Ghetto Square*

## Leah Goldstein

■ On 9 May 2016, Yad Vashem inaugurated the Moshe Mirilashvili Center for Research on the Holocaust in the Soviet Union, under the auspices of its world-renowned International Institute for Holocaust Research.

The Center was endowed by Michael and Laura Mirilashvili in memory of Michael's father Moshe z"l. Alongside Michael and Laura Mirilashvili and their family, honored guests at the dedication ceremony included Yuli (Yoel) Edelstein, Speaker of the Knesset; Zeev Elkin, Minister of Immigration and Absorption and Minister of Jerusalem Affairs and Heritage; Avner Shalev, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate; the Chief Rabbi of Israel, Rabbi David Lau; the Rishon LeZion Chief Rabbi of Israel, Rabbi Yitzhak Yosef; Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council; H.E. Mr. Alexander Shein, Ambassador of Russia to Israel; and H.E. Mr. Paata Kalandadze, Ambassador of Georgia to Israel.

The event commenced with a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance, followed by the unveiling of a plaque in the Square of Hope. The inauguration ceremony itself took place in the Yad Vashem Synagogue.

Recalling the terrible events at Babi Yar, Avner Shalev declared: "Research is a vital component in processing the loss. It is imperative in building a consciousness of remembrance, and afterwards, to creating an identity that can comprehend the terrible rupture in the history of the Jewish people and the whole of humanity... Michael Mirilashvili – a man of vision – understands this, and extended his help so that together we could establish this Center, which will lead global academic research in the coming years and ensure the continued development of our mission."

Following the opening of major and local archives in the Former Soviet Union (FSU) in the early 1990s, multidisciplinary research into the wartime fate of the Jews in the USSR began to flourish. With the generous support of Genesis Philanthropy Group, the European Jewish Fund and other donors, over the past several years Yad Vashem began researching the history of the Jews living in the Soviet Union during the Holocaust. The Mirilashvili Center is set to significantly enhance these endeavors of Yad Vashem and, moreover, lead groundbreaking global academic discourse in this field, strengthening ties with relevant researchers and

# Inauguration of the Moshe Mirilashvili Center for Research on the Holocaust in the Soviet Union



■ Left to right: Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Yosef, Minister Zeev Elkin, Avner Shalev, Chief Rabbi David Lau, Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, Knesset Speaker Yuli (Yoel) Edelstein, and Michael and Laura Mirilashvili at the inauguration ceremony of the Moshe Mirilashvili Center for Research on the Holocaust in the Soviet Union

organizations, encouraging international scholarly cooperation, and advancing pioneering research in all related areas for many years to come.

Adv. Arie Zuckerman, Special Advisor to the Chairman of the Directorate, noted during the ceremony that the Center will play a central role in strengthening Jewish identity and connection to Israel among Jews in the Former Soviet Union, a lifelong focus of the Mirilashvili family. Dr. Iael Nidam-Orvieto, Director of the International Institute for Holocaust Research, gave an overview of current and future projects on which the Center will focus its efforts. Headed by Dr. Arkadi Zeltser, a world-renowned scholar of the Holocaust

in the FSU, the Center will launch new areas of investigation, such as interethnic relations between Jews and non-Jews in the Soviet Union during the Holocaust, and continue the Research Institute's ongoing projects in the field, such as "The Untold Stories" – an online investigation of the murder sites of the Jews in the Nazi-occupied territories of the FSU, and "Jews in the Red Army" – an online database of Jewish soldiers who fought in the Soviet Army during WWII. The Center will also initiate international conferences and workshops in which it will present its research findings to senior and young scholars alike; and publish academic studies, articles, testimonies and collections of



■ Michael and Laura Mirilashvili receive the Key to Yad Vashem from Avner Shalev in gratitude for their dedication to Shoah Remembrance

relevant archival documents for the benefit of the worldwide research community.

"Thanks to the generous support of the Mirilashvili family, we are now moving into a much more meaningful and systematic phase in various research projects regarding the Holocaust of the Jews in the Soviet Union," explained Dr. Nidam-Orvieto. "This new Center is both innovative and vital, and without doubt will contribute significantly to Holocaust research both around the world and specifically in Israel."

Before receiving the Key to Yad Vashem from Avner Shalev, an emotional Michael Mirilashvili recounted his beloved father, in whose name the Center is dedicated: "I know that my father is looking down from Heaven and would be proud of this new initiative," he said. "The topic of the Shoah was something that I spoke about with him often; he lost his uncle during the Holocaust and he certainly understood the importance of the work of Yad Vashem and especially research focused on the Holocaust in the areas of the occupied Soviet Union."

## New Benefactor: Michael Mirilashvili

■ Michael Mirilashvili was born in Kulashi, Georgia. He received his medical degree in St. Petersburg, Russia, but with the fall of the Communist regime, Michael chose to enter the world of business. His enterprises in the fields of real estate, energy, infrastructure and venture capital soon developed globally. This enabled him to dedicate his time and resources to extensive philanthropic activity on behalf of the Jewish people and the State of Israel. To this end, he has made great contributions towards strengthening Jewish communities in the CIS and reinforcing their bond with Israel.

Michael Mirilashvili has held a broad array of public roles, including President of Maccabi – Russia, Vice President of the Russian Jewish Congress, Vice President of the Euro-Asian Jewish Congress, President of the St. Petersburg Jewish Congress, and Vice President of the World Jewish Congress. Through these positions and within the framework of his philanthropic activities, Michael works towards enhancing Jewish education and identity and providing assistance for the needy – especially during crisis situations in Israel and within Jewish communities around the globe.

Although Yad Vashem became personally acquainted with Michael Mirilashvili only a year

ago, he is considered a close friend and a dedicated partner in its missions of Holocaust remembrance and education. This partnership led to the recent establishment of the Moshe Mirilashvili Center for Research on the Holocaust in the Soviet Union (see above). Michael Mirilashvili's support for this important venture, as well as his strong connection to the Jewish people, is remarkable, as is his quiet, modest path combining action and generosity.

Michael's wife Laura works hand in hand with her husband in his many philanthropic undertakings. The Mirilashvilis have two children, Tamara and Yitzhak, and five grandchildren.

# Highlights of Holocaust Remembrance Day 2016



■ *Snapshots of the activities held during Holocaust Remembrance Day 2016*

**Under the unprecedented conditions of the Holocaust, where life and death existed in such close proximity, many Jews naturally focused their efforts upon their own physical survival and that of their dear ones.** Yet, simultaneously, some were able to behave differently, and demonstrated astonishing spiritual strength during a time of persecution and death. Facing the disintegration of entire fabrics of life, they clung to the essence of existence and attempted to preserve lives grounded in moral values, as well as a cultural dimension befitting a decent society.

In the pages to follow are highlights from the myriad events, programs and projects initiated by Yad Vashem throughout Israel that reflected the central theme of this year's Holocaust Remembrance Day: "The Struggle to Maintain the Human Spirit During the Holocaust."

■ Some 2,600 people – including Holocaust survivors from Israel and abroad, members of the Diplomatic Corps, IDF soldiers and guests from around the world – attended the **State Opening Ceremony for Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day** on the evening of 4 May. At the ceremony, Israel's President and Prime Minister addressed the audience, and six survivors lit torches (see pp. 8-9), representing the six million Holocaust victims. Zehava Roth spoke on behalf of the survivors, recounting her promise to her family to remain true to her faith and her people. The Chief Rabbis of Israel led the memorial prayers, and singer Kobi Aflalo and actor Netta Garti presented the artistic portions of the evening.

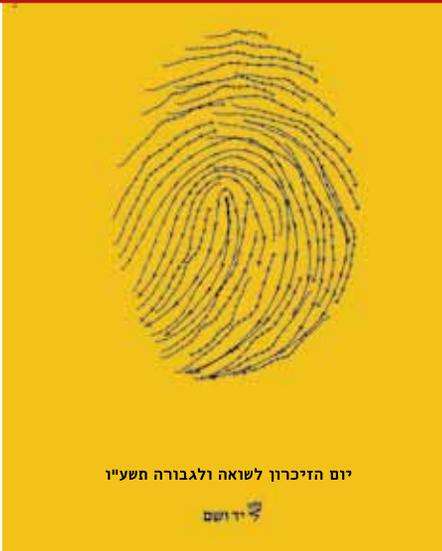
■ Following a two-minute silence, on the morning of 5 May **120 wreaths were laid** at the foot of the monument to the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, including official wreaths

and those laid by survivor, veteran and public organizations. Other traditional annual events included: "**Unto Every Person There is a Name**" – public names-reading ceremonies in the Hall of Remembrance and at Israel's Knesset (parliament) building; the **Main Memorial Ceremony** in the Hall of Remembrance; and the **Youth Movement Ceremony**, which was held towards the end of the day in the Valley of the Communities in the presence of the Minister of Education.

■ For the second year in a row, the thousands of visitors to the Mount of Remembrance were given the opportunity to go "**Behind-the-Scenes,**" gaining a greater understanding of the everyday undertakings of Yad Vashem. At a number of stations throughout the campus, Yad Vashem experts presented their work in the educational, technological and commemorative fields, including artworks, artifacts and documents from the Yad Vashem Collections not usually on public display.

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Leah Goldstein



■ A number of **formal and informal educational activities** were held at Yad Vashem and throughout Israel (see pp. 6-7). In addition, the public responded enthusiastically to special events organized by Yad Vashem, including the **screening of the Academy Award-winning film *Son of Saul*** (Director: László Nemes, Hungary, 2015) in the Edmond J. Safra Lecture Hall followed by a discussion between Visual Center Director Liat Benhabib and Israeli actor Amitai Kedar; an **evening dedicated to Art in the Holocaust** at the Einav Center in Tel Aviv, featuring film clips about the life of artist and Holocaust victim Charlotte Salomon and a discussion between Israeli Art Critic Miri Krymolowski and Director of Yad Vashem's Art Department, Museums Division Eliad Moreh-Rosenberg; a **national competition to design the official poster for Holocaust Remembrance Day** – won this year by 24-year-old Italian student Guilia De Benedetti; a **special**

**gathering of the “Generation to Generation-Bearers of the Holocaust and Heroism Legacy” organization** including the performance of “Anne” at the Tel Aviv Cameri Theater; and **“Corners of Memory”** – unique booths run by Yad Vashem guides featuring official posters from previous years, as well as memorial books and Pages of Testimony for the public to fill out, set up at major hospitals, railway stations, the Technion and malls throughout the country.

■ As always, a **comprehensive mini-site launched on the Yad Vashem website** was dedicated to Holocaust Remembrance Day with a variety of related online resources for the public, including photo galleries of the official events, videos of the torchlighters, educational materials, related online exhibitions and “Snapshots of Memory” – images of the Yad Vashem campus throughout the day.

## Foreign Ministry Directorate at Yad Vashem

■ On 1 May, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev welcomed the senior personnel of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate to the Mount of Remembrance. Led by the Ministry's Director General Dr. Dore Gold, the 30-member delegation of Israeli diplomats convened on the Mount of Remembrance for the first time, in observance of Holocaust Remembrance Day later that week. The guests, many of whom hold key positions in charting and implementing Israel's foreign policy, heard lectures from Yad Vashem's Academic Advisor Prof. Yehuda Bauer on the complex role of diplomacy during the Shoah, and from Shalev on the current and projected status of Holocaust remembrance around the world.

# Students Mark Holocaust Remembrance Day Through Song, Film and Creativity

**Marking Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies coordinated diverse educational activities for more than 5,000 high-school and college students from Israel and abroad:**

■ Prior to Holocaust Remembrance Day, students from the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance met Holocaust survivors at the Siegfried Moses Senior Residence in Jerusalem, where they recorded the lyrics to **melodies from the survivors' childhoods**. In a joint endeavor with LEAD, an Israeli youth leadership development organization, the students also took part in workshops at their school and at Yad Vashem, resulting in the performance of their own interpretations of the songs at Yad Vashem during Holocaust Remembrance Day. The five shows were attended by the survivors as well as family members and friends.

"These songs open a window to the realm of Jewish children before the Holocaust and attest to the Jewish world's wealth and diversity on the eve of WWII," said Masha Pollak-Rozenberg, Director of the International School's Educational Guiding Department. "The project connected young people and Holocaust survivors through a common language of music and established a multi-generational bridge that pays no mind to age differences or their varied personal stories."

■ For the fifth year in a row, students at the Department of Visual Communication Design of the Holon Institute of Technology (HIT) prepared **short animated films based on materials from Yad Vashem's collections** and the annual Holocaust Remembrance Day theme. In preparation for the project, the students attended a study day at Yad Vashem, where they learned about the Holocaust and its representation in art. The resulting 12 films, based on Holocaust-era artifacts and testimonies, were aired on Israel's Channel Ten, Ynet Studio and the popular Israeli website "Walla!" during Holocaust Remembrance Day. They were later uploaded to the Yad Vashem website, where they remain accessible to the general public.

■ Yad Vashem's Family Plaza featured a **gallery of photos of Holocaust survivors with their written recollections** of the end of WWII and their present-day lives. The exhibition



■ From the range of creative programs marking Holocaust Remembrance Day held by Yad Vashem for students from across Israel and abroad

comprised the work of students from ORT Israel schools, who gathered photographic and written documentation of Holocaust survivors living in their communities.

In preparation for the project, at Yad Vashem the youths studied historical aspects of the Holocaust, acquired tools to conduct interviews with survivors, and discussed the meaning of preserving memory in modern times. In sessions with photographer Yaron Ben-Horin, the students studied the art of photography: technique, editing, composition and more.

