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ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE DINNER OF THE AMERICAN & INTERNATIONAL SOCIETIES FOR YAD VASHEM

YAD VASHEM: THE GLOBAL GUARDIAN OF HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

ELI ZBOROWSKI

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

One of Eli Zborowski's most cherished childhood memories is sitting with his father, Moshe, in the comfort of their Zarki home on Shabbat afternoon reading and exploring the pearls of wisdom found in *Pirkei Avot*, *The Ethics of the Fathers*. That warm and nurturing weekly interlude came to an abrupt halt in 1942 when the deportations to the death camps began. Soon after, Moshe Zborowski was murdered by the Poles. This thrust Eli, the oldest son, into his first of many lifelong leadership roles. During the war he was a member of the Jewish Fighters Organization, serving as a liaison between ghettos and non-Jewish partisan units. The family, his mother, sister, younger brother and himself survived the war in hiding with the help of righteous Poles.



Following the war, Eli met and married the former Diana Wilf, a survivor from Drohobycz, Poland. For 57 years, until she passed from this life in the waning days of 2004, Diana stood by his side and was an equal partner in all his communal endeavors. The Diana Zborowski Shoah Aftermath Research Center at Yad Vashem has been established in her memory.

An initiator, a leader and a visionary, Eli can be credited with numerous "firsts" in the field of Holocaust remembrance. In 1963, he organized the first United States *Yom Hashoah* commemoration, an event that carried the endorsement of all Jewish organizations and all streams of Judaism. In 1970, he founded the first umbrella organization for all survivors, The American Federation of Jewish Fighters, Camp Inmates and Nazi Victims. In 1974, he founded *Martyrdom & Resistance*, the oldest, continuous periodical devoted to the Holocaust. That same year, The Diana and Eli Interdisciplinary Chair for Holocaust Studies and Research at Yeshiva University was established by the Zborowskis. It was the first such academic endeavor. Under Eli's dynamic leadership, the Society was the first among Holocaust organizations to develop a Young Leadership Associates, encouraging members of the third generation to become involved in the Cause of Remembrance.

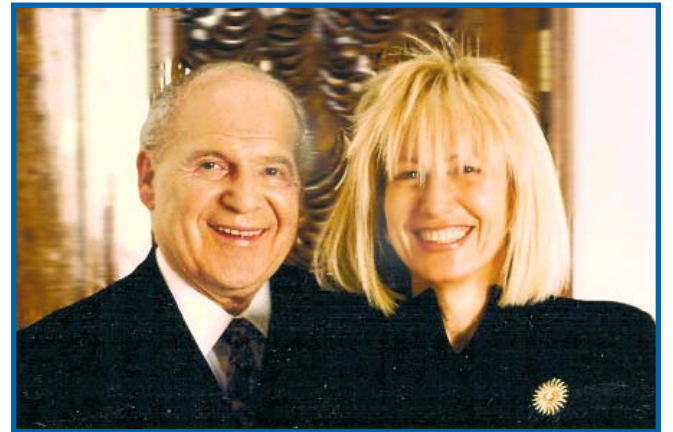
Eli Zborowski founded the American and International Societies for Yad Vashem in 1981 and has served as chairman since its inauguration. In addition, he serves as a member of the Executive Committee of Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in Jerusalem. *The Beit Hakehillot*, an education and research center housed at Yad Vashem was sponsored through the gene-

(Continued on page 8)

DR. MIRIAM & SHELDON G. ADELSON

YAD VASHEM REMEMBRANCE AWARD

Dr. Miriam Adelson was born and raised in Israel with the shadow of the Holocaust ever-present in her life. Her parents, the Ochshorns, fled Poland just prior to the war. But significant portions of their families, who chose to stay, perished during the Shoah. As Miriam so poignantly reveals, "I am the daughter of a mother who, when she was a teen, lost almost her entire family. One day everyone disappeared. I grew up feeling my mother's pain." Miriam recalls that following the war, there was suddenly an influx of cousins in her life whom she had previously not known. Responding to the needs of young family members who lost their parents, the Ochshorns brought them from Europe and helped them to become established in Israel.



Dr. Adelson earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology and Genetics from Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Following her military service, Dr. Adelson continued her medical studies, graduating magna cum laude from the Tel Aviv University Sackler Medical School. Specializing in Internal Medicine and Emergency Medicine, Dr. Adelson became the Head Physician in each of these areas for the Rokach (Hadassah) Hospital in Tel Aviv.

Growing up in a poor immigrant family in Boston, Sheldon Adelson went to work at young age hawking newspapers on local street corners, and owned his first business by the time he was twelve. An entrepreneur and a visionary, Mr. Adelson has created and developed to maturity more than 50 different companies, including COMDEX, the world-leading computer exhibition.

In 1989, Mr. Adelson purchased the Sands Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, in order to bring Las Vegas to a new phase of business-centricity through the exhibition industry. After the sale of COMDEX to a Japanese company, in 1991 while honeymooning in Venice, Dr. Miriam Adelson gained the inspiration for the theme for a mega resort hotel. Upon their return, Mr. Adelson proceeded with the implosion of the venerable Sands and the construction of the Venetian Resort-Hotel-Casino. Since its opening, the property has received recognition as revolutionizing the Las Vegas hotel industry, changing the face of Las Vegas and becoming one of the largest hotels in the world. Mr. Adelson's company, Las Vegas Sands, is currently building

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*Wishing you
a happy
and blessed
New Year!
L'Shanah Tovah!*

SUPREME COURT RULES AGAINST U.S. SURVIVORS

The U.S. Supreme Court rejected an appeal from Holocaust survivors who claimed they had been cheated out of money from the Swiss banks settlement.

On Monday, the court rejected the claim that survivors in the United States should get more money from the \$1.25 billion set-

tlement agreed to in 1998.

The judge overseeing distribution of the money previously ruled that more should go to survivors in the former Soviet Union because they're needier. A federal appeals court previously agreed with the judge's decision.

PODCAST FROM YAD VASHEM

Yad Vashem has launched a new lectures series featuring the insights and perspectives of Yad Vashem's researchers and historians.

Available in audio broadcasts and podcast downloads from Yad Vashem's website, the program, featuring scholars from Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research as well as Holocaust historians and educators, explores key issues in the Holocaust.

The first lecture posted, "The Allies and the Holocaust," explores various issues surrounding the Allied response to the Holocaust. Placing the Allies in the context of the "bystanders" in the Shoah, the lecture examines their responses on the basis of their understanding of the war, their national interests, and the differing time frames of the Shoah and World War II.

"The Allies and the Holocaust" is pre-

sented by Dr. David Silberklang, Editor of Yad Vashem Studies, the scholarly annual journal of Yad Vashem, and Series Editor for the English-language memoir series published jointly by Yad Vashem and the Holocaust Survivors' Memoirs Project and is Israel's representative on the Academic Working Group of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, and a lecturer in Jewish History in the Rothberg International School and in the Institute of Contemporary Jewry at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The lecture is 35 minutes long. A suggested bibliography and links to related exhibits and material on the Yad Vashem website accompany the lecture. Lectures by other Yad Vashem historians exploring various aspects of Holocaust history, research and education will be posted in the future.

THE WARSAW GHETTO PLAZA RENOVATION

The Warsaw Ghetto Plaza – the site of the official Yom Hashoah ceremonies in Yad Vashem was renovated.

The renovation which was completed before Yom Hashoah last April, was made possible by the Mitzner family from Houston and Phyllis and William Mack from New York.



From left to right: David Mitzner, and son, Jacob, Chairman of Yad Vashem directorate Avner Shalev, Ira and Mindy Mitzner and Marilyn Mitzner (Jacob's wife).

David Mitzner, who was born in Warsaw and survived the Nazis as well as 8 years in a Russian prison in Siberia, and his late wife Ruth, and son Ira and daughter-in-law Mindy funded the renovation together with the Phyllis & William Mack family from New York.

The Mitzner family were in Yad Vashem recently for the inauguration ceremony of the renovated Warsaw Ghetto Plaza.

NAZIS PLANNED TO DEPORT JEWS TO THE SOVIET UNION

A document found in a Moscow archive suggests that the Soviet leadership may have rejected a Nazi German proposal to deport Jews from German-occupied territories to the Soviet Union in 1940.

A Russian historian working in Germany has published an article in the Sueddeutsche Zeitung newspaper describing a letter he said he obtained that raised the possibility of Germany resettling Jews in Ukraine and Siberia.

The historian, Pavel Polian, said the letter, dated Feb. 9, 1940, was written by Yevgeny Chekmenyov, a Soviet official in charge of resettlement, and addressed to then Soviet Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov.

The letter discusses a German proposal made to the Moscow government to move more than 2 million Jews from Poland, Austria and Czechoslovakia to the Soviet Union.

Polian believes it was written by Adolf Eichmann and Alois Brunner, who were in charge of Nazi Germany's Jewish emigra-

tion centers in Berlin and Vienna. Germany and the Soviet Union had a non-aggression pact at the time. But the Soviet leadership apparently rejected almost immediately the idea of accepting more than 2 million Jews from German-occupied countries, according to Polian. "We cannot take these Jews. We have an awful lot of our own already," Chekmenyov wrote in the letter to

Molotov. He closed his letter by saying: "I would appreciate your guidance." The possible deportation of Jews to the Soviet Union was one option mulled by the German government seeking to find a territorial solution to what the

Nazis referred to as the "Jewish question." During the late 1930s and early 1940s Nazi officials had also proposed other ways of evicting Jews from Europe, such as deporting them en masse to the island of Madagascar.

Nearly 6 million Jews were murdered in Europe as part of Adolf Hitler's "Final Solution." Most of them were murdered in six extermination camps.