"I found the meeting with Yaakov [a Holocaust survivor] so moving," said Chen Even, a student at the ORT Shapira School, Kfar Saba. "The stories are very difficult to hear, but I'm deeply moved and really admire these people: how they don't let anything break them... and

The project connected young people and Holocaust survivors through a common language of music that pays no mind to age differences or their varied personal stories

how after all they went through, they smile and choose to live well."

■ The International School's Educational Guiding Department and the Department of Graphic Design at the Neri Bloomfield School of Design and Education in Haifa cooperated

Miri Bar, Uri Kelt,  
Merav Janou,  
Rinat Maagan-Ginovker  
and Yonatan Matius

# Remembrance Day Programs for Israel's Security Forces

Irit Dagan, Shira Moskovitz Bash and Nitza Shabtai Melamed



once again to produce artworks for Holocaust Remembrance Day. In addition to the previous years' format of postcards, for the first time the students were free to present **different design projects, including posters, 3D-displays, films and illustrations.** The participating students took part in study days at Yad Vashem, and throughout the process they pondered, from an artistic and educational perspective, how the Holocaust may be portrayed in a thought-provoking manner.

■ Special educational activities, including **workshops and meetings with survivors**, took place at Yad Vashem on the eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day for some 600 participants in the Jewish Agency's "Masa" work-study programs for Jewish youth from abroad as well as cadets from the Nachshon premilitary academy. The students also met with artists who presented their works dealing with Holocaust remembrance. This program included a screening of *Kapo in Jerusalem* and a discussion with the director, Uri Barbash; a screening of *Torn* and a discussion with former priest Jakub Weksler; "Torn Hearts" – a panel discussion of child Holocaust survivors searching for their identities; and a performance of "Prisoner #119104," followed by a discussion with the playwrights Yaniv Peretz and Dr. Jan Kühne.

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

In the lead-up to Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yad Vashem coordinated a number of activities for members of Israel's Security Forces at all levels, including the IDF, the General Security Service (GSS) and the Israel Police, Prison and Fire and Rescue Services:

■ An annual **study day for the IDF General Staff Forum** focused on the contribution of Holocaust survivors to the State of Israel and its society. Yad Vashem Chairman Brigadier General (Res.) Avner Shalev and his predecessor, Holocaust survivor Brigadier General (Res.) Dr. Yitzhak Arad engaged in an intergenerational dialogue about the various decisions made when designing Yad Vashem's campus and character, and to what extent these were influenced by Holocaust survivors. The members of the

commanding officers from various regional divisions in the IDF. The study days dealt with a variety of topics, each taking place against the backdrop of the question of the significance of Holocaust Remembrance Day in their own fields of command.

■ In response to the high demand for substantive content about Holocaust Remembrance Day, and due to the operational activities that preclude most of them from organizing visits to Yad Vashem, this year a variety of **special activities for security forces personnel** took place across Israel. Some 1,600 police officers, firefighters and prison staff heard lectures and presentations, took part in workshops, viewed documentary and testimony films, and met with Holocaust survivors.



■ *Holocaust Remembrance Day event at the Israel National Police College, Beit Shemesh*

General Staff then joined Holocaust survivors who have left a prominent mark in such diverse fields as law, education, industry and science for roundtable discussions about the legacy of the survivors. Maj. Gen. (Res.) Yossi Peled met the IDF General Staff Forum for a moving conversation pertaining to his personal story and how his experiences shaped his contribution to Israel's security. The day's activities concluded with a meeting with author and Holocaust survivor Aharon Appelfeld.

■ Yad Vashem also organized **study days for high-ranking officials from the security establishment**, including the Israel Police Commissioner, GSS Director and eleven

■ On 26 May, some 1,500 Israel Air Force soldiers took part in "**The March of the Last Remnant**" – the third year of this special project organized by Yad Vashem in cooperation with the IAF and the Israel Ministry of Defense. The soldiers marched from Yad Vashem's Valley of the Communities via monuments on the Mount of Remembrance and along a special path connecting Yad Vashem to the military cemetery on Mount Herzl, dedicated to the last survivors of Jewish families wiped out in the Holocaust who served – and fell – in Israel's War of Independence.

*The authors work in the IDF and Security Forces Training Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.*

# Torchlighters 2016

Ehud Amir

Photo courtesy: Amos Ben Gershon, GPO



■ The Torchlighters and members of their families with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife Sara (center) at the Prime Minister's Office, accompanied by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev (left)

■ The stories of this year's honored Torchlighters illustrate their indomitable will to maintain their human spirit – to support their fellow Jews and cling to their traditions despite their persecution:

**Jehosua Hesel Fried** was born in 1930 in Velké Kapušany, Czechoslovakia, to a family of nine. His father was the community's rabbi and cantor. After the region was annexed to Hungary, the town's Jewish residents were placed in a ghetto and then deported to Auschwitz. During his incarceration, Jehosua endeavored to raise his friends' spirits by singing traditional Jewish melodies and sharing his meager food. In the winter of 1944-5, the group was taken to various camps and then on a death march. They never stopped encouraging each other throughout their terrible travails. After liberation, Jehosua was reunited with two of his sisters. They immigrated to *Eretz Israel* in February 1948.



**Chaim Grosbein** was born in 1937 in Dołhinów, Poland (today Dauhina, Belarus), to a religious family of four. After the German occupation, the town's Jews were interned in a ghetto. During an *Aktion*, Chaim and his

family hid in a pit under a stove. When the refuge was discovered, everyone except Chaim and his cousin Rishka – who were concealed from sight in the corner of the pit – were forced out and murdered. Chaim and Rishka escaped to the woods, where they joined a group of Jews from the nearby towns. After being wounded in a German ambush, Chaim was left alone. He survived for two years through hunting and piecemeal labor, until he was sent by a group of partisans to a Belarussian orphanage. He joined the Red Army, and later discovered that of his entire family, only two aunts had survived. He immigrated to Israel in the early 1960s.



**Sara Kain** (née Izikowich) was born in 1919 in Kassa (Košice), Czechoslovakia, to a traditional family of eight. In April 1944, the Jews of Kassa and the neighboring towns were concentrated into a ghetto. In early June, Sara, her sister Ethel and her parents were deported to Auschwitz. Sara's parents were murdered on arrival; she and Ethel were selected for forced labor. Throughout their



ordeal, the sisters always looked out for each other. After the war, Sara and Ethel decided to immigrate to *Eretz Israel*. They traveled via Kassa, where they discovered strangers living in their house. Nevertheless, they found their father's *kiddush* cup and their mother's scarf; the family has kept these artifacts to this day.

**Joseph Labi** was born in 1928 in Benghazi, Libya, to an Orthodox family of nineteen. In 1942, Joseph was deported to the Jado concentration camp in Libya, and then to Italy, and in February 1944 to Bergen-Belsen. At the camp, one of the prisoners proposed that Joseph have a bar mitzvah ceremony: "I put on *tefillin*. A woman secured some perfume. I poured some on everyone's hand and that was my bar mitzvah." In March 1945, Joseph was transferred to France in a prisoner exchange deal. Back in Benghazi, Joseph met soldiers from the British Army's Jewish Brigade who helped him immigrate clandestinely to *Eretz Israel*. He lived on several kibbutzim and fought in Israel's War of Independence.



**Lonia Rozenhoch** (née Wudka) was born in 1920 in Radom, Poland, to a family of five. In April 1941, the Jews of Radom were

All through their travails, the group helped and encouraged each other at every opportunity

# “Whoever Saves One Life...”

Irena Steinfeldt

interned in the city's ghetto. One of Lonia's friends proposed that she flee to Soviet-occupied territory, but Lonia refused to leave her family. Lonia's mother, father and husband were all murdered, but she and her sisters, Bella and Malka, were sent to forced labor. They survived a death march and internment at Auschwitz, Ravensbrück and Malchow – where they always looked out for each other. After liberation they went to Sweden, where Lonia worked as a teacher of child Holocaust survivors. In March 1948, Lonia immigrated to *Eretz Israel*.



They found their father's kiddush cup and their mother's scarf; the family has kept these artifacts to this day

**Robert Tomashof** was born in 1916 in Dolný Kubín, Czechoslovakia, to a religious family of eight. In 1942, Robert's mother and brothers, William and Julius, were deported to Auschwitz and murdered. Robert acquired false papers, but had to leave after he was recognized. Using new ID papers, Robert moved to Budapest. He was discovered and jailed, awaiting deportation to Auschwitz. At the jail, Robert stole some documents and convinced a guard to let him leave. He spent the rest of the war in Romania, working in a labor camp. After liberation, Robert helped establish a refugee aid center, helped survivors immigrate to *Eretz Israel* and procured armaments for the *yishuv*. He immigrated to Israel in 1948.



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

■ During the Holocaust, Jewish parents sometimes faced the impossible decision of parting from their children and delivering them into the arms of strangers in order to save them. In other cases, they had to endure difficult conditions under the paralyzing fear of being caught, and the need to keep silent made the situation tremendously difficult. Despite these hardships, the terrible traumas that marked their childhood and the loss of family members, those children who survived endeavored to rebuild their lives and contribute to society – some of them excelling in their professions, as judges, doctors, teachers, human rights activists, politicians and more. A few survivors have even won global accolades for their contributions to humankind, including the Nobel Prize.

Roald Hoffmann (b. 1937) was hidden with his mother Clara and other relatives from January 1943 until June 1944 in the attic of the schoolhouse in the village of Uniow (today Univ), Ukraine. Mykola Dyuk, who served as the teacher of the one-classroom school, lived with his wife Maria and their three children in the schoolhouse. From the attic window, six-year-old Roald could watch the village children. “I felt – I still feel – the pain of seeing these children being free to move while I couldn't leave,” he told Yad Vashem in 2007, when he applied to have his rescuers honored as Righteous Among the Nations. “I had to keep quiet. That must have been difficult. It's a huge tribute to my mother – she kept inventing games to play with me for 15 months.” Hoffmann's father was murdered, and after the war his mother remarried and the Hoffmann family began their journey westward. Hoffmann had to change schools many times as his family wandered from Krakow through Czechoslovakia to DP camps in Austria and Germany, finally reaching the US in 1949, where he began his schooling in English – his sixth language at this point. Despite his travails, Hoffmann became an accomplished student and writer, and in 1981 won the Nobel Prize in the field of chemistry.

Last year, the wartime rescuers of another Nobel prizewinner were honored as Righteous Among the Nations. At the age of ten, Francois Englert, the son of Jewish-Polish immigrants to Belgium, was brought to the home of Camille and Louise Jourdan, the owners of a cafe-restaurant in the village of Lustin in the Ardennes. His



■ Roald Hoffman and his mother Clara in Krakow after liberation, 1945

parents were hidden in the same town, but for the sake of security, he was not told about their whereabouts. His mother sometimes came to see him, but always pretended to have arrived from a distance by train. Englert had no contact with the outside world; instead of going to school,

Despite their terrible traumas, those children who survived endeavored to rebuild their lives and contribute to society – some of them even winning the Nobel Prize

the Jourdans arranged for a local teacher to give him private lessons. After a few months, when denunciation became a threat, the Englerts took Francois to the village of Annevoie, where they were sheltered by one of the residents and the local priest. The family survived the war, but all of their relatives in Poland were murdered. Although his schooling was disrupted by the Holocaust, Francois Englert excelled as a student, became a physicist, and in 2013 won the Nobel Prize. Looking back at the war years, he paid tribute to the extraordinary bravery of his rescuers: “We were helped and hidden by people who did not even know us, people who in those times of darkness took the great risk of displaying generosity, humanity and courage... Without these wonderful people we could not have escaped the persecution and I would not be here to tell the tale.”

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

## Asper International Holocaust Studies

■ **The Asper International Holocaust Studies Program at the International School for Holocaust Studies is focused on raising awareness and facilitating key outreach in Holocaust education around the world.** The program, first conceived by Winnipeg philanthropists Israel (Izzy) and Babs Asper z”l, was designed to educate the wider public about the events of the Holocaust through various multilevel educational initiatives.

The Asper Foundation, established in 1983 and today led by the next generation of David, Gail and Leonard Asper, remains committed to undertaking and developing major initiatives in the areas of Jewish charity as well as culture, education, community development and human rights locally, nationally and internationally.

The Asper International Holocaust Studies Program provides targeted programming in areas that were identified by Yad Vashem experts. These include comprehensive professional development programs, ongoing support of high-level international outreach and promoting Holocaust awareness in the public sphere through expert engagement in international organizations such as the United Nations, UNESCO and the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

The Asper Foundation sought to develop a grassroots-driven program in close conjunction with Yad Vashem’s pedagogical experts, which



■ *Moses Levy, Executive Director of The Asper Foundation, introducing the Closing Session in Memory of Izzy Asper at the Yad Vashem International Educators’ Conference, 2010*

has resulted in a diverse range of educational and outreach initiatives spanning 15 successful years. “For more than six decades, the devoted, principled leadership of the Asper family – in Canada, Israel and elsewhere – as well as their extraordinary generosity, has been exemplary and inspiring,” comments Avner Shalev, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate. “Their consistent commitment to promoting Holocaust awareness is remarkable

and is tangible not only at Yad Vashem, but also in myriad additional frameworks that they foster in Canada, including the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. They are cherished partners in the realization of Yad Vashem’s mission.”

The Asper Program is also unique in that regular board meetings are held on Yad Vashem’s Jerusalem campus, allowing the committed team of trustees to remain closely involved with

## News from the Virtual School

### The Holocaust Education Video Toolbox: Now Available in Five Languages Jonathan Clapsaddle

■ **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, along with a wealth of related teaching aids and additional material.** Since its launch two years ago, the Toolbox has expanded its audience and is now available in five languages: English, German, Hebrew, Russian and Spanish. The translation currently extends to most of the videos, with future plans to expand to all of the videos and related materials.

Six new videos have recently been added to the Toolbox, covering the roots of Nazi ideology;

teaching the Holocaust using sports; describing life before the Holocaust; focusing on artists in the Theresienstadt ghetto; and analyzing “Testimony,” a poem by the poet, lecturer and Holocaust survivor Dan Pagis.

*To view these and other videos: [www.yadvashem.org/toolbox](http://www.yadvashem.org/toolbox)*

*The Holocaust Education Video Toolbox is generously supported by Jan and Rick Cohen, USA. The Toolbox translations were made possible with the additional generous support of ICHIEC and The Adelson Family Foundation.*

*The author is Educational Team Coordinator in the Educational Technology Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.*



# Program Forges Ahead

ongoing content development. Additionally, The Asper Foundation Closing Session of each biennial international conference traditionally features world-renowned figures presenting or lecturing to an audience of hundreds from all over the globe. In recent years, the session has been dedicated to the memory of the program



■ Teachers from five continents participating in a workshop at an International Educators' Conference, sponsored by The Asper Foundation

founders. As such, each conference sees active and meaningful participation on the part of Asper Foundation representatives. To be afforded the opportunity to meet with the beneficiaries of the programming under their auspices remains a key tenet of the ethos of the Asper International Holocaust Studies Program.

Other groundbreaking projects under the Asper banner in the past decade have included annual teacher training programs, an International Forum for educators, the first-ever Yad Vashem Graduate Training Seminar for Canadian Educators in Toronto and a pilot seminar at Yad Vashem for Latin-American educational policy makers in conjunction with UNESCO. The "Keeping the Memory Alive" International Poster Design Competition, sponsored by The Asper Foundation in 2013, was officially launched by then-Canadian

Minister of Employment and Social Development and Minister for Multiculturalism Jason Kenney and displayed in some 70 countries worldwide.

David Asper, Chair of The Asper Foundation, sees the need today more than ever for the program and echoed the words of his father Israel, who, in 2002, said: "The Asper Foundation is proud to



■ Izzy and Babs Asper z"l laying a wreath at Yad Vashem, 2002

play an integral role in supporting Yad Vashem, a world-renowned institution respected not only for commemorating the victims of the Holocaust, but also for imparting the lessons of the Holocaust and educating people worldwide to help ensure that the rally cry 'Never Again' refers not only to Jews but to all peoples." David notes that, "My father's thoughts perfectly capture our sentiments today and in 2016 we are proud to see that Yad Vashem continues to very successfully deliver on the objectives established for this program."

In view of the current challenges in Holocaust education and rising antisemitism in public discourse around the world, the Asper International Holocaust Studies Program will remain committed, together with Yad Vashem, to producing innovative programming to inspire and engage participants the world over.

## Furthering Holocaust Education in Germany

■ In April, the International School for Holocaust Studies hosted a high-ranking delegation from the German federal state of Schleswig-Holstein. During the visit, Prime Minister Torsten Albig, State Secretary of the Ministry of School and Professional Education Dirk Loßback and Dr. Eyal Kaminka, Lily Safra Chair of Holocaust Education and Director of the International School, signed a

joint declaration of intent. A cooperation agreement was signed between Yad Vashem and the city of Hamburg in June 2015, and a joint declaration of intent between Yad Vashem and Lower Saxony is due to be signed later this year. By the end of 2016, at least ten of the 16 German federal states will have formalized their ties with Yad Vashem by signing written agreements.

## International Conference

The Shoah and Jewish Identity: Challenges in Jewish Education

26-29 December 2016



■ On 26-29 December 2016 (Hanukkah: 26-29 Kislev 5777), Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies will hold an international conference for Jewish Day School principals, heads of Jewish Studies departments and community leaders. Over 300 participants from North America, Latin America, Europe, the FSU, South Africa and Australia are expected to attend the conference, which will focus on "The Shoah and Jewish Identity: Challenges in Jewish Education."

The conference will address the challenges of teaching the Holocaust in Jewish day schools in order to ensure that coming generations continue to embrace its legacy. Topics covered will include the challenges of maintaining Jewish identity in the ghettos, camps and in hiding during the Shoah, as well as contemporary issues, such as modern-day antisemitism, Holocaust denial and educational trips to Poland. One day will be dedicated to providing participants with effective, age-appropriate pedagogical tools developed by Yad Vashem.

The conference will be held in English with simultaneous translation into French, Spanish and Russian.

For more information on the Conference: [international.conference@yadvashem.org.il](mailto:international.conference@yadvashem.org.il); +972-2-644-3893; [www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org)

The International Conference is generously supported by the Israel Ministry of Diaspora Affairs, The Asper Foundation, The Adelson Family Foundation, The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany and Genesis Philanthropy Group.

Holocaust survivor Tswi Herschel and his daughter Natalie attended the signing ceremony, as did Gabriele Hannemann, who founded the Hamburg-based non-governmental organization Yad Ruth. Herschel has worked extensively in the field of Holocaust education, telling his story in several languages in Israel, Schleswig-Holstein and other states in the Federal Republic of Germany.

## Graduate Spotlight

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



## Imogen Dalziel UK

■ For Imogen Dalziel, currently a doctoral candidate at Royal Holloway, University of London, the choice to devote herself to Holocaust studies became apparent while studying for her Bachelor's degree in Psychology. During her undergraduate studies at the University of Birmingham, Dalziel recalls, "I was ever more drawn to the history of the Holocaust and how to educate others in the subject." The MA in Holocaust Studies offered at Royal Holloway was the obvious sequel for Dalziel. The faculty of the program included the late Prof. David Cesarani, whom she describes as her mentor. It was at Royal Holloway, she says, where her "desire to dedicate my life to Holocaust studies was cemented."

Prior to her academic study, Dalziel had first been exposed to the topic in 2009 by taking part in the "Lessons from Auschwitz" project of the British Holocaust Educational Trust (HET). The program requires that participants, having returned from a tour of Auschwitz, design a "Next Steps" project for their wider community; Imogen ran a series of lessons about the Holocaust in both her secondary school and additional schools in London.

From 2013 to early 2016, Dalziel was a Regional Ambassador for HET, as well as a regular volunteer at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum. As part of the HET program, she spent a week on

an intensive training program at Yad Vashem in the summer of 2013. "I was staggered by the sheer scale of the Museum Complex, and I was left quite

emotional by a number of the memorials, including the hauntingly beautiful Children's Memorial," she recalls. The unique Yad Vashem program – implemented annually for new cycles of HET Regional Ambassadors – also enables young British participants to visit places of interest in Israel and learn more about the culture of Holocaust remembrance so ingrained in the Israeli consciousness. "My time on the Yad Vashem program helped strengthen my knowledge of Judaism and the ways in which the people of Israel commemorate and remember the Holocaust," explains Dalziel.

Today, while working towards her doctorate, Dalziel continues to blaze a trail of Holocaust Remembrance activism alongside her fellow HET Ambassadors, many of whom are also distinguishing themselves in Holocaust academia and education. One of her most



■ *Yad Vashem Graduate Imogen Dalziel with survivor Kitty Hart-Moxon*

recent projects involved co-curating an exhibition currently on display in London's Wiener Library for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide, entitled "Dilemmas, Choices, Responses: Britain and the Holocaust." The exhibit considers both the positive and negative aspects of Britain's relationship with the Jewish population of Europe and the Holocaust, including antisemitism; the unsuccessful Evian and Bermuda Conferences; the *Kindertransport* operation; the debate about bombing Auschwitz; the liberation of Bergen-Belsen; and the various reactions Holocaust survivors received upon arrival in Britain.

Furthermore, Dalziel maintains an impressive online presence, and is a regular contributor to Yad Vashem's educational social media initiatives on Facebook and Twitter. Her blog, "A Week in Auschwitz" – named after a week spent at the Auschwitz Museum's International Summer Academy – recently garnered the attention of the UK Blog Awards, and claims increasing numbers of followers worldwide.

"Holocaust education is my life's passion," Dalziel states. "I believe every person should have an understanding of at least what the Holocaust was, and I am determined to be one of the people that educates others about this terrible event in world history."

## "Beyond the Seen": New Multilingual Poster Kit Shlomit Steiner

■ The International School for Holocaust Studies recently unveiled "Beyond the Seen," a new poster kit that presents the Holocaust from several points of view through a sequence of historical events, places, figures and concepts that were unique to that time period. In line with the educational philosophy of Yad Vashem, the kit begins with a section on the Jewish world before the Holocaust, emphasizes how individual people coped during and after the Holocaust, and questions how the events of the Shoah were humanly possible – for perpetrators, neighbors and the local populations in general.

"The posters share the various stages of the Holocaust with the audience, encouraging people to view them in depth, pose questions and raise ethical dilemmas," explains Sarit



Hoch-Marcovitz, Director of the International School's Israeli Teacher-Training Department. "Many of the primary sources – letters, diaries, poems, etc. – that the victims and survivors

wrote during the Holocaust and in its aftermath let us hear their voices."

The photographs, artworks and texts in the posters teach about the Holocaust's central junctures. The kit also offers teachers the possibility of developing educational discussions on the significance of the historical events today and its impact on Jewish identity.

Available in four languages – Hebrew, English, French and Spanish – the kit includes a workbook and CD with sources and links to various topics on the Yad Vashem website.

*"Beyond the Seen" is generously supported by The Adelson Family Foundation and The Conference of Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.*

*The author works in the Israeli Teacher-Training Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.*

# Increasing Spheres of Influence

Leah Goldstein and James Joseph McIntosh

## Seminars for Public-Opinion Leaders



■ The International School's Dr. Noa Mckayton guides German newspaper editors through the Holocaust History Museum, May 2016

■ In May 2016, during the week of Holocaust Remembrance Day, fifteen of the most senior-level editors of newspapers in Germany attended a tailor-made seminar at Yad Vashem. The participants, hand-picked by devoted friend of Yad Vashem and publisher of the BILD group Kai Diekmann, were provided with a range of lectures, tours and behind-the-scenes presentations, as well as meetings with top-level Israeli politicians and historians. Towards its conclusion, the seminar participants were present at the official Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremonies – a fact that, despite the passage of time since the Shoah, as German citizens, they did not take for granted.

“Seventy years is just a drop in history,” explained Stephan-Andreas Casdorff, Editor-in-Chief of the widely circulated liberal newspaper *Der Tagesspiegel*. “Given our shared history, we are proud to be part of the reconciliation between our two peoples, to be able to change the relationship from ‘German equals Nazi’ to ‘German equals friend.’ Being here touches the soul, heart and intellect.”

“Of course we knew about the history of the Holocaust, but in general we were only taught the facts from the Nazis’ point of view,” stated Marion Horn, Editor-in-Chief of *Bild am Sonntag*, Germany’s most widely sold Sunday newspaper. “Hearing the stories from the victims’ standpoint, learning about their lives before the war and thus understanding what was stolen and lost – that is something I will never forget.”

Although the overwhelming majority of participants of Yad Vashem’s seminars are teachers, professionals from other sectors in society are regularly invited to attend specially customized programs aimed at providing deeper

## Yad Vashem's experts work to ensure that opinion leaders and civil servants will own their responsibility to support Holocaust education

historical context and strengthening knowledge of the diverse prewar Jewish communities – citizens of a multicultural European society murdered by the Nazi Germans and their collaborators.

Examples of these target groups abound from east to west, including mayors from Lithuania; Christian clergy from the United Kingdom; and jurists, police cadets, journalists and politicians from Germany. Their visits to Yad Vashem are often the first time that many of these participants have come to Israel – and sometimes the first time they have met a Jewish person. Staff at the International School for Holocaust Studies, the International Institute for Holocaust Research, and the Archives and Communications Divisions band together to instill a commitment to Holocaust remembrance and education in the participants, who in turn command a wide-ranging influence on the communities in their respective regions.

In April 2016, Lithuanian mayors from the Kaunas region noted that although they knew about the Holocaust prior to studying at Yad Vashem, they had been less familiar with the varying contexts in different Nazi-occupied countries and forms of commemoration. In the course of deepening their knowledge of the multifaceted Jewish communities that once thrived

in Lithuania, the seminar delegation found it especially poignant to meet a Holocaust survivor and hear his story. True to Yad Vashem’s practice of tailoring seminars to the background of the participants, the delegation found it professionally rewarding to meet Mayor of Jerusalem Nir Barkat, and many were amazed at the diversity of present-day Israeli society.

In September 2016, the first-ever seminar for representatives of the regional governments of Spain, locally known as autonomous communities, will be held. The autonomous communities have broad powers to make educational policy in their jurisdiction, and Yad Vashem, in conjunction with its longstanding partner Centro Sefarad-Israel,



■ The International School's Orit Margaliot educates Polish clergy at a Yad Vashem seminar, December 2014

aims to leverage its work with these representatives to encourage a stronger commitment to Holocaust education on the local level in Spain.

By working with a broad spectrum of society, Yad Vashem’s experts work to ensure that opinion leaders and civil servants will own their responsibility to support Holocaust education, so that the torch of Holocaust memory and its relevance to today’s multicultural societies will continue to be passed from generation to generation.

“From day one, the program was impressive and expertly conducted,” concluded Kai Diekmann. “You cannot simply wrap up the Holocaust and put it in a museum – its impact on the present and the future is also part and parcel of the knowledge we gained here. Our delegation’s sphere of influence is literally hundreds of thousands of Germans and other citizens in Europe and the US – and we are committed to encouraging young, up-and-coming journalists to come here to learn the facts and thus gain a better understanding of Israeli society today.”