ISRAELI DIPLOMATS, HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS PLANNING TO SUE IRANIAN PRESIDENT

A group of Israeli diplomats and Holocaust survivors hope to bring Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad before the International Court of Justice in the Hague on charges of inciting genocide.

Ahmadinejad has publicly called for Israel's destruction, saying it should be "wiped off the map." In an interview on Iranian television, he declared Israel's existence was "the main obstacle faced by the Islamic nation," and in April, he called Israel "a rotten and dried-up tree that will be destroyed by one storm."

The president of Iran, which is a United Nations member, repeatedly has said that Israel, another U.N. member state, should be annihilated, said Dr. Meir Rosenne, who was the Israeli ambassador to the U.S. when Ronald Reagan was president. Rosenne is among the diplomats who will attempt to have Ahmadinejad tried in the World Court.

"The statements by Ahmadinejad are clearly a crime," said Rosenne in a telephone interview. In the 1948 genocide convention, it is forbidden to incite people to eliminate another people, he said. According to the 1948 United Nations Convention on the prevention and punishment of genocide, adopted by the General Assembly in response to the Holocaust, punishable acts include genocide, as well as incitement and conspiracy to commit genocide. Rulers, public officials and private individuals are all liable under the convention.

Iran signed the convention in 1949 and ratified it in 1956. (Israel also has signed and ratified the convention.) But Rosenne said it is not just the fact that Ahmadinejad is making the statements but that the international community is not taking any action against Iran.

"What is shocking is that nobody reacts to it," said Rosenne. Although Ahmadinejad's

initial statements brought international condemnation, his successive tirades have drawn little attention.

Israel is being judged by a double standard when it comes to international principles and laws, said Rosenne. If a low-level Israeli official had said the kind of things Ahmadinejad is saying, the interna-

tional community would immediately put sanctions on Israel, he added.

Rosenne said there are four reasons for taking the Ahmadinejad case to the International Court of Justice: First, it will focus international attention on the problem so that no one will ever be able to use the excuse, as they did following World War II, that they didn't know what was happening.

It also is necessary to break what Rosenne called the "conspiracy of silence" regarding anti-Semitism in Europe. While not all Muslims are anti-Semitic, Europeans are reluctant to admit that Muslims carry out most anti-Semitic attacks, he said.

It is "no secret" that Ahmadinejad is supporting and financing Hizballah and other terror groups in an attempt to destabilize the Middle East, and the attack is not just against Israelis, it's against Jews, he argued.

Rosenne said he is not looking for intellectual satisfaction, but for action such as cutting diplomatic ties with Iran or submitting a resolution condemning such verbiage from Iran.

"It's unforgivable and unthinkable that the world community stands by and hears statements accompanied by concrete acts of terrorism [and does nothing]," he said.

Rosenne differentiated between the current international attention focused on the Iranian nuclear issue and the lack of attention on Iran's anti-Israel sentiments. The nuclear issue is not only an Israeli problem, he said.



An anti-Israel banner in Tehran during a demonstration in July

AUSCHWITZ WAS GERMAN, POLAND SAYS

Poland wants UNESCO to change the way it describes Auschwitz to emphasize that Nazis, not Poles, ran the death camp.

Poland's culture minister asked the U.N.'s cultural and educational arm to change the designation from "Auschwitz Concentration Camp" to "Former Nazi



German Concentration Camp Auschwitz-Birkenau." Poles want future generations to understand that the death camps were the work of Germans, not Poles, Culture Minister Jan Kasprzyk said.

"In the years after the war, the former Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp was definitively associated with the criminal activities of the national socialist Nazi regime in Germany," he said. "However, for the contemporary, younger generations, especially abroad, that association is not universal."

ANTI-SEMITISM UP SHARPLY AROUND THE WORLD

Anti-Semitic acts have increased sharply around the world since July 12, the first day of the war in Lebanon. Until today, 70 different instances of anti-Semitism were reported, 15 of them violent.

Amos Hermon, who heads the Taskforce against Anti-Semitism in the Jewish Agency, said that the increase in anti-Semitic occurrences is felt mostly in countries which house large Lebanese and other Arab and Muslim communities. "We see a peak in activity since the Qana incident and we certainly fear that there will be an increase in anti-Semitic activi-

ties in the coming weeks as pictures from southern Lebanon start pouring in as the refugees return to their homes," said Hermon.

According to Hermon, the Leftist anti-Israeli arena is very active, especially in the area of propaganda. "We see a renewed phenomenon we saw during the second Intifada and Operation Defensive Shield where there is a very quick shift from legitimate criticism against the actions of the IDF and the Israeli government to violent anti-Semitic actions," Hermon added.

YOUTH SEE HOLOCAUST AND JEWISH CULTURE AS KEYS TO IDENTITIES

Some of the more interesting findings of the newly released Reboot study of young U.S. Jews focus on how Generation Y Jews understand what it means to be Jewish.

Respondents — Jews aged 18 to 25 — were presented with 12 possible factors and asked how much each “matters” to being Jewish. Top on the list was “remembering the Holocaust,” which 73 percent of respondents said matters “a lot.”

Next were two universal values, “making the world a better place” and “leading an ethical and moral life,” which garnered 64 percent and 63 percent, respectively. Then came two more ethnocentric values, “understanding Jewish history” (58 percent) and “learning about Jewish culture” (57 percent), underscoring the importance Gen Y Jews place on Jewish history and culture as defining Jewish identity.

By contrast, expressing Jewish identity through traditional rituals came low on the list. “Keeping kosher” matters “a lot” to 33 percent, while “attending synagogue” comes last, rated highly by 30 percent.

Family is central to young Jews’ conception of self, with 69 percent saying their family is important to how they describe themselves.

Religion is another important identity marker, with 51 percent saying it is very or somewhat important to who they are as individuals. But it doesn’t rank much higher than job (49 percent) or political beliefs (48 percent), and it ranks below gender, named by 54 percent.

Study researchers explain this finding by saying that Gen Y Jews rarely, if ever experience anti-Semitism, and have never been excluded from society because they are Jewish. They therefore don’t need a sense of communal cohesion to survive, unlike their parents and grandparents. Their values are, overall, not very different from those of their non-Jewish peers.

One exception is that a higher percentage (39 percent) of young Jews consider their ethnic origins important, versus 27 percent of other urban whites and 22 percent of suburban whites. This illustrates

that Gen Y Jews do consider themselves “different,” and place importance on that.

When it comes to community involvement, young Jews are still disproportionately politically active — 29 percent of young Jews have “protested,” versus 12 percent of Catholics, 14 percent of mainline Protestants and 13 percent of African-Americans, and 21 percent have worked to get someone elected to public office, versus 11 percent, 11 percent and 19 percent for the other groups.

But young Jews are less likely than their peers to get involved with activities at their houses of worship (26 percent), versus 43 percent of mainline Protestants, 65 percent of evangelical Protestants, 28 percent of Catholics and 46 percent of African Americans.

The study is based on in-depth interviews with 35 scientifically selected young Jews and group interviews with another 37 in focus groups, representing a wide geographic and religious spectrum.

GERMANY RETURNS BOOKS BELONGING TO PRE-WAR JEWISH LEADER

Berlin’s leading library said it had repaired 17 books belonging to one of the nation’s great pre-World War II rabbis and returned them to his grand-daughter in New York.

Leo Baeck, who had been president of the German council of Jews in 1933, lost his private library in Berlin when he was arrested by the Nazis in 1943 and sent to Theresienstadt concentration camp. He survived the Holocaust but most of the books were never found.

The 17 that have come to light were located in the Berlin State Library and have been sent to Marianne C. Dreyfus after conservation work.

The Prussian Cultural Foundation, which owns the Berlin library, said it had not discovered how the library acquired the books. No compensation had ever been paid to Baeck for his loss.

Baeck (1873-1956) lived in London after the Second World War, founding the Leo Baeck Institute to study the history and culture of Jews in Germany.

BRUSSELS HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL VANDALIZED

The Brussels Jewish Memorial for Holocaust victims has been vandalized, in an attack described as “devastating” by the head of a Belgian Jewish association.

The gate of the Memorial’s crypt was pulled out, documents were destroyed, windows broken and an urn containing ashes from the Auschwitz-Birkenau Nazi death camp was desecrated and emptied. Condoms and excre-



View of the vandalized National Monument to the Jewish Martyrs of Belgium, located in the district of Anderlecht in Brussels.

ments were also found on the floor of the Memorial, which is located in Anderlecht, a Brussels district with an important Arab population.

Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt, who was on holiday, was said to be “shocked” by this attack, his cabinet announced.

The Brussels National Monument to the Jewish Martyrs of Belgium bears the names of 25,411 men, women and children deported from Belgium to Auschwitz-Birkenau during WWII.

LEGAL ACTION OVER HOLOCAUST PERSONAL BELONGING

A Holocaust survivor is taking the Holocaust Museum at Auschwitz to court over a suitcase that he claims belonged to his father who was murdered by the Nazis.

Michel Leleu Levi, who now lives in Paris, managed to hide from Hitler’s troops, together with his mum and siblings, but says his father, Pierre Levi, was not so lucky and perished in the concentration camp, where he had been deported in 1943.

During a visit of an exhibition in Paris at the Memorial of the Shoah in February 2005, Leleu Levi spotted his father’s suitcase. He said he recognized the piece of luggage from the last time he saw his father, shortly before he was deported to Auschwitz.

He now wants his dad’s suitcase, that is currently exhibited in the Polish museum back, as a last reminder of his father. But the museum has refused to hand the suitcase over, despite the name of Leleu Levi’s dad being printed on it, saying it is an important part of a historical collection. “We want to find an amicable solution with Mr Leleu Levi, but he has not established contact with us,” said Piotr Cywinski, secretary of the International Auschwitz Council, which manages the former death camp.