*Yad Vashem seminars for public-opinion leaders are generously supported by The Adelson Family Foundation.*

# The Names Database Upgraded and Improved

Deborah Berman

■ **The Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names, uploaded to the Yad Vashem website in 2004, marked a pioneering use of technology in the service of memory, documenting and commemorating nearly three million names of Holocaust victims, with the vast majority of the records originating from Pages of Testimony.** To date, the Names Database contains the details of over 4.6 million Jews murdered in the Shoah, from hundreds of sources, with the information from the Pages of Testimony representing only half the data.

"Not only has the Names Database grown significantly over the past decade, but the technological world of 2016 is also vastly different than that of 2004," explains Yad Vashem CIO Michael Lieber. "Access to the internet is now less on computers, and more on handheld devices. As speedy internet connections have become more common, more and more large databases have come online, and the public has become more savvy in using them."

To continue to meet the needs of an expanding worldwide community of users and the enhanced amount of information in the database, Yad Vashem has upgraded and re-designed the online interface, making use of an innovative and technologically superior platform that allows the accessibility of online information in a fast and user-friendly format. The new interface includes full mobile device compatibility for improved use on smartphones and tablets. While in the past query results were limited to a thousand entries, the current



platform allows an unlimited number of entries.

Results can now be easily sorted alphabetically by name or place, or chronologically by birthdate. Any query can be refined by numerous parameters, among them source of information and profession. Users can then easily browse through search results.

Public response has been positive, in particular to expanded sort and refinement filters. "I was delighted to find the newest improvements in searching the Names Database," wrote one user. "One can hold open several documents at once and compare and crosscheck the various names to find which ones relate to one's family."

"I like the new ease of use – it's good that you can bring up the name of a place and all

names come up in one go," wrote another. And one user simply wrote: "Thank you for making it easier to find information about relatives."

"A great deal of our efforts are channeled toward perfecting the technical side of the Database in order to ensure maximum access to the victims' names," says Dr. Alexander Avram, Director of the Hall of Names and the Names Database. "Notwithstanding, we never forget that the Database itself is only an advanced tool designed to commemorate each murdered Jew as an individual with talents, hopes and dreams, a human being lost to his or her family, community and the entire Jewish people."

Yad Vashem welcomes feedback and new information from the public and remains committed to responding to requests from users to maximize the functionality of the Names Database.

## Don't Let Them Be Forgotten

■ **Yad Vashem's Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names now contains over 4.6 million entries – about 100,000 more than last year.** Staff at the Hall of Names and the Archives continue to glean documents and lists for unreported names, and encourage anyone that has not yet filled out Pages of Testimony for loved ones or acquaintances murdered during the Holocaust to do so before their memories are lost forever.

For assistance in filling out Pages of Testimony, please call: +972-2-6443111.

## Gathering the Fragments: New Collection Regarding Slovakia

■ **Emanuel Elimelech Frieder was born in Prievidza, Slovakia, in 1913, and participated in the Slovak National Uprising in 1944.** After the uprising was quelled, Frieder, his wife Helena-Hanna (née Schwarz) and their infant daughter Margalit went into hiding with a Christian family in the region of Lubina. Following liberation, Frieder suffered frequent arrests while helping large numbers of survivors immigrate to Israel; in 1949, he finally arrived in his beloved homeland. While devoting himself to the city of Netanya and its educational efforts, Frieder focused on commemorating the Jews of Slovakia murdered during the Shoah.

Emanuel Frieder passed away in 2000. His son Ariel recently donated to Yad Vashem his collection of documents and private correspondence about his personal story and that of his family, as well as documents and memoirs regarding the destroyed Jewish community of Nové Mesto.

*Yad Vashem runs the "Gathering the Fragments" campaign in cooperation with the Ministry for Senior Citizens, Ministry of Education and the Landmarks National Heritage Program at the Prime Minister's Office. Since the launch of the campaign five years ago, over 8,500 Israeli residents have donated some 183,000 items to Yad Vashem, including 104,460 documents, 72,800 photographs, 3,670 artifacts, 542 works of art and 175 original films.*



# The Mystery of the Cigarette Box

Iris Bar-Nir Cohen and Sara Shor

■ A cigarette box adorned with an impressive engraving of a locomotive at a train station in the Lodz ghetto was donated to Yad Vashem's Artifacts Collection in 2012. The depiction, and the inscription within, give a few clues regarding the identity of the person who received the box: Leon Lederman, who served in an administrative capacity in the ghetto.

*To Leon Lederman  
On the second year  
"Radegast Station"  
With gratitude,  
Labor and Management*

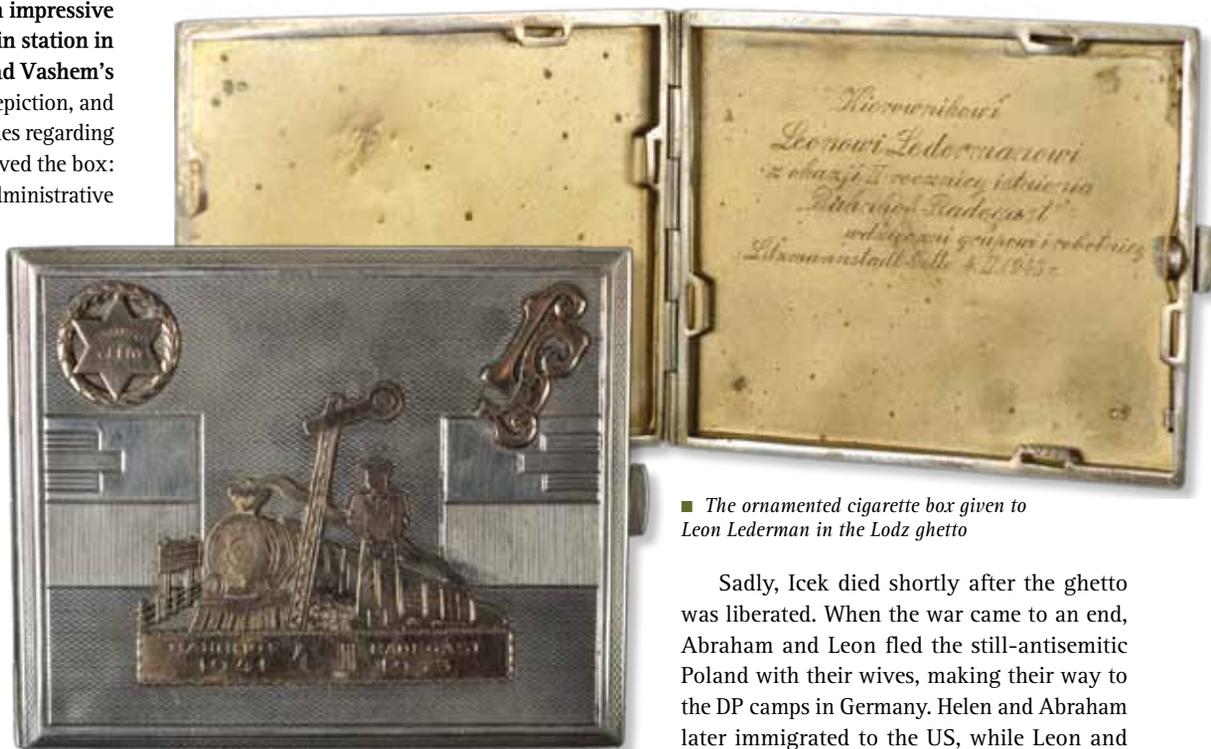
*Litzmannstadt [Lodz] ghetto,  
4 February 1943*

Mike Lewkowicz, who donated the cigarette box, did not know who Leon Lederman was, nor how the box had come into the possession of his father, Israel, a Holocaust survivor originally from Lodz. Lewkowicz's attempts to locate Lederman's relatives came to naught, and he donated the box to Yad Vashem in the hope of finding them.

Research conducted by staff in the Museums Division's Artifacts Department revealed nothing about Leon Lederman. It was only when they reached out to survivors from Lodz that they ultimately made contact with Dvora Atzmon,



■ Leon and Dina (Donia) Lederman, Lodz ghetto, 17 February 1942



■ The ornamented cigarette box given to Leon Lederman in the Lodz ghetto

Lederman's daughter. When Atzmon heard about the cigarette box, she hurried to Yad Vashem for a moving encounter with the artifact that her father had received as a gift from his employees some 70 years earlier.

Atzmon recounted that her father, a native of Lodz born in 1916, had been imprisoned in the ghetto in 1940 with his entire extended family. Leon and his brother Abraham helped manage the transfer of supplies to and from the ghetto. Both brothers married while incarcerated in the ghetto: Leon to Dina, and Abraham to Helen. Abraham would covertly listen to the radio and spread information to the inhabitants as part of underground activity in the ghetto. "If you gave people good news, that was resistance," he later testified.

Until 1944, the entire Lederman family managed to survive, apparently due to Leon and Abraham's positions in the ghetto. However, their parents, sister and older brother were deported on the last transport from the ghetto and murdered. Leon, Abraham and another brother Icek were among 800 people left behind for the ghetto's liquidation, and they survived until liberation.

Sadly, Icek died shortly after the ghetto was liberated. When the war came to an end, Abraham and Leon fled the still-antisemitic Poland with their wives, making their way to the DP camps in Germany. Helen and Abraham later immigrated to the US, while Leon and Dina set sail from Italy for *Eretz Israel*. After being incarcerated by the British in DP camps in Cyprus, the couple finally made it to Israel, settling in Holon.

For the rest of his life, Leon Lederman felt guilty for being unable to save his parents. He did, however, manage to rescue one person - Menachem Mendel Heitler, his brother-in-law, who later was able to bring evidence as to the destination of thousands of Jews from Lodz: Auschwitz.

The ornamented cigarette box is one of a variety of artifacts from the Lodz ghetto preserved at Yad Vashem. The engraved illustration provides a glimpse of life in the ghetto. In the first years of the ghetto's existence, for example, the Radegast station depicted on Lederman's cigarette box served as a supply station and was later converted into a station for deporting Jews for extermination. The depiction on the box, together with the story of the fate of Leon Lederman, manager of the Radegast train station, constitute unique historical evidence of wartime events in the Lodz ghetto.

*Iris Bar-Nir Cohen is Associate Curator, Artifacts Department, and Shara Shor is Artifacts Collection Supervisor and Registrar, Museums Division.*

# “They Laughed by Day and

Dana Porath

■ In September 1943, with the Italian surrender to the Allies, the Germans occupied the area of Nice in southern France – formerly under Italian control – and began to hunt down Jews in the vicinity. Approximately one month later, they carried out a raid on a children’s home near Marseilles in southern France, sending the occupants to the detention camp at Drancy. News of the raid soon reached the other children’s homes in southern France. The directors of the children’s aid society OSE made the decision to evacuate the children in their care and gradually close down their children’s homes.

One of these homes, which provided refuge for dozens of children, had been established in April 1943 in the village of Izieu, formerly Vichy territory. The home, part of the OSE’s network of hiding places, was run by Sabine Zlatin, a Jewish nurse and OSE activist. Some of the children who lived there were French, while



■ Children in uniform during a Scout activity at the summer camp, Chamonix, 1943-1944. Yad Vashem Photo Archive



■ Stephan Lewy’s notebook of sketches from the leather workshop run by Leon König in Chabannes

others had fled Nazi occupation in Belgium, Austria, Germany and Poland. Several had arrived there from other children’s homes in France.

Despite the fact that the children’s home in Izieu was in a secluded locality and didn’t attract attention, the decision was made to evacuate the children hidden there as well. On 3 April 1944, Zlatin traveled to Montpellier to look for hiding places for the children in her care. However, just three days later, members of the Lyon Gestapo who had been tipped off by an informant carried out a raid on the home and arrested everyone there. Forty-four children aged 4-17, and seven staff members who had been taking care of them, were incarcerated in the Lyon prison,

“I didn’t have my parents, but I was together with my big brother. I was with other children. A five-year-old boy doesn’t suffer every 15 minutes, just every now and then. He’s sad, that’s all. He wants his father, he wants his mother, he’s hungry. From time to time my parents would come to visit, and I would always say to my father... ‘Hold me tight.’”

Holocaust survivor Yosef Shmuel Kolodny, who was provided refuge at the children’s home in Chabannes

and then deported to Drancy. The deportation order was issued by local Gestapo head Klaus Barbie. During the children’s detention in Lyon, the Germans discovered the whereabouts of some of their family members, who were also taken to Drancy and later deported to their deaths in Auschwitz and other places, along with the children.

The tragic account of Izieu is featured in a new Yad Vashem online exhibition, describing one of the unique phenomena of the Holocaust period: the rescue of Jewish children in France. In response to the arrest and deportation of Jews in France by the German occupiers, a network



■ Wallet made by Stephan Lewy in the leather workshop in Chabannes

of protective homes was established by different aid organizations, both Jewish and Christian, whose members rescued children from detention camps or hiding places and brought them to

# Cried at Night”



## New Exhibition: Children’s Homes in France During the Holocaust

The children who survived thanks to these children’s homes remember their rescuers fondly, recalling their efforts to create a loving, supportive and protective environment

safety in remote locations. The caretakers did everything in their power to continue the children’s Jewish and general education, and to enable a sense of routine and normalcy. Staff members encouraged observation of Jewish



■ Basket used to collect chestnuts found in the abandoned children’s home in Chabannes

rituals and customs, as well as musical and other cultural endeavors, and even took the children on outings, mainly in rural and mountainous areas where the danger of being discovered was lower. The children who survived thanks to these children’s homes remember their rescuers fondly, recalling their efforts to create a loving, supportive and protective environment. Some of the non-Jewish rescuers of these children were later recognized by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations.