I understand his feelings and I share his sadness, but we must preserve the mem-

ory of the disappeared,” Cywinski said. Leleu-Levi has now taken the matter to court in Paris, France.

The Auschwitz museum says it has only a few suitcases identified as having belonged to camp inmates, and only three that were owned by people sent to the camp from France.

“Whatever the court verdict is, this legal case is in itself a defeat, and it will only produce losers,” Cywinski said.

A French court is to rule on the legal dispute in the autumn.

French legal authorities decided earlier this year that the Memorial of the



Suitcases from the Auschwitz

Shoah exhibition in Paris should act as custodian of the suitcase pending a court verdict.

According to Polish daily newspaper Zycie Warszawy, it is the first time a descendent of a Holocaust victim has taken legal action over personal objects housed in the museum.

Set up in 1947, the Holocaust Museum includes several hundred camp buildings and ruins, as well as the remains of the gas chambers and crematorium. The site, which also includes a Holocaust memorial, was made a UNESCO world heritage site in 1979.

At least 1.1 million people, mostly Jews, were killed by the Nazis at Auschwitz and its Birkenau annex during WWII.

First published by EJP

U.S. COURT ALLOWS HOLOCAUST LEGAL ACTION

A U.S. appeals court overturned a ruling that had stopped Holocaust survivors from seeking more money from a fund set up by German companies to compensate victims of forced and slave labor in World War Two.

Law firm of Cohen, Milstein, Hausfeld & Toll said a lower court had deemed the dispute a political or diplomatic matter out of reach of U.S. courts, but the Third U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals now ruled that U.S. legal action could go ahead.

According to the appeals court judgment, Holocaust victims and their families had been prevented from seeking compensation for decades after World War Two by various international agreements and treaties.

But following the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, a new treaty was signed by Germany, the United States, Britain, France and the former Soviet Union, which was interpreted by German courts

as ending the bar on legal action.

In response to the early claims, 17 major German corporations — including Allianz, Deutsche Bank, DaimlerChrysler and Volkswagen — established the German Foundation Industrial Initiative to prepare for more claims.

Cohen, Milstein, Hausfeld & Toll said Holocaust survivors believe they have been short-changed by the fund and are seeking more money.

“The interest monies collected from the German companies could range to \$700 million or more, and will be used to compensate survivors of medical experimentation, forced and slave labor and other Nazi wrongdoing,” the firm said.

The lawsuit named Allianz, Deutsche Bank, DaimlerChrysler, Volkswagen, BASF, BMW, Commerzbank, Degussa-Huells, Deutz, Dresdner Bank, Fried. Krupp Ag Hoesch Krupp, Hoechst, Rag, Robert Bosch GMBH, Siemens and Veba.

ADL SAYS ANTI-SEMITISM INCREASED IN MIDWEST

Though the number of anti-Semitic incidents declined across America last year, the Anti-Defamation League said it is troubled that the number of incidents in the upper Midwest is on the rise so far this year.

The ADL documented 45 anti-Semitic incidents last year across a six-state region that includes Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota, said Lonnie Nasatir, regional director for the ADL’s Greater Chicago/Upper Midwest office. That number was down about 12 percent from 2004.

But the ADL has recorded 26 incidents during the first three months of this year, with about 85 percent occurring in the Chicago area, said Adam Schupack, the Midwest office’s associate director.

One incident involved swastikas and anti-Semitic writings spray-painted on a synagogue on Chicago’s North Side in February.

The ADL said it recorded 1,757 incidents across the country last year, a three percent decline from 2004’s nine-year high of 1,821.

POLISH PARADE ACCUSED OF PROMOTING ANTI-SEMITISM

Poland was again forced on to the defensive over its attitude towards Jews after the Simon Wiesenthal Centre complained of the “anti-Semitic tenor” of a Good Friday procession.

Beards and Stars of Davids worn at the Way of The Cross ceremony at the Kalwaria Zebrzydowska sanctuary “perpetuated medieval stereotypes of Jews,” Shimon Samuels, the center’s head of international relations, said in a letter to the foreign minister. It also contravened Poland’s responsibility to combat anti-Semitism under its obligations to the European Union, Mr. Samuels said.

He called on the government to investi-

gate activities at the sanctuary, which the Pope will visit during a pilgrimage to Poland.

The fraught Polish-Jewish relations were not helped by reports that Andrzej Lepper, who is in line to become deputy prime minister, has received an honorary degree and supported a private Ukrainian university with a reputation for anti-Semitism.

Ukraine’s president, Viktor Yushchenko, has condemned the university, the Interregional Academy of Personnel Management, as “an institution that systematically publishes anti-Semitic articles.”



BOOK REVIEWS

BLOOMS OF DARKNESS

Blooms of Darkness.
By Aharon Appelfeld. Keter Publishing, Jerusalem, 2006. 265 pp. \$17.95.

BY RABBI ISRAEL ZOBERMAN

Aharon Appelfeld's deep springs of Holocaust experience and memories continue to flow unabated and touch us with repeated themes as expressed by a master story-teller who succeeds in connecting us to them time and again.

His latest novel with autobiographical features centers on eleven-year-old Hugo, who is about to be entrusted by his mother into the protection of Marina, a prostitute, even as Hugo's family and his familiar world of love and comfort would disappear into the consuming evil.

Hidden by Marina, Hugo is exposed to a new and unusual environment as he



grows attached to Marina, who too finds the young lad to be a reassuring presence in her own unstable and dangerous world. Thus, the mutual and supportive bonding leads in time to tender and poetic intimacy that comes to an untimely end with the Russian victory over the Germans and the tragic separation imposed on this unusual couple.

As in his previous works, a Christian faith that, while not formal, is still a source of spirited devotion for simple folks such as Marina, while the pre-war prosperous and university-educated Jews have lost their traditional roots though not the caring Jewish values and optimistic thrust.

Author Appelfeld's characteristic terse style, that hides more than it reveals, is well suited for the horrifying subject-matter at hand, creating a suspenseful aura for the unavoidable drama to unfold.

Rabbi Israel Zoberman, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He is son of Polish Holocaust survivors.

THE JEWS ARE COMING BACK

The Jews Are Coming Back: The Return of the Jews to their Countries of Origin after WWII.

Edited by David Bankier, in association with Berghahn Books. Jerusalem, 2005. 320 pp., soft cover.

BY Dr. BELLA GUTTERMAN

The end of World War II in 1945, with millions of individuals on the move, including armies, workers and prisoners of war returning from Germany, war criminals and former collaborators trying to escape prosecution, was a period of intense turmoil and fear. Reconstruction and resurrection of Jewish life was only beginning, as survivors and other stateless people liberated from camps and emerging from hiding attempted to return to their countries of origin, to reclaim their homes, livelihood and property. Repatriated Jews returned to face a mixture of good intentions, indifference, jealousy, shame and guilt, while overcome with loss, grief, despair, and rage. Most encountered negative reactions, with the 1946 pogrom in Kielce, Poland, reflecting the extreme of violence and death. Survivors did not expect the negative reactions of indifference, prejudice, disbelief, envy, discrimination, lack of knowledge or understanding, outright hostility and fear of reclamation of property, and the like, and therefore they were all the more shocked.

Kielce was a vicious symbol of all that awaited Jews who had managed to survive persecution, war, concentration camps and death marches as they attempted to return home to their pre-war locations, and met with death. Some of the issues discussed in this volume are antisemitism, anti-fascism and patriotism, the new postwar social hierarchy, the restoration of Jewish learning and community life, the reaction of postwar intellectual circles, and more.

The 14 essays in this volume are by scholars from and about almost as many countries (Belgium, France,

Hungary, Italy, Israel, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia) on the return, or prospective return of the Jews to their countries of origin after World War II, presenting a comparative overview of attitudes in various European countries during and after the Second World War. The essays discuss such issues as the transitional period; acknowledging the fate of the Jews; survivors who were foreigners and nationals, classified as refugees or illegal aliens; orphans and the custody of children; the "hierarchy of suffering"; and an especially interesting essay describes the "unspeakable": written memoirs of the concentration camp published in Italy. The book discusses the stands taken by various governments and governments-in-exile on Jewish property, repatriation, nullification or upholding of "Aryanization" of Jewish interests, the restoration of rights to refugees, including the rights of those who were victims of Nazi persecution to return to their places of residence, and resume their former positions and occupations, and postwar antisemitism.

Prof. Bankier is John Najman Professor and Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem, teaches at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and is currently at work on the forthcoming "Secret Intelligence and the Holocaust." This book continues the story of the Jews after World War II, following Bankier's "Probing the Depth of German Antisemitism; Nazi Europe and the Final Solution" (edited with Israel Gutman).

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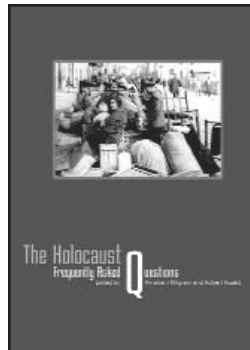
THE HOLOCAUST: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The Holocaust: Frequently Asked Questions.

Edited by Avraham Milgram and Robert Rozett. Jointly published by Yad Vashem and The Knesset (The Israeli Parliamentary Association for Holocaust Remembrance and Aid to Survivors). Jerusalem, 2005. 44 pp., paperback.

BY Dr. BELLA GUTTERMAN

This timely, concise paperback addresses the current use and misuse of the Holocaust, and ignorance of the facts, by providing answers to frequently asked questions. Written by a team of experts, the information combats trivialization, manipulation, distortion and denial, attempting to provide "a human face" to the study of the Holocaust. Sample questions are: What were the



death marches? What were the concentration camps? What were the extermination camps? What is it about the Holocaust that makes it so important to us? Who were other victims of Nazism? How was their fate similar to and different from the fate of the Jews? What conditions prevailed in the ghettos? What were the gas vans? When did the world learn about the Holocaust? How did information reach the free world? What was the nature of Jewish armed resistance? What is "Holocaust denial"? How was the murder of the Jews humanly possible?