Enriched with original photographs and related artifacts in Yad Vashem’s Collections, “Children’s Homes in France During the Holocaust” tells the stories of three children’s homes: in Izieu, in Chamonix and in Chabannes. While, as in the case of Izieu, the children



■ Memento made after the war with photographs of the staff at the children’s home in Chamonix as well as underground activists. The background is adorned with a Menorah and verses from Psalms written in French.

“The children in our care laughed by day and cried at night.”

Rachel Plodmacher-Levine, a Jewish caretaker at the children’s home in Chabannes



■ Righteous Among the Nations Paulette Pallarès with Théo Reis and Arnold Hirsch, Izieu, Summer 1943. During the Gestapo raid on the children’s home on 6 April 1944, the boys were caught. They were deported from Drancy to Estonia, where they were shot dead. Yad Vashem Photo Archive

and their caretakers were often discovered and murdered, many Jewish boys and girls were also saved thanks to this unique rescue

endeavor – as illustrated in the moving video testimonies and touching personal accounts featured in the exhibition: accounts of courage and determination, of sacrifice and loyalty, and of dedication to maintaining the human spirit during the crucible of the Holocaust.

The “Children’s Homes in France During the Holocaust” exhibition is supported by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

### Exhibition on Volary Death March: Now in German

■ “The Death March to Volary,” the video-based online exhibition currently online in English, Hebrew and Spanish, was recently launched in German. Using the testimonies of the survivors as well as the American liberators, the exhibition describes the excruciating 800-km forced march by some 1,000 female Jewish prisoners from Silesia in western Poland that ended over 100 days later in the town of Volary in Czechoslovakia.

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

# Research

## An Intellectual Journey into Poland's Hidden Past

Dr. David Silberklang

■ The Annual Event in Memory of Prof. David Bankier ז"ל took place on 22 February 2016.

Prof. Jan Tomasz Gross, whose book *Neighbors* set off a debate in Poland 15 years ago that has yet to subside, spoke on "Making History: Intellectual Journey into the Hidden Polish Past." Prof. Gross brilliantly wove together the past, the present and the personal in his penetrating analysis of the development of Poland's relationship with its wartime past.

Prof. Gross related his own intellectual development, from involvement as a young Polish high school student in a forbidden "discussion group" with his friends, to his expulsion from university studies during Poland's government-sponsored antisemitism in 1968, in which Jews and Jewish institutions were accused of being a "Zionist fifth column," and on to his subsequent graduate work at Yale University. In his doctoral dissertation and book on the Polish underground state in the Generalgouvernement in German-occupied Poland, he omitted discussion of Jews, as though they were part of a separate history –



■ Prof. Jan Tomasz Gross: forthrightly researching Poland's past

As he read survivor accounts in the archive of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, Prof. Gross came to realize that Jews during the Holocaust had faced repeated betrayal by their Polish Christian neighbors, compatriots and friends

and not a single Polish scholar commented on that omission. Years later, he began to realize that this approach reflected what he called Poland's complacent self-image regarding Poles' attitudes toward Jews during WWII and the Holocaust. Prof. Gross skillfully exposed this self-image for the untruth that it was, while analyzing its origins and the changes in the Polish scholarly and popular discourse over the last 30 years.

As he read survivor accounts in the archive of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, he

came to realize that Jews during the Holocaust had faced repeated betrayal by their Polish Christian neighbors and compatriots, often by friends. Whereas Polish society had convinced itself that Poles generally did not overtly help Jews during the Holocaust because they feared German brutality, in fact they risked that brutality for many reasons and causes except for the Jews. Moreover, the hostility displayed toward Jewish survivors in postwar Poland, together with rescuers' fears to reveal themselves after the war, reflected the falseness of that self-image.

When he discovered the story of Jedwabne, wherein the Polish residents murdered their Jewish neighbors of the town, he was stunned. The debate that *Neighbors* engendered in Poland is unparalleled in the post-communist countries. Today there is a significant cadre of young, highly talented scholars in many disciplines who are forthrightly researching Poland's past.

As part of the Annual Event, Prof. Gross also led a workshop the day after his lecture for a select group of Israeli doctoral students, providing insights into research and asking questions of sources. The ensuing discussion

was enriching for all the participants and was followed by lectures by two doctoral candidates on their current research: Yehudit Dori-Deston presented the Demjanjuk trials; and Talya Farkash spoke about the Holocaust in Tarnów.

It has been six years since Prof. Bankier, former Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research, passed away. As Dr. Iael Nidam-Orvieto noted in her comments preceding Prof. Gross's lecture, many scholars still ask themselves what Prof. Bankier would have said about this or that topic currently under discussion. It is clear what he would have said about Prof. Gross's lecture and workshop. This was the kind of teaching about which Prof. Bankier would have been enthusiastic – honest, direct, no holds barred, reflective and incisive.

*The Annual Event took place with the generous support of the Gutwirth Family Fund. It was moderated by Prof. Dan Michman, Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Studies and Incumbent of the John Najmann Chair for Holocaust Studies.*

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

# The Jews of the Middle East in the Shadow of the Holocaust

Prof. Dan Michman

■ On 5 April 2016, researchers from Germany, the US, France, Slovakia, Belgium and Israel took part in an international conference, entitled “Jews of the Middle East in the Shadow of the Holocaust.” Organized jointly by the Ben-Zvi Institute and Yad Vashem’s International Institute for Holocaust Research, the conference aimed to shed light on Nazi Germany’s attitude towards Middle Eastern lands and the Jews living therein, and the ways that Middle Eastern Jewish communities regarded Nazi Germany’s policy towards the Jews, from Hitler’s rise to power in 1933 to the end of WWII.

Prof. Haim Saadoun, Director of the Ben-Zvi Institute’s Documentation Center of North African Jewry During WWII, began the conference’s opening session. As a prominent scholar of the Jewish communities of North Africa and the Middle East, he spoke about the dearth of study in these fields, and the significance of the conference in that regard. The goals of the conference and the ongoing academic and archival cooperation between Yad Vashem and the Ben-Zvi Institute stem from recognition of the importance of including the Jewish communities of North Africa and the Middle East when discussing the Holocaust, reactions to it and its impact.

Prof. Norman (Noam) Stillman of the University of Oklahoma delivered the keynote address, presenting an overview of the wartime political situation in the Middle East, military considerations, and factors affecting the Jewish communities. He paid special attention to the *Farhud*, the pogrom against the Jews of Baghdad in 1941. Dr. Stefan Petke of the Technical University of Berlin analyzed Nazi Germany’s policy towards the Arab world and the Middle East in general, and showed that 1941 was a year that marked a shift from limited involvement to a more intense effort to win over the Arabs to Germany’s side. Prof. Joël Kotek of the Université Libre de Bruxelles and Sciences Po Paris demonstrated how Zionism and *Eretz Israel* were caricatured in the satirical newspaper *Kladderadatsch*, and Dr. Edy Cohen of Bar-Ilan University presented the antisemitic propaganda that was broadcast in Arabic on Radio Berlin. Doctoral candidate Denisa Nestakova of Comenius University in Bratislava presented a different German aspect,



■ British fighter planes above the pyramids in Egypt, before WWII. Yad Vashem Photo Archive

that of the image of the Jew in a German Templar newspaper in *Eretz Israel*.

Several lectures addressed the real-time reactions to the Holocaust by different Jewish communities. Prof. Franck F. Salameh of Boston College presented the identity of Lebanese Jews in the context of Lebanon’s special character as a country that was not “Arab,” but multiethnic and confessional. Among other issues, Dr. Guy Bracha of Bar-Ilan University spoke about the difficulties that a Lebanese Jewish newspaper faced when translating “ghetto” into Arabic. Dr. Izzet Bahar of the University of Pittsburgh described how Turkey did not defend Jews with Turkish citizenship in France, and Dr. Corry Guttstadt of Hamburg University discussed how Jews in Turkey responded to what was happening under German rule within the context of the restrictions on press freedom in Turkey. Dr. Esther Webman of Tel Aviv University interpreted Egyptian Jews’ shows of solidarity with the persecuted Jews of Europe, both in the 1930s and 1940s. Dr. Jacqueline Semha Gmach presented a video of four Iraqi Jews testifying about the

*Farhud*, and Dr. Orly Rahimiyan explained the reaction of Iranian Jews in the context of Iran’s policy towards Germany at the time. Dr. Chen Bram of the Hebrew University lectured about the varying fate of the “Mountain Jews” of the Caucasus, and how this is reflected in the memory of Jews from that region. Some of them were murdered by German troops, but one community was spared through the intervention of the local non-Jewish population. Dr. Jean Laloum of the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne presented a memorial project, based on photographs and biographies, by French Jews of Middle Eastern origin.

The lectures concluded with a roundtable by the participants, who discussed ways to cooperate in the future.

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

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

# Going Back to the Sources

■ **“No matter how much we talk about the woes, we cannot imagine them as they really are, because knowing and talking about the woes does not resemble witnessing [them].”**

From the sermon by Rabbi Kalonymus Kalmish Shapira, Warsaw ghetto, Shabbat Hazon 5702 (26 July 1941)

Due to the sermons he gave and wrote down in the Warsaw ghetto, Rabbi Kalonymus Kalmish Shapira of Piaseczno (1889-1943) is undoubtedly a major figure in the study of Orthodox Jewish thought during the Holocaust. These sermons were found after the Holocaust and published in 1960 under the title *Esh Kodesh*. This is a moving and unique document, which from start to finish deals with the theology of suffering, a study stemming from personal experience.

As far as is known, all of the researchers who have referred to this book relied exclusively on printed editions of the book. However, in the latest edition of *Yad Vashem Studies* (44:1), Dr. Daniel Reiser examines the original manuscript and demonstrates that the printed versions are, in fact, unreliable. The most surprising fact is that the book actually consists of multiple layers. As the rabbi reviewed and proofread his sermons several times and heavily annotated the margins, large portions of the sermons from 1939 are actually *additions* written in 1942 – a fact that has eluded researchers and holds great significance for understanding both the sermons and the evolution of the rabbi’s philosophy of suffering.

By examining the original manuscript, located at the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, and the scanned version of it in the Yad Vashem Archives, Dr. Reiser argues that one can decipher the rabbi’s handwriting accurately, resolve doubts, spot deleted parts, and more. For example, the printed version of the Rosh Hashanah 5700 (New Year 1939) sermon reads, “For today is the birthday of the world and all of Creation, to reveal [blessed God’s] kingship over Israel [Hebrew: *al Yisrael*].” However, a glance at

**By examining the original manuscript, Dr. Reiser argues that one can resolve doubts, spot deletions and addition and thus gain a greater understanding of the sermons and contemplations of the Rebbe of Piaseczno**

the manuscript reveals a slight difference – not “*al Yisrael*” (over Israel), but rather *ayin-yod*, an abbreviation of “*al-yad Yisrael*” (by or through Israel). Although it is a slight difference in Hebrew, this discovery completely changes its

meaning. According to the print version, the entire purpose of creation was for God’s majesty to be revealed “over” the Jewish people, meaning that it was nationally focused. In contrast, according to the manuscript, the purpose of creation was to reveal God’s majesty to everyone – a universal focus – using the Jewish people as a medium, “to reveal [blessed God’s] kingship through Israel.”

This is just one instance of words, sentences and even entire paragraphs that were misread, misconstrued or omitted from the printed book. By restoring the deletions to the original text, as well as revising the demarcation and order of the sermons based on the manuscript and adding source references and elucidated Kabbalistic explanations, Dr. Reiser’s fascinating article – the basis of a future publication by Yad Vashem in cooperation with other publishing houses – will undoubtedly serve as the source for new and fruitful studies of the sermons and contemplations of the Rebbe of Piaseczno.

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



## Symposium Marking the Publication of Essay Collection in Honor of Prof. Dina Porat

■ **On 15 March, Tel Aviv University’s (TAU) Beit Hatfutsoth hosted a symposium marking the publication of a new collection of articles by leading scholars from Israel and abroad in honor of Yad Vashem Chief Historian and Head of the Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry in Tel Aviv University, Prof. Dina Porat.** The book, entitled *The Holocaust and Antisemitism in Research and Public Discourse* (Yad Vashem, 2016), is edited by Dr. Roni Stauber and Dr. Esther Webman of TAU and by Prof. Aviva Halamish of the Open University. The symposium included sessions based on Prof. Porat’s areas of professional interest: the Holocaust; the reaction to it by the *Yishuv* (Jewish settlement in Mandatory

Palestine) and Israeli society; and contemporary antisemitism.

The symposium was attended by scholars from Israeli universities and Yad Vashem, as well as by former students-turned-researchers of Prof. Porat. TAU President Prof. Yosef Klafter, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev and Director of the TAU Center for Diaspora Studies Prof. Simcha Goldin delivered the opening remarks. The speakers addressed Prof. Porat’s important contribution to research both at TAU and Yad Vashem. Prof. Dan Michman, Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research and Incumbent of the John Najmann Chair for Holocaust Studies, delivered the keynote address, elaborating on Prof. Porat’s research work. The lectures dealt with a diverse

range of topics, including guidelines for studying Jewish life in the ghettos; collaboration in the murder of Jews in eastern Poland; the German rail company during WWII and the Holocaust; the importance of researching the *Yishuv*’s attitude towards the Holocaust; the influence of Holocaust survivors on shaping memory; and cultural aspects of the second and third generations regarding Holocaust commemoration.

The symposium concluded with remarks by Prof. Porat, who cited her childhood and parents’ home in Argentina and Israel as the impetus for her decision to study the history of the Jewish people in general, and the Holocaust in particular.

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

## Prof. Yehuda Bauer – Ninety Years and Going Strong

Dr. David Silberklang

■ Could the US (and the Allied Forces) have prevented the murder of the Jews during WWII? Could American Jewry have pressured the Roosevelt administration to rescue more Jews? And would a politically unified American Jewry have made a difference?

Prof. Bauer demonstrated once again his oratorical and rhetorical brilliance in his recent discourse analyzing the American government's responses to the Holocaust and the possibilities for rescue

Marking his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday this March, Yad Vashem Academic Advisor Prof. Yehuda Bauer demonstrated once again his oratorical and rhetorical brilliance in his recent discourse to a highly knowledgeable audience analyzing the American government's responses to the Holocaust and the possibilities for rescue. The lecture, entitled "Rescue? The United States and European Jews During the Holocaust," was held on 21 March by the Israel Academy of Sciences



■ Prof. Yosef Kaplan (the Hebrew University), Prof. Yehuda Bauer and Avner Shalev at a captivating lecture marking Prof. Bauer's 90th birthday

and Humanities in cooperation with Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research.

Allied responses to the Holocaust has been one of Prof. Bauer's many specialties over his more than five decades of research, writing and teaching. His thorough examination of the details of the subject and his lucid, convincing analysis lead clearly to his conclusions. First, expecting Jewish unity is absurd and has no precedent, and even had there been such unity it would not have made a difference, since Jews then had almost no influence in Washington. Second, whereas the US government could have done more at certain junctures, their ability to rescue was severely limited, and the balance was not as negative as some argue. Prof. Bauer offered several illustrations of Roosevelt's efforts

to help endangered Jews in various ways and was emphatic regarding two central issues – the American leaders' confusion and even disbelief regarding the "Final Solution" impacted on their reactions; and the extent of what the US could actually have done was sorely limited, although more could have been done in terms of taking in refugees. On the controversy regarding the Allies' failure to bomb Auschwitz-Birkenau, Prof. Bauer demonstrated that bombing would not have made any difference in terms of rescuing Jews.

What people took away from the evening, even more perhaps than witnessing Prof. Bauer's grasp and keen insight into vast amounts of information, was awe. It was a tour de force that only proves again that at 90, Prof. Yehuda Bauer is still in his prime.

## Fellow's Corner: Dr. Frank Grelka

■ Dr. Frank Grelka recently spent three months at Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow. Dr. Grelka is an academic research fellow at the Institute for Interdisciplinary Polish Studies of Viadrina University in Frankfurt (Oder). His research on non-industrial forced-labor camps for Jews in the vicinity of Sobibór led Grelka to further his studies at Yad Vashem as he dealt with the issue of forced labor in the context of genocidal policies at camps in Chełm County, 1940-1942.

During his tenure at Yad Vashem, Dr. Grelka added numerous early Jewish survivor testimonies to Polish and Ukrainian witness accounts that he collected in Poland. "For a historian who is used to time-consuming research trips through various repositories in Eastern Europe and the FSU, the Yad Vashem

During his tenure at Yad Vashem, Dr. Grelka added numerous Jewish survivor testimonies to Polish and Ukrainian witness accounts that he collected in Poland

Archives are a perfect place to collect material," says Dr. Grelka. "Everything on the topic of forced labor is concentrated here." Based on the accounts he discovered in Israel, Dr. Grelka examined how the concept of forced-labor for Jews was from the outset an integral part of the

anti-Jewish policies in occupied Poland. He argues that within the murder agenda, forced-labor camps for Jews in the Generalgouvernement were possibly more relevant than the establishment of

ghettos frequently referred to by historians of the Holocaust as the last step before extermination. "I am very grateful for the helpful expertise and great friendship I received from Yad Vashem historians and fellow researchers during the presentation of my paper, which I hope to publish as a contribution for a forthcoming edition of *Yad Vashem Studies*."



### Ancient Megillah Scroll Used on Purim

■ On 24 March, members of the Association of Cracovians in Israel and its President, Lili Haber, Holocaust survivors and other guests gathered in the Yad Vashem Synagogue for the annual reading of *Megillat Esther* (Scroll of Esther) on the festival of Purim. The story of Esther was read by Director-General of the Shaare Zedek Medical Center Prof. Yonatan Halevy from an antique parchment estimated to be hundreds of years old. The scroll was

discovered in a trash heap in the Jewish Quarter after the liquidation of the Krakow ghetto and delivered to Yad Vashem for eternal safekeeping by Cracovian Association member Berl Schor. Senior Assistant to the Chairman of the Directorate Yossi Gevir and Naama Galil of the Commemoration and Community Relations Division moderated the event, which was accompanied by traditional Purim melodies played by Klezmer artist Berni Mirnbach.



### VE Day 2016



■ Jewish veterans of WWII who fought with the Allies, partisans and in the underground

■ On 8 May, Yad Vashem held the Official State Ceremony Marking the Allied Victory over Nazi Germany at the Monument to the Jewish Soldiers and Partisans. Participating in the ceremony were: Minister of Immigration and Absorption and Minister of Jerusalem Affairs and Heritage Zeev Elkin; Deputy Speaker of the Knesset Tali Ploskov; Chairman of the Organization of Partisans, Underground Fighters and Ghetto Rebels in Israel Baruch Shub; and President of the Organization of

Soldiers and Partisans – Disabled Veterans of the Nazi War Ephraim Paperno.

Hundreds of Jewish WWII veterans of the Allied armies, the majority from the Former Soviet Union, attended and laid wreaths, along with Jewish partisans, wounded soldiers from the war against the Nazis, underground fighters, volunteers from the *Yishuv* who fought in the British forces, veterans of the Jewish Brigade, and diplomatic representatives from the Allied countries.



■ Mayor Nir Barkat, Minister Zeev Elkin, Dr. Haim Gertner and Deputy Knesset Speaker Tali Ploskov

Recalling his two grandparents who fought with the Allies during WWII, Minister Elkin connected the days marking the Holocaust, the victory over Nazi Germany and Israel's independence that follow each other over a space

of just one week in the calendar. "Those million-and-a-half Jewish fighters in the Allied armies, in the partisan units and in the underground and the ghettos prove that among the Allied forces was, in fact, one other country – albeit one that was declared a few years later – the State of Israel, the State of the Jewish people that must be counted among the victorious nations, through merit and not charity. The representatives of this people fought shoulder to shoulder with those of many other countries to bring about the victory... We must always remember that we owe these fighters an enormous debt of gratitude."

Representing Yad Vashem, Director of the Yad Vashem Archives and Fred Hillman Chair for Holocaust Documentation Dr. Haim Gertner read out moving wartime testimonies of soldiers in the Red Army and the Jewish Brigade. "The State of Israel based itself on and was strengthened through the bravery of those fighters," he proclaimed. "Your spirit of combat and heroism continues to accompany us to this day."

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

### Expanding Information about the Fate of Italian Jewry

■ A recent agreement signed between Yad Vashem and the Milan-based CDEC (Center for Contemporary Jewish Documentation) is set to greatly enhance knowledge about the Holocaust in Italy. Established in 1955 at the initiative of the Federation of Italian Jewish Youth, the CDEC is charged with collecting and researching documents pertaining to the antisemitic decrees in Italy and the Jewish contribution to the country's resistance movement against the German occupation during WWII. Over the years, the CDEC gathered information and archival documents from cities and communities in Italy, as well as from the various private

archives of major figures from different Jewish communities. Today the CDEC serves several functions, including maintaining a library and historical archive, running a center for educational activities and producing various publications.

The CDEC archive contains documents from Jewish organizations and individuals dating back to 1850, including many concerning the fate of Italian Jewry during the Holocaust, as well as a database with the names of some 8,000 Jews who were deported from Italy or murdered during WWII. Additionally, the archive has written and audio-visual testimonies from

### Dr. Anat Kutner

Jews who were persecuted at various times.

"The documents, testimonies and photographs from the CDEC will significantly enrich our own archival collections regarding the Holocaust in Italy, rescue and hiding operations, and wartime Jewish activity in the Italian underground," explains Yad Vashem Archives Director and Fred Hillman Chair for Holocaust Documentation Dr. Haim Gertner. "This important agreement allows us to open a window on this topic for researchers and the public alike."

*The author is Deputy Director of the Archival Acquisition Department, Archives Division.*

## Filming the Life Stories of Hearing-Impaired Survivors

■ *“The following day, all the women arose and stood in a line. I tried to understand what was happening. From what I could make out, I realized that they were separating the healthy women from the sick. Those months in Auschwitz had taught me that there was no mercy here; without hesitating, I took the bandage off my face and hid it underneath my mattress. During the selection, I was placed with the healthy women.”*

From the testimony of Zelda Nussbaum, a hearing-impaired Holocaust survivor from Poland

To date, tens of thousands of survivors have recounted their personal experiences during the Holocaust to Yad Vashem. In recent years, the Testimonies Section in the Archives Division launched a unique new initiative – documenting the stories of hearing-impaired survivors, in coordination with the Association for the Deaf in Israel (ADI). The survivors filmed were deaf or hearing-impaired since birth or early childhood; in their fascinating testimonies, they share how



■ Survivor Garry Markov (b. Sevastopol, Crimea, 1939) gives testimony through a Russian sign-language interpreter

they managed to survive the horrors of the Holocaust despite their handicap.

“We began our cooperation with ADI in 2002, when we realized that we needed to give special consideration to taking the testimony of the dozens of hearing-impaired survivors living in Israel,” explains Esther Friedman, Head of the Testimonies Section. “These people suffered a ‘double persecution’ – as Jews and as ‘invalids’ because of their hearing impairments. Their stories

of survival, while being unable to hear what was happening around them, are truly captivating.”

The interviewers – trained staff from the Testimonies Section aided by sign-language interpreters proficient in the survivor’s native tongue – have conducted more than 50 individual interviews so far, some of them with survivors from the FSU. In addition, a group testimony session was conducted for seven survivors who lived at the “Mexico Street” boarding school for the deaf in Budapest before and during WWII.

“These testimonies are used to educate the younger hearing-impaired, as well as the general public in understanding the world of the deaf during the Holocaust,” concludes Friedman. “Yad Vashem’s Guiding Department has also begun to train hearing-impaired guides at the Holocaust History Museum – for both the hard-of-hearing and hearing populations.”

*For more information on giving testimony: +972-2-6443752; testimonies@yadvashem.org.il*

## New: “ready2print” Exhibitions Vivian Uria

■ In recent months, the Traveling Exhibitions Department in the Museums Division has prepared a new and unique format for its exhibitions that allows a glimpse into the Yad Vashem collections: “ready2print” exhibitions. This format greatly reduces the cost of the production and display of Yad Vashem exhibitions at venues in Israel and abroad, including synagogues and churches, schools, universities, libraries, municipal buildings and community centers.

The exhibitions are distributed as high resolution graphic-digital files, accompanied by instructions for printing and display. An educational kit and guiding materials will follow. The logo of the body displaying the exhibitions may be added to the opening panel. The exhibitions serve to promote meaningful dialogue about the Shoah, universal human values and the relevance of Holocaust commemoration today.

Four “ready2print” exhibitions are currently available for purchase in a number of languages:

■ **“Shoah: How Was It Humanly Possible?”** – presenting the main events and giving voice

to the witnesses of the Holocaust and the fate of European Jewry from 1939-1945. The exhibition raises ethical questions and encourages discussion among the viewers, long after they have left the exhibition site.

■ **“Auschwitz: A Place on Earth”** – based on *The Auschwitz Album*, the only visual testimony documenting the systematic murder of the Jews at Auschwitz-Birkenau. Survivor testimonies are included.

■ **“BESA: A Code of Honor”** – relating the remarkable rescue of Jews in Albania by Muslim Righteous Among the Nations, presented through moving black-and-white portrait photographs and family stories.

■ **“The Anguish of Liberation Through Art”** – eleven artworks from the extensive Yad Vashem Art Collection depict the different ways that Jewish artists dealt with the long-awaited but heart-wrenching liberation at the end of WWII.

*For more information on “ready2print” exhibitions, Tal Ronen or Rinat Pavis: +972-2-6443250; traveling.exhibitions@yadvashem.org.il*

*The author is Director of the Museums Division.*



## Belgian Righteous Recognized

■ On 19 April 2016, Israel’s Ambassador to Belgium H.E. Ms. Simona Frankel presented medals and certificates to the next of kin of 14 Belgian citizens recently recognized by

Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations. The ceremony was attended by the Speaker of the Parliament of Brussels as well as family members of the Righteous and the rescued.



During February–May 2016, Yad Vashem conducted over 300 guided tours for some 2,800 official visitors from Israel and abroad. These guests included heads of state and local government, ambassadors, NGO officials and entertainment personalities. Following are some of our honored guests over these four months:

■ **Romanian President H.E. Mr. Klaus Werner Iohannis** and his wife Carmen visited Yad Vashem on 8 March. At the conclusion of his tour, during which he was guided by Director of the Hall of Names Dr. Alexander Avram, the President said: “The Holocaust was a unique event, one that can never be forgotten. My visit convinced me that education is the base mechanism for avoiding disasters like this in the future... Romania has taken upon itself to guard the memory of the Shoah, to fight against antisemitism and hatred, and to safeguard the legacy of Jewish culture in Romania.”