Sixty years after the collapse of the Third Reich, the memory of the Holocaust has evolved paradoxically. Although the Holocaust is frequently mentioned in the media, there seems to be "Holocaust fatigue" in Europe, and most people know very little about the Holocaust. This pamphlet was published with basic information about the Holocaust, especially in light of the past decade, with genocidal murder and mass terrorist attacks, disregarding human life. This clearly written booklet is an attempt to combat ignorance with knowledge.

THE HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS' MEMOIRS PROJECT

BY MENACHEM Z. ROSENSAFT

In 1942, Jadzia Szpigelman, now Jane Lipski, was a 17-year old member of the Jewish resistance in the ghetto of Bedzin, Poland. The following year, after her family had been deported to Auschwitz, she managed to escape to Slovakia, where she met her future husband. Soviet partisans took them to Moscow to be honored as heroes, but imprisoned them instead. She never saw her husband again. Jane bore her son in a Soviet prison, and miraculously, they both survived.

At the outbreak of World War II, 16-year old Margit Raab and her family fled their home in Czech Silesia to Eastern Poland. After her father was killed in a bomb-raid, the family fled westward to Tarnów, where the Gestapo killed Margit's mother. Margit was deported first to the Plaszów labor camp, from there to Auschwitz, and ultimately to Bergen-Belsen, where she was liberated.

Isabelle Choko was an adolescent in the Lodz ghetto before being imprisoned at Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen, where her mother died in her arms shortly before the liberation. As a teenager, Frances Irwin survived two years in Auschwitz-Birkenau and a death march to Mauthausen. Lotti Kahana-Aufleger saved her family in the camps of the German and Romanian occupied part of Ukraine known as Transnistria.

The memoirs of Jane Lipski, Margit Raab Kalina, Isabelle Choko, Frances Irwin, and Lotti Kahana-Aufleger have been published by Yad Vashem and the Holocaust Survivors' Memoirs Project in *Stolen Youth, Five Women's Survival in the Holocaust*.

"These five stories provide insights into what it meant to be a young Jewish

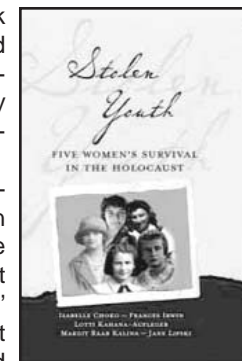
woman enduring the worst during the Holocaust," writes Dr. David Silberklang, the Series Editor, in his foreword to the book. "Certainly, other Jews, regardless of gender, shared much of what these women describe. At the same time, issues that were specifically feminine are addressed in these memoirs—whether the beginnings of awareness of young men in one memoir, or marrying and bearing a son in another. Reading personal accounts from five different female viewpoints in one book is a rare and enlightening experience. Each story enriches our reading of the others."

To date, six volumes have been published by the Holocaust Survivors' Memoirs Project together with Yad Vashem. (Three other memoirs, *Journey Through the Inferno*, by Adam Boren, *By Leaps and Bounds*, by Margaret Bergmann Lambert, and *Legacy and Redemption, A Life Renewed*, by Joseph E. Tenenbaum, were previously published by the Project, together with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.)

The Project is an initiative of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Elie Wiesel, who has observed that, "The Holocaust must never be studied exclusively from the perspective of the perpetrators. Each survivor's story is unique, and adds to our understanding of the Holocaust and the understanding of future generations." Collectively, these accounts provide a sense of both the diversity of European Jewry and the commonality of their fate.

The latest volume in what the New York

(Continued on page 13)



FILES UNCOVER NAZIS' TRAIL OF DEATH

BY COLIN NICKERSON

The death books seem utterly ordinary, their covers inscribed with neither swastikas nor other frightening Nazi symbols. They are just the black-and-white, cardboard-covered composition books that generations of schoolchildren have used for handwriting practice. And, indeed, every entry is in neat cursive.

On April 20, 1942, the commandant of the Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria approved the special killing of 300 prisoners to mark the Fuehrer's birthday. The execution list runs for pages, each individual receiving a single line — name, birthdate, place of birth, inmate number, and an epitaph, "By order of R.S.H.A. shot," the acronym for the Central Office for Security of the Reich.

The cause of death for each was a single bullet to the base of the skull: *Genickschuss* — neck shot. The executions on that spring day occurred at two-minute intervals. Every snap of the firing pin was duly noted in fussy script in the Totenbuch, or death book, for 1942-43. The birthday celebration murders started at 11:20 a.m.

11:22. Neck shot.

11:24. Neck shot

11:26. Neck shot.

"There is extraordinary material in Bad Arolsen on the functioning and structure of the camps and slave labor systems," said Johannes Houwink ten Cate, professor of Holocaust and genocide studies at the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands. "It's one of the largest collections of historical documents from World War II, enough to keep scholars busy for generations."

Perhaps most shocking about the Bad Arolsen files is the way the most horrific atrocities are detailed in ho-hum bureaucratic language.

"In the concentration camps, unlike the extermination camps, everything was carefully recorded," said Udo Jost, archive manager for the tracing section of the International Committee of the Red Cross that oversees a gigantic archive whose millions of files have for six decades been kept largely hidden from public view. The documents, captured by Allied troops and held in London before being moved to this

central-west German spa town after World War II, fill some 16 miles of file drawers and shelf space behind the bland exterior walls of a former SS barracks.

The files were placed under the control of the Red Cross, responsible for tracing millions of the dead and missing from the camps and slave labor battalions. Since 1945, the organization has responded to 11.3 million queries from people in 62 countries, mainly from relatives seeking



Udo Jost, archive manager for the tracing section, viewed files recently at the facility in Bad Arolsen, Germany.

information about lost loved ones, but also from survivors seeking to document their incarceration and inhumane treatment under the Nazis.

Although all Third Reich concentration camps were cruel and murderous, not all were meant for genocide. Many were designed to provide a workforce of slave laborers for industry and government projects.

In addition to tracking the dead and missing, the Red Cross has also used the files to help survivors secure pensions, medical benefits, or reparation payments by providing proof that their "lost years" were spent in camps or labor battalions. "These are archives of horror, yes, but also of hope," Jost said.

The files have been kept off-limits to the public, primarily because of Germany's assertion that access would violate the privacy of victims. Some records hold highly personal information, including medical details, criminal records, suggestions of homosexuality, and — most controversially — evidence of collusion between inmates and their captors. But bureaucratic bullheadedness

also played a big role in restricting access. Many scholars say the Red Cross has kept records private because it doesn't want historians treading on its turf.

In any event, Germany in April abruptly dropped its longstanding opposition to granting full access to researchers — and the Red Cross indicated that it, too, would go along. The change came after the United States intensified diplomatic pressure for openness.

The archives contain 50 million documents with the names and information on some 17.5 million people, including concentration camp inmates, forced laborers, and other victims of Adolf Hitler's Third Reich.

The files at Bad Arolsen provide stark details of slave laborers forced to repair German railroads under bombardment from Allies, digging tunnels to hide V-2 rockets, or working on the assembly lines of BMW, Siemens electronics, and other well-known firms. Researchers say that the opening of the records is long overdue.

"These are terrible stories from a terrible time," said Ulrich Herbert, professor of 20th-century history at Germany's University of Freiburg. "It's frustrating and even appalling that these records have been kept off-limits to historical research for so long."

Major Holocaust archives in the United States and Israel are open for general research.

The Bad Arolsen files range from broad outlines of mass murder to sharp shards of unfathomable cruelty.

There is, for example, the terse account of the Gestapo interrogation of a 31-year-old hospital nurse named Elisabeth arrested in Koblenz.

"This woman is a half-Jew who lives [with her non-Jewish boyfriend] and acknowledges they have had sexual relations" in violation of Nazi racial purity laws, according to the two-sentence report.

She was issued a patch of a yellow triangle superimposed on dark triangle, making a Star of David, to show she was

(Continued on page 13)

AN OVERDUE TRIBUTE UNVEILED

According to the Albanian concept of *besa*, a sort of code of honor, a person in need must be provided with every possible measure of protection and assistance. It was thanks in no small measure to this idea that nearly all of Albania's 2,000 Jews — and hundreds of foreign Jewish refugees — were spared as World War II tore through Europe.

In April, journalist and amateur Holocaust historian Jack Goldfarb witnessed the unveiling of a granite monument devoted to Albania's heroism, thus fulfilling his own personal pledge of *besa* that began more than eight years ago. The monument is displayed at a Holocaust memorial park in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn.

"I have a tremendous satisfaction knowing that both my Albanian friends and those that carried out the heroic work have been honored here in New York," Goldfarb told the *Forward*.

Goldfarb first learned of Albania's wartime history during a series of trips he took to the region in the 1990s, just as Albania was emerging from decades of communist rule.

In 1943, the Nazis asked Albanian authorities for a list of the country's Jews. They refused to comply. "Jews were then taken from the cities and hidden in the countryside," Goldfarb explained. "Non-Jewish Albanians would steal identity cards from police stations [for Jews to use]. The underground resistance even warned that anyone who turned in a Jew would be executed."

Goldfarb worked with Israel's Yad Vashem and with Bernd Fischer, a specialist in Albanian history at Indiana University — Purdue University Fort Wayne, to compile the material necessary for the approval of the new monument.

"This is a story that needs to be told," Fischer told the *Forward* this week. "There were actually more Jews in the country after the war than before — thanks to the Albanian traditions of religious tolerance and hospitality. In Albania, when someone crosses the threshold of your home, your honor depends on defending him."

First published in *Forward*

REMEMBER ROMANIAN KRISTALLNACHT

BY BARUCH COHEN

I was 21 years old. I was there. I am a witness.

The pogrom in Bucharest on Jan. 21, 1942, took the lives of 130 Jews. Gangs of Iron Guard Legionaries looted hundreds of Jewish homes and dragged their inhabitants away, and beat, tortured and killed them. They demolished and burned to the ground hundreds of Jewish stores. They desecrated and torched 25 synagogues, including the majestic ancient Spanish and Portuguese temple, and destroyed Torah scrolls.

These are the images I live with to this day. The Iron Guard criminals looted and devastated the Jewish neighborhood of Bucharest during the three days of Romania's terrible, but seldom mentioned, "*Kristallnacht*," which took place from Jan. 21 to 23, 1941. They took away innocent people from their homes, their workplaces and places of worship, killed them and hung them, like cattle, from hooks in slaughterhouses with tags reading "kosher meat."

Emil Dorian, another witness of the

Romanian *Kristallnacht*, recalls the devastation in his memoir *The Quality of Witness: A Romanian Diary, 1937-1944*. "What happened in Vacaresti, Dudesti [Jewish areas] and surrounding neighborhoods remains indescribable. Suffice it to list the destruction, the looting and the bestial crimes. But even that is impossible. The fury of the looters has not spared anybody or anything. Shop after shop with shutters wrenched off their hinges, windows smashed, walls burned, rooms emptied, made it impossible to guess what had been seen before," Dorian wrote.

"The great beautiful Sephardi synagogue has been completely destroyed. They set [it] on fire with cans of gasoline placed in four corners, and looters danced by the flames. The list of beaten and tortured people is endless, and crimes cover the complete range of a demented imagination, Jews forced to drink gasoline with Epsom salts, crosses cut on the skin of their backs, torture and killing, on and on..."

The chief rabbi of Romania at the time, Alexander Safran, wrote in his memoirs:

"During these days, the Iron Guard Legionaries also occupied the Malbim Beith Hamidrash [synagogue] and tortured many Jews there. They killed the cantor of the Coral Temple while he was conducting the Minchah services. They also killed Jews who had come there to say Kaddish. Dozens of Jews were first tortured and transported to the Jilava forest. All men were shot."

Today, Romania has finally acknowledged its atrocities during the Holocaust years of 1940 to '44 and its government has promised to ensure that the Holocaust will be taught in high schools and universities. However, Holocaust education in Romania is said to be optional. It should be mandatory, and taught as an integral part of Romania's history.

Before World War II, some 800,000 Jews lived in Romania. They were a community proud of their contribution to all fields of Romanian society. Today, a mere 6,000 to 8,000 elderly Romanian Jews live in the country.

Despite the promises made by former

Romanian president Ion Iliescu and current Romanian President Traian Basescu after acknowledging the Holocaust, almost nothing has changed in Romania. Reparations for the confiscation and theft of Jewish properties during the Holocaust era have not been made, and Romanian politicians still have not made a firm commitment to Holocaust education.

In 2004, Iliescu rewarded two known Holocaust deniers and anti-Semites, Corneliu Vadim Tudor and Gheorghe Buzatu, with the country's highest medal of honor.

Today, there are still reports of vandalism and desecration of synagogues and Jewish cemeteries in Romania. There are also reports of graffiti denying the Holocaust, and anti-Semitic books and books that contain anti-Semitic statements are released by the state-owned publisher. In the private media, without objection or interference from the government, anti-Semitism exists.

Baruch Cohen, a Holocaust survivor, is the research chair of the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research.

SURVIVORS' CORNER

AUSCHWITZ SURVIVOR BROKE HIS SILENCE

BY JOHN O'DONNELL

For decades, Arno Lustiger remained silent about his wartime experiences.

The cruelty of his Nazi tormentors, the destruction of his family and the suffering in six concentration camps were memories he tried to suppress.

"I was not able to articulate what had happened," said the Auschwitz survivor, whose father and brother died in the camp. "I didn't say one word about what had happened to me for 40 years."

Then in his early 60s, a near-death experience prompted Lustiger to break his silence. Today, the retired entrepreneur is an acclaimed Holocaust historian on a mission to champion the memory of the Jews who suffered alongside him.

"You'll never survive this," Lustiger recalls one SS guard taunting him as he was marched through a concentration camp. "And if you do, no one will believe you."

But Lustiger survived to tell his story and over the years, the 82-year-old's history books have found their way into thousands of homes in the German and English-speaking world.

Lustiger was just 15 when Nazi troops marched into his native Poland. His family abandoned an attempt to flee after their cars ran out of petrol and returned to their then Nazi-occupied home near the German border.

Many of their Jewish neighbours were taken on the 25-mile journey to another town, Oswiecim, Auschwitz. "Nobody knew what it was," said Lustiger. "It was

called a relocation, but no one came back from there."

DEATH MARCH

Lustiger spent most of the war in different concentration camps, joining the Jewish resistance movement.

As the net closed in on the Nazis, the treatment of prisoners worsened. With Russia's army approaching, Lustiger was ordered on a "death march" out of Auschwitz.

"Those who could were ordered to march," he recalls. "Those who could not march were shot."

The destination, for those who survived temperatures as low as minus 20 degrees Celsius, was a newly built camp in Poland and ultimately an underground aircraft factory in Langenstein, central Germany.

"Who could have imagined that towards the end of the war the destruction of the Jews would become more important than winning the war?" said Lustiger.

"Langenstein was the worst camp I had been in. In Blechhammer, you were kept capable of working. But in Langenstein the conditions were unnecessarily hard. They hardly gave us anything to eat. Many people died through starvation and hard work. The life expectancy for a

young prisoner like me was three to four weeks."

Lustiger later escaped his guards under a hail of gunfire and was found unconscious by American soldiers.

The war ended on Lustiger's 21st birthday. It was the start of an adult life already heavily scarred by experiences which would remain a closely guarded secret for most of his life.

REBUILDING A LIFE

Lustiger's priority became to rejoin a society which had rejected him. He turned down a chance to emigrate to America, choosing instead to stay with his

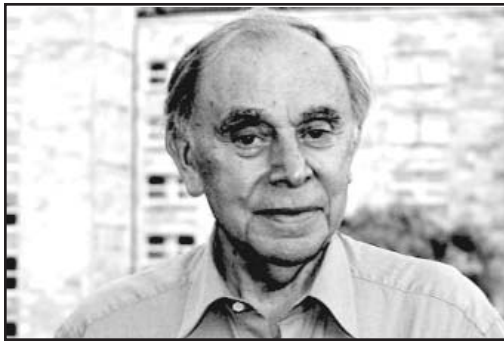
mother and sister, whose health was ailing.

"At this time, no one wanted anything to do with Germany," said Lustiger. "And the Jews that stayed were also treated as pariahs because the global Jewish organization had decided that all

Jews should leave Germany."

He rejected compensation for his slave labor, afraid that he would be counted among those who some said lied to get money. He even declined to out a former SS man, whom he met by chance on a train, someone Lustiger described as a good camp guard.

Settling in Frankfurt, he set up a women's fashion firm and raised a family.



Arno Lustiger

A JEW, A CZECH, AN OFFICER AND AN OLYMPIAN

BY JOE ESKENAZI

Any story about Jewish athletes begins, more often than not, with "Did you hear the one about ..."

In other words, a joke. And Helen Epstein has heard them all. But she can't help wondering — when did it become so funny to spread Nazi propaganda?

In a San Francisco presentation, the author of *Children of the Holocaust* and six other books displayed a hideous Nazi caricature of the "prototypical" Jew: a sallow, boney, pot-bellied, knock-kneed, bespectacled, bearded ninny.

Needless to say, that's not what Kurt Epstein looked like.

Helen's father was a strapping 6-foot-1 officer in the Czechoslovakian army who twice represented his nation in the Olympics: in Amsterdam in 1928 and in the infamous Berlin Nazi Games of 1936.

In fact, Kurt Epstein had several Jewish teammates on that 1936 team, and Jewish athletic clubs — many of which regularly bested the top European teams, thrived throughout Europe. So while you'll be lucky to find more than a few Jews in, say, an NFL huddle, the Nazi's claim of Jewish physical weakness doesn't sit well with the Epstein family photo album.

By Nazi standards, a Jewish water polo

star was counterintuitive. The game was invented in Scotland as a form of aquatic rugby and, despite the grace of its participants, is a mind-blowingly violent and physical game. While most people wouldn't think of a sport with the word "polo" in the title as brutal, they can't see what goes on underwater (and neither can the referee). The action can be exceedingly rough.

And while Kurt Epstein's Jewish teammates opted to boycott the Nazi Olympics, he went, proudly, as a Czechoslovakian and a Jew, feeling the best way to take on the Nazi propaganda was to take on the Nazis.

While he got the chance to do that in the pool, when the Nazis marched into Czechoslovakia in 1939, he was quickly deported to a concentration camp. First it was Terezin (which had been his military garrison in his army days), then a fortuitously brief, two-day sojourn at Auschwitz before he was packed off to a Polish labor camp.

Epstein's fantastic physical shape and athlete's will probably helped him survive the war; he emerged as a 90-pound walking skeleton and, at 41, was about as old a survivor as you could find, his daughter said.

After his harrowing war experience, Kurt Epstein received a hero's welcome from

But a heart attack at 60 awakened old images.

"I played back a film of my life. I remembered the men I had met in concentration camps who had resisted. They have been written out of the history books. I wanted to change that."