■ **The Premier of New South Wales, Australia, Mike Baird MP** visited Yad Vashem on 5 April as part of a delegation of leading NSW businesspeople to Israel arranged by the Australian Israel Chamber of Commerce (AICC). Accompanying Mr. Baird was his wife Kerry and H.E. Mr. Devanand “Dave” Sharma, Ambassador of Australia to Israel. At the conclusion of the visit, Premier Baird wrote: “The whole of humanity must learn through your unimaginable pain. We know light overcomes the darkness, but we must always remember that for evil to triumph, good men and women must do nothing. Never again can we do nothing.”



■ On 30 March, **President of Greece H.E. Mr. Prokopis Pavlopoulos** toured the Holocaust History Museum and participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance. At the end of his visit, the President wrote in the Yad Vashem Guest Book: “Through this place, alongside man’s capacity for evil, we are also reminded of man’s capacity for good – of the Righteous Among the Nations who refused to be bystanders. Through this place, we remain vigilant in preventing such horror from ever happening again.”



■ On 14 March, **Foreign Minister of Ghana H.E. Ms. Hanna Serwaa Tetteh** toured the Holocaust History Museum and participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Names. In the Guest Book, she wrote that Yad Vashem “causes us to reflect on human nature, the choices people make, and how these choices have the potential to impact the world for decades and even centuries to come... Thank you for a heartbreaking but enlightening experience.”



■ **President of the Republic of Kenya H.E. Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta** visited Yad Vashem on 23 February. The President was visibly moved by his visit, and expressed his wish to return in the future. “May we learn from this experience the cost of lack of tolerance amongst people and nations,” said the President at the conclusion of his visit. “We are, after all, children of one God.”



■ **Foreign Minister of the Ivory Coast H.E. Dr. Abdallah Albert Toikeusse Mabri** visited Yad Vashem on 17 May 2016, together with his wife. “My delegation and I felt a range of emotions during this visit,” the Foreign Minister wrote in the Guest Book. “How cruel can man be? May the facts presented here serve as a lesson for a more humane and just world.”



■ **Actor Alan Cumming** toured Yad Vashem on 30 May. Mr. Cumming expressed his thanks to Yad Vashem – which he called “an amazing resource for the world” – for enlightening him on the important work it undertakes on a daily basis, and stated his belief that another epic Holocaust-related film like *Schindler’s List* needs to be produced in order to keep Holocaust remembrance relevant to the next generations.



■ **French Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Manuel Valls** visited Yad Vashem on 23 May. Guided by Irena Steinfeldt, Director of Yad Vashem's Righteous Among the Nations Department, the Prime Minister was accompanied by a delegation that included members of the French parliament, Ambassador of France to Israel H.E. Mr Patrick Masonnave, CRIF Chairman Roger Cukierman, Chairman of the French-Israeli Chamber of Commerce Henri Cukierman, Chairman of the French Friends of Yad Vashem Pierre-François Veil, Director of Yad Vashem's French-Speaking Countries and Benelux Desk Miry Gross, family members of victims of the 2012 Toulouse terror attack, and renowned Nazi hunters Serge and Beate Klarsfeld.

At the conclusion of his visit, Prime Minister Valls said: "To visit Yad Vashem is... to reflect, but also to mark the defeat of this barbarism and its infamous plan. It is to shed tears, but also to overcome."



■ On 10 April, **international recording artist Craig David** (left) visited Yad Vashem with his manager Colin Lester Balsam, Chairman and CEO of JEM Music Group (right). "Thank you for allowing me to glimpse into the lives of so many Jewish women, men and children who went through the atrocities of the Holocaust," wrote David at the end of his visit. "I pray that this will never happen again and that this museum allows future generations to understand what the Jewish people went through."



■ **Prime Minister of Singapore H.E. Mr. Lee Hsien Loong** visited Yad Vashem on 19 April, accompanied by his wife Ho Ching. In the Guest Book, the Prime Minister wrote: "Yad Vashem moved me deeply. We say 'Never Again,' but we have yet to realize that pledge in full measure. Mankind continues to inflict and suffer terrible and tragic violence. May the message of Yad Vashem inspire us to build a more peaceful world for future generations, for all races and religions."



■ On 15 February, **US Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Samantha Power** visited Yad Vashem and was guided through the Holocaust History Museum by Dr. David Silberklang, Senior Historian in Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research. "You cannot visit this place too often; you cannot spend enough time looking at the exhibits, seeing those faces, remembering what was lost, thinking about what would be today if not for the horrors of what was carried out," said the Ambassador at the end of her visit. "Thank you for honoring the memory of those lost, and for inspiring those with a responsibility to do far better."



■ **Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal H.E. Mr. Kamal Thapa** visited Yad Vashem on 25 May together with his wife Pralita Thapa, Israel's Ambassador to Nepal H.E. Mr. Yaron Meir and Nepal's Ambassador to Israel H.E. Mr. Prahlad Kumar Prasai. "The Holocaust was the most brutal and terrifying attack against humanity," wrote Minister Thapa in the Guest Book. "It was the darkest period in human history. I pray for the immortal souls of the victims of Holocaust."



■ **The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland H.E. Mr. Timo Soini** visited Yad Vashem on 1 June 2016. The Minister toured the Holocaust History Museum, participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance and visited the Children's Memorial. At the end of his visit, Minister Soini wrote in the Yad Vashem Guest Book: "Never again! Never can this happen anymore, nowhere, to no one."



# Friends Worldwide

## Yad Vashem Leadership Mission 2016

■ **The Yad Vashem Leadership Mission is taking place on 6–12 July 2016.** During the Mission, participants will learn about the destruction of Jewish life in Europe during the Holocaust, visiting places not generally accessible to the public. Professional staff of Yad Vashem will accompany the Mission throughout, providing invaluable expertise and knowledge, and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council **Rabbi Israel Meir Lau**, a Holocaust survivor from Poland, will join the Mission for a moving Shabbat in Krakow. Throughout their stay in Poland, participants will catch a glimpse into the glorious Jewish world in prewar Europe that was shattered by the Shoah, and at the same time, the enduring Jewish spirit that remained strong throughout, even under the harshest conditions.

Mission participants will also discover the groundbreaking initiatives of Yad Vashem beyond



the Mount of Remembrance campus in Jerusalem, including the “Shoah” exhibit in Block 27 of Auschwitz, a joint project of Yad Vashem and the State of Israel.

Upon arriving in Israel, participants will be hosted by the President of Israel **H.E. Mr. Reuven Rivlin** at his official residence in Jerusalem. At the Opening Event, American-born Israeli singer **Rami Kleinstein** will perform, and Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** will welcome the Mission to the Mount of Remembrance as they begin

their journey behind-the-scenes of Yad Vashem’s vast collections and cutting-edge programs, the basis of its work in Israel and across the globe.

In addition to an insider’s view of Yad Vashem, Mission participants will have opportunities to explore Israel, including an inspirational visit and evening at an IDF army base.

As the Mission comes to an end, participants will be joined by Minister of Education **Naftali Bennett** and Israeli performers for an unforgettable Closing Event.

Yad Vashem looks forward to welcoming friends from around the world who are joining together for this exceptional Leadership Mission, spanning generations and continents, and forging ahead into the future with a renewed commitment to Holocaust remembrance and education for generations to come.

## USA

■ On 30 May, **Suzanne and Lenny Goldschein** (left) visited Yad Vashem with their family and friends for an unveiling ceremony of their plaque in the Memorial Cave in memory of the 128 victims of the Holocaust who died in the Gauting Sanatorium following the war. They were presented with the Key to Yad Vashem by Managing Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (right).



■ Yad Vashem Pillars **Gladys Halpern** (second from left), **David** (right) and **Sharon Halpern** (left), **Jack Halpern** (center) and his daughter visited the Children’s Terrace, adjacent to the Children’s Memorial, which they donated in honor of **Sam z”l** and Gladys Halpern.



■ On 15 April, Yad Vashem Builder **Benjamin Warren** (sixth from right) and friends visited Yad Vashem’s exhibition “Children in the Holocaust: Stars Without a Heaven,” which he generously supported. The group also heard testimony from **Claudine Schwartz-Rudel**, a child survivor from France who donated her doll “Colette” to the exhibit.



■ The **American Society for Yad Vashem’s Young Leadership Associates (YLA) 2016 Winter Gala** was held on 25 February at the Metropolitan Pavilion in New York City. More than 400 young professionals, including YLA Board members (pictured), came together to support the American Society’s annual Barbara Gutfreund Arfa Professional Development Conference on Holocaust Education.



■ **Orin Wilf** visited Yad Vashem with **Kimberly Cooper** and their sons, **Alex, Harley** and **Cameron**, on 22 March.



■ **Elissa and Edward Czuker** (right), children of Yad Vashem Benefactors **Jan z”l** and **Susanne Czuker**, hosted a cocktail reception in their beautiful Los Angeles home in anticipation of the American Society’s Salute to Hollywood Gala. Elissa and Edward, this year’s Gala chairs, invited guests to meet Gala honorees, including **Meyer Gottlieb** (left), and get an insider’s glimpse into *The Hollywood Reporter’s* groundbreaking article, “Hollywood’s Last Survivors,” and how it served as the inspiration for this year’s Gala, which was held on 6 June.



■ In March, American Society Director of Finance **Zoya Pisarenko** and **Yefim Krasnyanskiy**, Editor of the American Society newspaper *Martyrdom and Resistance*, visited Yad Vashem and met with many members of staff around the campus.



■ On 8 April, the YLA hosted a dinner at Congregation Kehilath Jeshuran in New York City. Event Chairs **Molly** and **Adam Bachner** (right) joined 80 young professionals for a traditional Shabbat dinner before hearing from screenwriter **Benjamin August** (left). August's debut film, *Remember*, follows two elderly survivors as they track down a specific Nazi they remember from Auschwitz. The film, starring **Martin Landau** and **Christopher Plummer**, opened in New York City in March 2016.



■ The American Society Spring Luncheon was held on 18 May at the Jewish Museum in New York City. This year's sold-out event hosted the largest gathering of members of the third generation at the annual Luncheon. The event was chaired by last year's honoree **Danielle Karten**. This year's honoree **Jaci Paradis** (center) was presented with the American Society for Yad Vashem Leadership Award. The Luncheon's featured speaker was **Dr. Laura Barbanel**, who spoke about the importance of age-appropriate Holocaust education.



■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of Yad Vashem Guardian **Norman Belfer z"l**, an esteemed founder and member of the Board of the American Society for Yad Vashem.



Born in Wodzislaw, Poland in 1922, Norman survived the first part of the war in hiding with his family. After they were captured, he was separated from his family and ultimately sent to work in Mauthausen with his brother. He was liberated in 1945.

After the war, Norman lived in Italy and then immigrated to the United States in 1950. In New York, Norman rebuilt a life destroyed by the Holocaust. He became a talented real estate developer, generous philanthropist, and a man of great strength and character. His commitment to Holocaust education and remembrance served as an inspiration to all who knew him. Yad Vashem extends its heartfelt sympathies to his beloved wife **Elinor**, four children, and seven grandchildren.

■ **Joe Woolf** chose to visit Yad Vashem with his family and friends to mark the bat mitzvah of his daughter **Ryanna** (pictured). During their visit, the family toured the Holocaust History Museum, the exhibition "Children in the Holocaust: Stars Without a Heaven," the Children's Memorial and Yad Vashem's Synagogue, where Ryanna participated in a bat mitzvah Twinning ceremony, in which she remembered a child victim of the Holocaust.



■ **Eli Rosenbaum**, Esq. of the US Department of Justice was the keynote speaker at the Barbara Gutfreund Arfa Professional Development Conference on Holocaust Education, sponsored by the American Society. The theme was "Seeking Justice," part of the 2016 "Ethics and Responsibility" theme.



■ **Harry Krakowski** (fourth from left), son of American Society founders **Israel** and **Elli Krakowski z"l**, visited Yad Vashem with his daughters, friends and cousin, Holocaust survivor **Joe Guttman** (left). The group toured the Holocaust History Museum, the exhibition "Children in the Holocaust: Stars Without a Heaven," and the Valley of the Communities, a project supported by the Krakowski family.



■ **David** (right) and **Jamie Mitchell** (center) visited Yad Vashem with their extended families to celebrate the bar mitzvah of their son, **Gavin**. During their visit, the Mitchell family toured the Holocaust History Museum and visited the Children's Memorial.



# Friends Worldwide

■ American Society Director of Education **Dr. Marlene W. Yahalom** (left) and **Mary Jean Eisenhower** (right) were the keynote speakers at the “Shoah: How Was It Humanly Possible?” premiere events in Miami Beach, Florida, sponsored by the American Society.



## CANADA

■ On 10 May, the **Canadian Society for Yad Vashem** welcomed its new National Executive Director, **Ester Driham**. Driham has over 15 years of experience as a professional fundraiser and a proven track record in transformative philanthropy and management. She is replacing **Yaron Ashkenazi**, a dedicated member of the Yad Vashem staff for two decades.



■ The Queen’s Park Tribute to Holocaust Survivors, organized by the Canadian Society and led by its National Chair **Fran Sonshine**, took place on 14 April in Toronto in collaboration with the Ontario Premier’s office. Premier **Kathleen Wynne**, along with MPPs **The Hon. Eric Hoskins**, **The Hon. Mitzi Hunter**, **Monte Kwinter** and **Mike Colle**, honored 12 Holocaust survivors for their contributions to the province: **Zuzana Sermer**, **Helene Goldflus**, **Dr. Felicia Carmelly**, **Freda Peck**, **Elsa Thon**, **Rachel and Adam Shtibel**, **Michael Mason**, **Reny** and **Henry Friedman**, **Mannie Weinberg** and **Ruth Katz** (not pictured).