"I said, if I survive, then I will write this history. My books are a gravestone, an epitaph to those people. They fought for the honor of the Jewish people. They should not be forgotten."

Lustiger praises Germany for facing up to its past and criticises many of its neighbours for not following its example.

"Poland and other countries, such as Romania and Hungary, should do the same. The collaboration of others in the murdering of the Jews was covered up during Communism. But they were witnesses of these crimes. They knew what happened."

Although Lustiger speaks openly about his past, his wartime scars are sensitive. The faded prisoner number A5592 given to him by the Nazis remains tattooed on his arm — his telephone number, Lustiger once told his curious daughter.

Many stories of the cruelty he saw stay hidden. "During the war, I had a bad experience every day," he said. "I don't talk about them. I try not to think about those people."

Through research, he has thrown further light on Germany's darkest chapter. Some questions, however, will never be answered. "The more I have learned about this episode," said Lustiger, "the less I understand it."

First published by Reuters

VICTIM OF NAZIS CANNOT SUE GERMAN DRUG COMPANIES

A man left sterile by Nazi medical experiments during the Holocaust cannot sue two German drug companies, a federal appeals court ruled.

The 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the dismissal of Simon Rozenkier's lawsuit, saying that his "exclusive remedy" is through a fund set up by the German government in 2000. Rozenkier applied for compensation from that fund and received two checks totaling \$9,993, the ruling said.

Rozenkier sued Schering AG and Bayer AG in 2003, while his application for compensation was still pending. He alleged they "had cooperated with the Nazi regime in causing his sterilization."

U.S. District Judge William Bassler dismissed Rozenkier's lawsuit. In its ruling, the federal appeals court agreed the case raises "a nonjusticiable political question."

U.S. Circuit Judge Alan Lourie wrote that former President Bill Clinton was personally involved in negotiations that established the fund as "the exclusive forum for claims by Nazi-era victims of medical experimentation against German companies."

"In this context," Lourie wrote, "judicial review of Rozenkier's claims would express a lack of respect for the Executive Branch's long-standing foreign policy interest in resolving Nazi-era claims through intergovernmental negotiation."

his surviving, non-Jewish teammates and was voted onto the Czechoslovakian Olympic committee, a high honor. But a communist takeover of his homeland did what the Nazi invasion couldn't — convince him to leave. Along with his wife and 8-month-old Helen, he immigrated to New York City in 1948.

There, he continued to raise his family in a manner ill-befitting a Jewish stereotype. After Sunday school, the Epsteins were far less likely to eat bagels and drink coffee than whisk off to the country for hiking or swimming.

So those jokes Helen Epstein was talking about — she takes them personally. There were many, many Jews in Europe and elsewhere who excelled athletically. But there were far, far more Jews who were slaughtered in World War II, so, understandably, prewar leisure activities have been somewhat obscured.

If ever a graduate student or researcher wanted to study the subject, Epstein said she'd happily turn over her father's archive to help paint a truer picture of Jews' place on the athletic fields.

"Rethink your stereotypes if you're Jewish," she said. "There are plenty of people in the world who stereotype Jews. We don't have to stereotype ourselves."

First published in the Jewish news weekly of Northern California

RECALLING NUREMBERG

BY MEGHAN MEYER

Isolated in a dark cell at Nuremberg, Julius Streicher easily became enraged. The founder of the anti-Semitic newspaper *Der Stürmer* launched into another tirade as soon as Howard Triest entered the cell. As an interpreter helping psychiatrists interview the prisoners, 23-year-old Triest had the run of the prison, and had become accustomed to Streicher's outbursts.

Streicher had some very important personal papers and would entrust them only to a "good German," like the blond-haired, blue-eyed interpreter. He reached past the psychiatrist and handed the papers to Triest.

He never learned that the interpreter was Jewish.

Triest never disclosed to the Nuremberg prisoners that the Nazis killed his mother and father, and that he himself had narrowly escaped to the United States.

He simply took the papers from the belching Streicher and later gave them to his superiors.

"We had a job to do," said Triest, 82, sitting on the back porch of his home west of Delray Beach. "I thought that was a good way of getting the papers."

ESCAPE FROM MUNICH

Howard Triest was born "Hans" Triest in Munich in 1923 to two loving parents, Berthold and Ly. He grew up in a neat apartment on the tree-lined *Reitmorstrasse*, a quiet street that shaped his rosy childhood memories of Germany.

His sister, Margot, six years his junior, does not share his nostalgia. The Nazis rose to power during her formative years. Unlike his sister, Triest has memories of a woman delivering fresh milk to the door of the apartment. She remembers storm troopers knocking on that same door.

Howard Triest has returned to Germany again and again since the war. Margot hasn't.

By the time Triest was 16, he had grown anxious to leave the Germany he loved. He had seen businesses destroyed on *Kristallnacht*, neighbors arrested and synagogues destroyed. Childhood friends joined the Hitler Youth and stopped talking to him. His parents realized the situation had grown dire. The family took a train to Luxembourg Sept. 1, 1939, the day Germany invaded Poland.

In Luxembourg, the family waited to scrape together enough money to buy passage to New York. Having the money for two tickets, the Triests couldn't decide who would go first. Margot wouldn't leave their parents. Their mother wouldn't leave their father. So Howard went alone.

"I was the only one with ants in his pants ready to go," he said. "I was confident my parents and sister would follow soon."

JEWISH AND GERMAN

When Howard left, his parents had plans to buy ocean passage in the spring. All went according to plan as they boarded a train bound for Rotterdam and their ship on May 10, 1940. That day, Hitler invaded the lowlands, just as the train approached the Belgium-Netherlands border.

Suddenly, they were swept up in the confusion of a world where it was impossible to be both Jewish and German.

They were arrested and taken off the train not because they were Jewish, but because they were German. The Dutch were at war with the Germans. A Dutch tribunal later decided the Triests were Jewish, not German, and let them go. But there was nowhere to go. They went to Belgium, by now under German control, where Howard Triest's father was arrested and taken to a camp in Vichy France.

Triest's mother was arrested too, after

she moved to a town near the camp to be close to her husband. Thirteen-year-old Margot was left at a home for Jewish refugee children.

In August 1942, the Triests were put on a train to a transit camp in France.

Somehow, their mother managed to find a postcard. She addressed it to Margot and tossed it from the train into the French countryside. Someone picked it up and delivered it. "Be a good girl," it said.

At the transit camp, the Triests were put on a train to Auschwitz. They died, either during the journey or in the camp's gas chamber.

Margot remained in hiding in France. When the Gestapo intensified their search for Jews, Margot and another older child were sent across the border to Switzerland on foot with 10 smaller children each. She arrived in Geneva on April 19, 1943, her 14th birthday.

AVENGING HIS FAMILY

News that his family never made it to their ship reached Howard Triest when he arrived in the United States in 1940.

"I wish my father would have gone," Triest said. "Because of my father's arrest my mother wouldn't leave. By staying together, none made it."

Desperate to fight his family's captors, Triest tried to enlist in every branch of the U.S. military. None would have him. He wasn't an American citizen.

He learned English by attending plays, watching movies and working in a tool factory. He changed his name to Howard, after the movie star Leslie Howard. His namesake became another casualty of the war when Germans shot his plane

down over the Bay of Biscay in 1943.

That same year, the Army drafted Triest. He shipped out in April 1944 as a machine gunner. With this assignment, Triest's life expectancy dropped.

"If I had stayed a machine gunner, you wouldn't be talking to me today," he said.

He tried to persuade the Army to assign him to military intelligence. After all, German was his first language. But the Army rarely acts logically, he said.

Triest landed on Omaha Beach two days after the D-Day invasion. Shortly thereafter, he encountered a lieutenant who had been ordered to find more German-speaking soldiers for military intelligence. Triest spent the rest of the war as a translator.

His battalion liberated the Buchenwald concentration camp. Triest took photos of the dead and the skeletal survivors. He interrogated residents who lived near the camp, who insisted they knew nothing of what had happened there.

Everywhere, he searched for his missing friends and family.

The war's end found Triest in Czechoslovakia, near the *Theresienstadt* transit camp. The camp had gained notoriety as a propaganda stop for visiting dignitaries, billing itself as a spa and retirement community where elderly Jewish residents tended gardens and put on plays. All the while, 33,000 Jews, including Triest's grandfather, died there.

He didn't know what happened to his grandmother, Rosa Westheimer. A Czech liaison agreed to find out whether she was in the transit camp.

Later, someone came to his quarters. "There's a woman out there who claims she's a relative of yours."

It was his grandmother. Triest's joy gave way to the realization that he had a problem on his hands. Legally, his grandmother wasn't supposed to be in Czechoslovakia.

"I had an old woman who is Jewish and

(Continued on page 15)

JEWISH PARTISAN STORIES EMPOWER TEENAGERS LEARNING ABOUT HOLOCAUST

BY SUE FISHKOFF, JTA

Sydney Pickman thought she "knew everything" about the Holocaust.

The 16-year-old from Queens had learned about it in school and at BBYO conventions. But, like most of her friends, she'd never heard about the Jewish partisans, the young men and women who fought the Nazis.

Her eyes were opened recently, when the San Francisco-based Jewish Partisan Educational Foundation presented a workshop to 200 teenagers at a BBYO convention in the Catskills Mountains in New York.

Pickman watched taped interviews with men and women who, when they were her age, had lived in the forests of Europe, scrounging for food, blowing up German trains, skirmishing with soldiers, trying to strike any blow against the Nazi war machine. She learned that 20,000 to 30,000 Jews had taken part in this resistance. Not only did they fight back, they set up camps in the forest to protect other Jews too old or too weak to fight.

Pickman said she thinks differently now about the Jewish role in World War II. "Knowing that someone was fighting back would have given me hope, if I were alive

then. Even now, it makes me feel better to know that they didn't just go."