■ At the Canadian Society’s “A Taste to Remember” Dinner on 9 May at the Windsor Arms in Toronto, co-chairs **Ed and Fran Sonshine** (left) welcomed the keynote speaker, Holocaust survivor **Nurit Stern** (right). During the Holocaust, Stern kept a diary, which she later donated to Yad Vashem, containing fantasy recipes she and her friends at the Ravensbrück concentration camp jotted down to distract themselves from the constant hunger.



## GERMANY

■ Treasurer of the **Society of Friends of Yad Vashem in Germany** **Steffen Kampeter** visited Yad Vashem with his family on 27 March.



## SWITZERLAND

■ On 2 May, Yad Vashem Builder **Samuel Wennek** (second from right) and his family toured the Holocaust History Museum, participated in a ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance, unveiled their plaque on the Terrace of the Future overlooking the International Seminars Wing of the International School for Holocaust Studies and attended a memorial ceremony in the School. They were accompanied by International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** and Director of the Division’s English Language Desk **Searle Brajzman**.



■ On 15 April 2016, a few days before Passover, Yad Vashem Benefactors **David and Sara Marysia Feuerstein** gathered at Yad Vashem’s Synagogue to celebrate the bar mitzvah of their great-grandson **Baruch Shmuel Yosef Abadi**, son of **Isaac** and **Jessica Yaël**. International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** and Director of the French-Speaking Countries and Benelux Desk **Miry Gross** joined proud grandparents **Elena** and **David Gaon** and members of the Gaon, Feuerstein, Horn, Abadi and Bitton families for a moving Twinning ceremony in memory of David Feuerstein’s brothers, **Avraham-Aba** and **Liebele z”l**, who were murdered in Auschwitz before they reached the age of bar mitzvah.



## FRANCE

■ Director of the French-Speaking Countries and Benelux Desk **Miry Gross** attended a moving tribute event entitled “An Odyssey of Hope,” which took place at the Champs Elysées Théâtre, Paris on 10 May in honor of **Samuel Pisar z”l**, at the initiative of his wife **Judith Pisar** and his children. At the event, the creation of the Samuel Pisar Foundation for Holocaust Education was announced. Together with other survivors, Samuel Pisar founded the **French Friends of Yad Vashem** and contributed greatly to Holocaust remembrance. His autobiographical book, *Of Blood and Hope*, was translated into 26 languages, depicting the miraculous story of his survival during the Holocaust.



## UK

■ On 30 May, **The Hon. Laura Wolfson Townsley**, Chairman of the Wolfson Family Charitable Trust, along with her husband **Barry Townsley** and Trustee **Sir Ian Gainsford**, were hosted at Yad Vashem by Chairman of the Directorate **Avner Shalev**. The group also visited the Archives Division, Museum of Holocaust Art and the site of the future Shoah Heritage Building.



■ On 28 March, Yad Vashem Benefactors **Stanley** and **Bea Tollman** (right) and members of their family celebrated their grandson **Jake**'s bar mitzvah with a memorable service and Twinning ceremony in Yad Vashem's Synagogue. The service was followed by a tour of the Museum of Holocaust Art and an unveiling of their Museum Benefactor plaque and their plaque in the International School for Holocaust Studies in memory of the Jews of Ritova, Lithuania.



■ On 2 February, British businessman and philanthropist **Simon Reuben** (right) toured the Holocaust History Museum, together with his nephew **David Reuben** (not pictured).



■ On 14 March, Chairman of **Yad Vashem-UK Foundation Simon Bentley** (third from right) toured Yad Vashem's Holocaust History Museum, together with a group of close friends.



## AUSTRALIA

■ On 8 May, Yad Vashem Builders **Harry Hoffman** OAM, an Auschwitz survivor (fourth from right), and his wife **Sylvia** (fifth from right) visited the Museum of Holocaust Art, together with their daughter **Sue Hoffman** (third from right) and grandson **Josh Saddick** (center). The family also unveiled a plaque in the International School for Holocaust Studies, and participated in a moving ceremony with soldiers attending IDF Day Seminars sponsored by the Hoffman family.



■ During his visit to Yad Vashem on 24 April, Yad Vashem Builder **Bernard Herbert** (center) and family visited the Holocaust History Museum and the plaque marking their endowment of the Renewal Panorama.



■ On 26 April, the principal of Sydney's Emmanuel Jewish Day School **Natanya Milner** (right) visited Yad Vashem's Holocaust History Museum with members of her family.



■ The Women Leaders Trade Mission, brought to Israel by the AICC, was led by the Australian Prime Minister's wife, **Lucy Turnbull AO** (left), and **Jillian Segal AM** (center). On 13 May, the group of 37 women leaders toured Yad Vashem's Holocaust History Museum and laid a wreath at a ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance.



■ On 3 May, Yad Vashem supporter **Abe Zelwer** (left) toured the Holocaust History Museum and the Children's Memorial with his friend **Chris Mingos** (center).



## NEW ZEALAND

■ The New Zealand Innovation Mission, comprising 50 delegates who represent the cross-section of New Zealand's innovation eco-system, visited Yad Vashem's Holocaust History Museum on 29 May.



# Friends Worldwide

## AUSTRIA

■ The General Assembly of the **Friends of Yad Vashem in Austria** was held on 14 March at the Grand Hall of the Academy of Sciences of Vienna, with 280 guests in attendance. Keynote speakers were Austrian Friends Chairman **Günther Schuster**, Ambassador of Israel to Austria **H.E. Ms. Talya Lador-Fresher**, Director of the German-Speaking Countries Desk and German Swiss Desk, International Relations Division **Arik Rav-On** and academic scholars. The event included a reading of the late **Danek Gertner's** memoirs, as well as a musical performance.



■ The recognition ceremony of Righteous Among the Nations **Erwin and Lonny Ratz** was held at Vienna's City Hall on 28 February in the presence of Vienna's Mayor **Dr. Michael Häupl**, Israeli Ambassador to Austria **H.E. Ms. Talia Lador-Fresher** (second from right), members of the Marothy family, grandson of the survivor **Arnon Amir** (left), and distinguished guests. Councilor **Sonja Wehsely** (right) emphasized in her speech the importance of standing up against discrimination, antisemitism and racism. Ambassador Lador-Fresher presented the medal and certificate to the granddaughter of Erwin and Lonny Ratz, **Katharina Marothy** (second from left).



■ Secretary General of the Future Fund of the Republic of Austria **Prof. Herwig Hösele** (right) visited Yad Vashem on 13 May, together with the Future Fund's Former Chairwoman **Waltraud Klasnic** (center). International Relations Division Managing Director **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (left) greeted them and acknowledged the Future Fund's invaluable contribution to some of Yad Vashem's vital projects.



## FSU

■ On 17 February, Director of the Blavatnik Archive Foundation **Julie Chervinsky** (left) visited Yad Vashem with Archive and Exhibit Coordinator **Olga Golovanova** (center). The Foundation supports the Yad Vashem online research project, "Jews in the Red Army, 1941-1945." The group met with Special Advisor to Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate **Adv. Arie Zuckerman** (right).



■ Chairman of the Holocaust Memorial Board of the Russian Jewish Congress **Yuri Dombrovsky** (right) and member of the Congress's Public Council Presidium **Gennadiy Fridman** (third from left) visited Yad Vashem on 10 January together with friends and members of their families. During their visit, they visited the Holocaust History Museum and were shown rare original documents in the Archives Division.



## ARGENTINA

■ On 10 May, **Beatriz Wolff** and her daughter **Andrea** unveiled a plaque in their family's honor at the Builders Wall.



## PANAMA

■ During their visit to Yad Vashem on 11 May, the March of the Living 2016 group were joined by Director of the Latin America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk **Perla Hazan** and **Moshe Hazan** (center).



## MEXICO

■ On 23 March, **Avivah** and **Jorge Goldberg** (seventh and third from left) were joined by their family on the occasion of the bar mitzvah of their son **Gabriel** (fourth from left), and at the unveiling of the plaque in honor of Avivah's and Jorge's mothers, **Bela Braverman Fainsilber z'l** and **Pola Goldberg Gitlin z'l**.



■ On 5 April, **Jaime Braverman** (second from left), together with his son **Samuel** (left), daughter **Ilana** (second from right) and son-in-law **Jacobo** (right) attended the unveiling of the plaque in their honor at the Builders Wall.



## ISRAEL

■ Dedicated supporter and friend **Yossi Hollander** visited Yad Vashem in March. During his stay, he gave a fascinating lecture on contemporary antisemitism and heard about the achievements and challenges of the various commemorative projects he so generously supports.



■ The Azrieli Foundation's Canadian and Israeli management, as well as the staff of the Azrieli Holocaust Memoirs Program, headed by **Dr. Naomi Azrieli**, Chair and CEO of Azrieli Foundation-Canada, visited Yad Vashem following their trip to Poland. The Azrieli Foundation has been a generous supporter of the research and educational programs at Yad Vashem for years. During the visit, the guests toured the Holocaust History Museum, met with Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** to discuss the challenges of commemorating the Holocaust in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and were introduced to the collection, restoration and digitization efforts of the Yad Vashem Archives, presented by Archives Division Director and Fred Hillman Chair for Holocaust Documentation **Dr. Haim Gertner** (left).



## CHRISTIAN DESK in partnership with ICEJ

■ On 6 March, Yazidi and Kurdish leaders from the Kurdistan region in Iraq visited Yad Vashem for a guided tour as well as for a special meeting with the Libraries Director **Dr. Robert Rozett**. The tour left an unforgettable impression on these community leaders, who were visiting Jerusalem for a conference on religious persecution hosted by the Springs of Hope Foundation. Among the guests hosted by Director of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen** (left) were Director of the Springs of Hope Foundation **Lisa Miara** (third from left) and **Sherazad Mamsani**, the Jewish representative to the Kurdistan Regional Government (second from left).



## Your Support Helps Make a Difference

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

### ■ To make tax-deductible donations:

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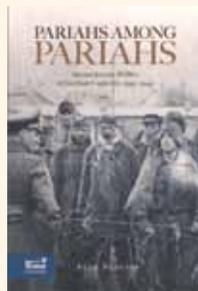
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# The International Institute for Holocaust Research: Publications

## *Pariahs among Pariahs: Soviet-Jewish POWs in German Captivity, 1941-1945*

Aron Shneyer

NIS 174 / NIS 130



More than six million soldiers became POWs in camps operated by Nazi Germany. Western allies were mostly treated in accordance with international treaties, while members of the Polish and Red Armies were exposed to cruelty, slave labor and murder. Amongst them, the Jewish prisoners suffered the most. This book details the complexity of one of the most brutal chapters of the Holocaust period.

## *The Holocaust in the Crimea and the North Caucasus*

Kiril Feferman

NIS 174 / NIS 130

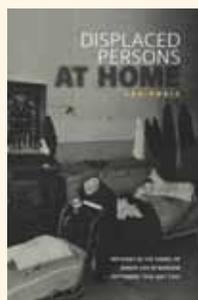


This study presents a comprehensive account of the Jews in the Crimea and the North Caucasus in the Holocaust years. It covers the life and destruction of the Jewish population, and describes the relations between Jews and non-Jews before and during the war; the evacuation of the Jews; the German occupation and the destruction of the Jewish population; the fate of non-Ashkenazi Jews; Jewish responses; and reactions of local populations.

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

Lea Prais

NIS 174 / NIS 130



With the occupation of Poland, the Germans began to deport Jews from small towns and villages to larger Jewish communities and ghettos. A large portion of the deportees was concentrated in Warsaw and pressed into the confines of the ghetto. Many succumbed to death from hunger, disease and infection. This book deals with the implications of the deportations on the life of the Jews in the Warsaw ghetto.

## *After So Much Pain and Anguish: First Letters after Liberation*

Editors: Robert Rozett, Iael Nidam-Orvieto

NIS 148 / NIS 108



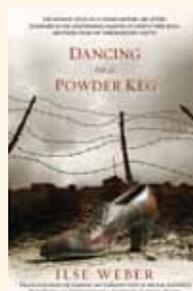
Written in the immediate aftermath of liberation by Holocaust survivors and soldiers, these letters reflect the mixed emotions of the survivors – the sigh of relief intertwined with the anguish of irreparable loss. This compilation of letters comprises a powerful, firsthand testimony, forming an important document of the most horrific period of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## *Dancing on a Powder Keg: Letters from 1933-1944, Poems from Theresienstadt*

Ilse Weber

In association with Bunim and Bannigan

NIS 128 / NIS 96

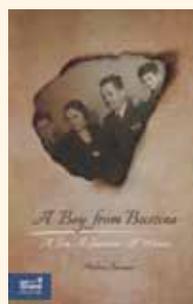


Ilse Weber's letters document the life of a young Jewish intellectual and known writer as she and her family were gradually trapped in Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia. Her poems, written and performed in the Theresienstadt ghetto, became an international symbol of the camp and ghetto poetry. Ilse and her son Tommy were murdered in Auschwitz.

## *A Boy from Buština: A Son. A Survivor. A Witness.*

Andrew Burian

NIS 74 / NIS 56



A sheltered boy from the small town of Buština, Andrew Burian enjoyed an idyllic childhood. His wartime odyssey began with deportation to the Mateszalka ghetto in Hungary. From there, he and his family were deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau. In the freezing winter of 1945, he survived the infamous "death march" evacuation of the death camp and was then loaded into a cattle car for the long journey to Mauthausen. Andrew survived another death march to the Guns kirchen concentration camp, from which he was ultimately liberated by the US army.

■  
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