That's exactly why filmmaker Mitch Braff set up the foundation five years ago. He, too, was an educated young Jew who knew nothing about the Jewish partisans in World War II.



Mira Shelub, a Jewish partisan for three years during WWII, talks with students at the Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School in Palo Alto, Calif.

Then he met Oakland resident Murray Gordon, who escaped a Nazi ghetto in Lithuania at age 15 and spent the rest of the war as a partisan fighter. Braff decided to devote himself to telling Gordon's story, and that of the other Jewish partisans, to the next generation of young Jews.

Since then, Braff has tracked down and interviewed 42 Jewish partisans in seven countries.

The foundation has developed curricula and study guides for classroom use. It also runs workshops at schools, youth groups, summer camps, synagogues and Hillels. Sometimes, one of the elderly partisans comes along to tell his or her story.

A regular on Braff's lecture circuit is Mira Shelub. Born in Poland, Shelub, 81, escaped the Vilna Ghetto and joined a Jewish partisan unit in 1942. She spent almost three years with them. She told the students about her life in the forest, about slogging through swamps surrounded by Nazi soldiers, about carrying ammunition for her fiancé's machine gun, about comrades who didn't come back from sabotage operations.

"We all think of the Holocaust as a real sad time in Jewish history, but her talk showed us the Jewish people also stood up and did something," said Ronit Roodman, 13.

"It's like Jewish pride. Their families were being destroyed, and they still had the power to stand up."

DISPELLING STEREOTYPES

A Holocaust education program designed to heighten awareness among Canadian and European teachers marks its fifth anniversary this year.

The Mark and Gail Appel Program in Holocaust and Anti-Racism Education is the brainchild of two York University academics, Mark Webber and Michael Brown.

"We thought there was a need to ensure that the next generation of teachers would know how to teach the Holocaust and combat racism and anti-Semitism," said Webber, a professor of German studies.

An initiative of York's Centre for Jewish Studies and the Canadian Centre for German and European Studies, the program brings together Canadian and European university students.

Thirty-two students are enrolled in this year's program. The vast majority are not Jewish.

Brown, a senior scholar at York, said the program's objective is to give the next generation of teachers the tools "to dispel stereotypes" spawned by the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks in the United States and the current war in Iraq.

He added that participants "are extraordinarily aware of the potential for evil that racism presents and much more knowledgeable than their peers about the Holocaust and its implications for Jews and non-Jews in the past and the present."



ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE DINNER & INTERNATIONAL SOCIETIES YAD VASHEM: THE GLOBAL GUARDIAN OF

ELI ZBOROWSKI

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

(Continued from page 1)

rosity of Eli Zborowski and his late wife Diana. They were also Benefactors of Project 2001.

Eli has played a key role in a range of organizations dedicated to the preservation of Jewish memory. He is Founder and Honorary President of the American Federation of Jewish Fighters, Camp Inmates and Nazi Victims; Vice President, World Federation of Polish Jews; Benefactor, Ephraim Wilf Foundation; Benefactor, Moshe Zborowski Gemilat Chesed Fund-Free Loan Association; Trustee, Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture; and on the Executive Committee of the Claims Conference. He was one of six survivors, and the only American, to greet Pope John Paul II during his historic visit to Yad Vashem in 2000.

His outstanding contributions to the cause of remembrance have led to his appointment

by the former Mayor Edward Koch to the New York Permanent Commission on the



U.S. Ambassador Dan Kurtzer, Marvin Zborowski, Mark Palmer, Eli Zborowski Chairman of the American and International Societies for Yad Vashem, Avener Shalev, Chairman of the Directorate Yad Vashem, Ehud Olmert, Mayor of Jerusalem, Joseph Wilf, Sigmund Storchlitz, David Halpern and Sam Halpern at the Dedication Ceremony for the Commemorators Path marking the 20th Anniversary of the American Society for Yad Vashem, Jerusalem

Holocaust. He was appointed by President Carter and re-appointed by President

Reagan to the United States Holocaust Council, which oversees the operation of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. He holds an honorary Doctorate from Yeshiva University.

A lifelong Zionist and communal leader, Eli is Past Chairman of the American Zionist Youth Foundation; Past Chairman, Salute to Israel Parade; and for many years served as National President of the American Israel Chamber of Commerce. He continues to be active in the Young Israel of Forest Hills, where he is a past president.

In his professional life, Eli has engaged in numerous entrepreneurial endeavors, including serving as president of Sheaffer Latin America Corporation and of All America Telecommunications.

Eli is the proud father of two children and seven grandchildren. This past July, he married the former Dr. Elizabeth Mundlak, a child survivor from Czestochowa, Poland. They make their home in New York City.

Yad Vashem and the American & International Societies for Yad Vashem are proud to present Eli Zborowski with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

IRA MITZNER AND MARILYN RUBENSTEIN ARE DINNER CHAIRS

Ira Mitzner, of Houston, TX and Marilyn Rubenstein of Roslyn, NY, both 2005

Tribute dinner honorees, have been named Dinner Chairs of the 25th Anniversary Dinner of the American & International Societies for Yad Vashem. The announcement was made by Eli Zborowski, Chairman of the Societies.



Ira and his wife Mindy were honorees at the 2005 Tribute Dinner. Ira is President of the Rida Development Corporation, a national and international commercial real estate investment

and development firm based in Houston. Active in numerous communal endeavors, he is a member of the Executive Committee of the American Society for Yad Vashem. He also supports UJA-Federation, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Israel Bonds, and the Foundation for Polish Jewish Communities. The Mitzners are Yad Vashem Benefactors who have donated funds to upgrade the Warsaw Ghetto Plaza at Yad Vashem, together with Ira's parents, David, a Holocaust survivor, and the late Ruth Mitzner.

Marilyn Rubenstein and her husband Barry were honorees at the 2005 Tribute Dinner. In addition to supporting Women's American ORT, the Shoah Foundation and UJA-Federation, Marilyn and

Barry were the first American Founders of the Braude School in the Galilee in Israel. Marilyn is an Associate Trustee as well as a Board



member of Partners Council of Women's Health and a member of the Board of Directors of the Marcus Avenue Early Childhood Development program, Inc. Given their Eastern European family history, the Rubenstein Family became a Benefactor of the Synagogue at Yad Vashem. Marilyn Rubenstein serves as a National Vice Chair of the American Society for Yad Vashem.

DINNER COMMITTEE CHAIRWOMEN NAMED

Stella Skura, Elly Krakowski and Doris Gross have been named Dinner Committee Chairwomen for the 25th Anniversary Tribute Dinner. In naming them to this position, Eli Zborowski said, "These women along with their husbands were in the forefront of the establishment of the American Society for Yad Vashem. Each of them played a significant role at the time we founded the Society and have been active and dedicated to our work ever since."

STELLA SKURA

Stella Skura, along with her husband, Sam, are Benefactors of the Valley of the Communities and sponsors of the Learning Center at Yad Vashem. Attended by Dr. Yitzhak Arad, the Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate, the Skuras hosted the founding meeting of the Society in their home. Stella served as the Chairwoman of the Sixth Annual Spring Luncheon. She is engaged in numerous community and cultural activities and is a Lifetime member of Hadassah.



ELLY KRAKOWSKI

Elly Krakowski and her husband Israel Krakowski were enthusiastic supporters of the American Society from its inception. The first parlor meeting to raise funds was held in their home in Manhattan. This meeting was attended by Gideon Hausner, who then served as the Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council. Elly has remained active throughout the years and holds the position of Recording Secretary. The Krakowskis were among those honored at the Society's 20th Anniversary Dinner.



DORIS GROSS

Doris Gross and her late husband Sam, held the first suburban Parlor Meeting for the Society in their home in Roslyn, NY. Doris, a sculptress and an author, has been active with the Society since its inception and has been a devoted member of the Annual Spring Luncheon Committee for the past six years. Mrs. Gross was honored for her role in spearheading the Society at the 20th Anniversary Tribute Dinner for the American and International Societies for Yad Vashem held in 2001.



RABBI ISRAEL LAU "LET'S SIT DOWN TOGETHER" AND LET'S REMEMBER

Rabbi Israel Meir Lau is the 1937, Rabbi Lau spent the labor camp of Czenstochow, of eight, he was liberated, together with both parents.

In 1946, through the efforts of the Hanoar Movement, Rabbi Lau immigrated, with a ship transport of orphaned children, to Israel, where he grew up in his uncle's home.

After many years of intensive study, he received his certification by the Rabbis of Israel, and as a cantor, teacher and orator, he became well known at many diverse schools, synagogues, army camps, universities, settlements, and in the mass media in Israel.

In 1971 he received his ordination and became District Rabbi of North Tel Aviv. In 1978 he published his well-known book in Practical Judaism, as well as a volume work on Jewish Law and Medicine.

In 1979 Rabbi Lau was elected to the position of Chief Rabbi of Netanya. In 1982, despite his relatively young age, he was appointed as a member of the Knesset, playing a prominent role serving the public.

In 1988 he was elected Chief Rabbi of Israel. In the election for Chief Rabbi of Israel, and charismatic speaker, he was elected between religious and secular Jews. On Israeli television, Rabbi Lau's famous speech during the intifada, "Let's sit down together." The time has come for

ER OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETIES FOR YAD VASHEM

OF HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

Sunday, November 19, 2006
 Sheraton Hotel & Towers, NYC

AMERICAN & INTERNATIONAL SOCIETIES FOR YAD VASHEM TRIBUTE DINNER



DR. MIRIAM & SHELDON G. ADELSON YAD VASHEM REMEMBRANCE AWARD

(Continued from page 1)
 one of the largest resort in the world in Macau, China.

Mr. Adelson is the recipient of numerous honorary degrees and awards. A stimulating motivational speaker, he has lectured at various colleges and universities, including the University of New Haven, Harvard Business School, Columbia Business School, Tel Aviv University and Babson College.

As a medical professional, Dr. Miriam Adelson has devoted her career to the fields of internal medicine and emergency medicine. In 1986, Dr. Adelson began to develop a unique specialty in the areas of chemical dependency and drug addiction. Dr. Adelson heads both the Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson Clinics in Tel Aviv and Las Vegas. These clinics have successfully treated thousands of heroin and cocaine

drug addicts.

Dr. Adelson has authored numerous scientific papers about the effects of drug addiction on the human immune system. She serves

Dr. Miriam and Sheldon Adelson are dedicated supporters of numerous Jewish communal endeavors throughout the world. The building of the Museum of Holocaust Art at Yad Vashem was enabled by their generous support given in memory to Dr. Adelson's parents, and the members of the Zamelson and Farbstein families who perished in the Holocaust. An entire section of this year's Commemorative Journal will be devoted to the ways in which Holocaust art is used to teach the lessons and legacies of the Shoah.

As a member of the Executive Committee of the American Society for Yad Vashem, Dr. Adelson has been an able and inspiring presenter at numerous Society events.

The American & International Societies for Yad Vashem are pleased to present the Yad Vashem Remembrance Award to Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson for their commitment to the noble Cause of Remembrance.



Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson with their family at the Dedication of the Museum of Holocaust Art, Yad Vashem, Jerusalem

on the faculty of Rockefeller University as a guest researcher.

ISRAEL MEIR LAU: DOWN TOGETHER, LIVE TOGETHER."

37th generation of practicing rabbis. Born in Poland in the horror years of the Holocaust in the ghetto of Piotrkov, and in the Buchenwald concentration camp. At the age of 14, he fled with his older brother, Naftali (Lavie-Lau), after losing

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Rabbi Israel Meir Lau

the Council of the Chief Rabbinate. In this capacity, he served on the Committee for Medical Ethics. He was the Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv-Jaffa, and in 1993 he was unanimously elected as Chief Rabbi of Israel. A forward-thinking and worldly communal leader, he was chosen on the belief that he could bridge the gap between the secular and religious Jews in Israel. In a well-known interview broadcast on television, his words have been repeated again and again during the past decade: "We always knew how to die, but we didn't know how to live together."

AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMEMORATIVE JOURNAL

By Cheryl Skura Lifshitz, Journal Chairperson



Each year, in conjunction with the Tribute Dinner, the Society publishes a Commemorative Journal. These award-winning publications have become important and treasured keepsakes.

The theme of this year's Journal is "Yad Vashem: The Global Guardian of Holocaust Remembrance." Through vintage photographs and artwork, the Journal is an opportunity to pay tribute to our honorees, to memorialize a loved-one, or to express appreciation for Yad Vashem. The Journal will consist of four sections:

The Partnership of the Societies with Yad Vashem

In celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the American Society for Yad Vashem, we invite you to submit personal photos recognizing your participation in any of the following events: Yad Vashem projects and inaugurations; Society Dinners and Luncheons; Young Leadership events; Chapter activities.

Educating the World

This section will feature Holocaust art depicting the atrocities. Images will be provided by the Yad Vashem archives. We welcome your interest in sponsoring a page in this section.

Rescuers and Reunions Around the World

The Journal will recognize rescuers for their courage and bravery in the face of danger. We invite you to submit a photo of your rescuer(s) at a reunion, at a ceremony at Yad Vashem or the wall on which they are honored.

Yad Vashem on the World Stage

Since its inception, Yad Vashem has attracted visitors across the globe who are Heads of State and world leaders. Images will be provided by the Yad Vashem archives. We welcome your interest in sponsoring a page in this section.

Personal photos on these subjects are welcome, and will be returned following publication of the Journal.

Those wishing to sponsor a tribute page should call Rachelle Grossman at (212)220-4304 for an ad blank.



REPORT FROM YAD VASHEM

MASSACHUSETTS COUPLE HONORED FOR SAVING JEWS DURING THE HOLOCAUST

Yad Vashem has recently added two more American names (to the earlier sole US honoree) to its list of Righteous Among the Nations: Waitstill and Martha Sharp.

Waitstill was a minister in the Unitarian church in Wellesley, Massachusetts, and his wife Martha a noted social worker. In 1939, the Sharps accepted an invitation by the Unitarian Service Committee to help members of the Unitarian church in Czechoslovakia.

Arriving in Prague in February 1939, the Sharps also aided a number of Jews to leave the country, which had come under Nazi control on March 15th. The Sharps continued their charitable work until August 1939, leaving Prague when warned of their possible arrest by the Gestapo.

On June 20, 1940, Waitstill and Martha Sharp landed in Lisbon, Portugal, on a mission to help refugees from war-torn France. Making their way into Vichy-controlled France, that had allied itself with the victorious Nazi Germany, they sought ways to help fugitives from Nazi terror, Jews and non-Jews alike. They then learned that Leon Feuchtwanger, a world famous German-Jewish author of historical fiction needed to be taken out of France urgently.

In 1933, with Hitler's rise to power, Feuchtwanger had settled in France where, together with other German anti-Nazi intellectuals, he continued his literary work, as well as his anti-Nazi writings. He was numbered sixth on a list of persons

whose German citizenship was annulled for their anti-Nazi stance. With the outbreak of the war in September 1939, Leon Feuchtwanger was ironically interned by the French government as an "enemy national" and held first in *Camp des Milles*, near Aix-les-Bains, then in *St. Nicholas*, near Nîmes.

With the defeat of France in June 1940, Feuchtwanger's life was in danger, since under the French-German armistice agreement, the French government had undertaken to hand over to the Nazis any Germans upon request, and Feuchtwanger was one of the persons on top of the Nazi wanted list. His wife Marta tried desperately to save him, and asked Myles Standish, of the US consulate in Marseilles, to help liberate her husband from internment. This was done, with Feuchtwanger fleeing dressed as a woman. Taken to Marseilles, it was now urgently necessary to get him out of the country, for fear that the French police, then under Vichy control, would be looking for him.

Learning of Feuchtwanger's plight from Varian Fry, an emissary for the US Emergency Rescue Committee, Waitstill and Martha Sharp took it upon themselves to organize Feuchtwanger's escape. A new identity card was produced, where he appeared as Wetcheek (the English translation of the German

Feuchtwanger by train to Cerbere, on the Franco-Spanish border, where Waitstill Sharp was waiting for them. He told them that he had bribed the French border guards to allow the flight of the Feuchtwangers, but urged them to be careful, for he could not guarantee that the same guards would be on duty when the Feuchtwangers would attempt their crossing. It was decided that Marta Feuchtwanger would go first, and with the help of the cigarettes that she freely distributed to the guards, she distracted them for enough time to be allowed to pass the frontier undisturbed. As for Leon, he also crossed over successfully with the help of his false identity card under the name of Wetcheek. The Sharps waited for them on the Spanish side, and the whole party continued on to Barcelona. The intention was to reach Lisbon, Portugal, and catch a boat sailing for New York.

To get to Lisbon, the party of four first had to head to Madrid, but were afraid to use the sole airline making that route, the German (and Nazi-controlled) *Lufthansa*, so instead they went by train. Waitstill bought a first-class ticket for Leon, hoping that the Spanish police would be less diligent in inspecting travelers in that compartment. He also gave him a briefcase bearing the large heading "Red Cross." Leon's wife Marta traveled third-class.

Throughout the long trip to the Spanish-Portuguese border, Waitstill watched over Leon Feuchtwanger, keeping inquisitive

(Continued on page 14)



Unveiling ceremony in the Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations. Right to left: Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev, Martha Sharp Joukowsky, survivor Eva Esther Feigl, and U.S. Ambassador to Israel, H.E. Mr. Richard Jones.

Feuchtwanger). The Sharps then rented a room in Marseilles near the main train station, from where one could cross via an underground passage directly into the station and thus avoid the police control at the station's entrance.

In September 1940, Martha Sharp, dressed as a native peasant woman, accompanied Leon and Marta

YORAM KANIUK APOLOGIZED TO YAD VASHEM

BY MERAV YUDILOVICH

In press conference to announce film adaptation of his novel *Adam's Resurrection*, starring Jeff Goldblum, Yoram Kaniuk 'lets slip' criticism of Holocaust museum. Goldblum, however, calls his Yad Vashem tour "one of most moving experiences." Yad Vashem responds: We never forced anyone to come here.



Yoram Kaniuk

The new Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial museum took hard renowned Israeli author Yoram Kaniuk's recent comment that, "They turned Yad Vashem into a Disneyland for tourists."

Kaniuk made the statements during a press conference in Jerusalem to announce a new film – an international co-production based on his novel "*Adam Resurrected*," a hallucinatory spectacle whose main character is a Jewish clown who is forced to be pet dog to a death camp manager during the Holocaust.

Kaniuk took the podium immediately after actor Jeff Goldblum, who was in Israel as a guest of the Jerusalem film festival, and who was cast in the film's title

role, described his experience of the Holocaust museum to journalists.

YAD VASHEM RESPONDS

After Kaniuk criticized the Holocaust museum in response to a reporter's question, the museum released a statement saying: "We never forced anyone to come to Yad Vashem. Thousands visit to the museum daily of their own accord. Jeff Goldblum personally asked to be given an in-depth tour of the museum, and stayed for over four hours. At the end of the tour, he even asked for help doing research to prepare for his role in the film. We regret Kaniuk's choice of words, and invite him to visit also."

After the uproar stirred up by Kaniuk's comments, the author clarified: "I am sorry if anyone was hurt by what I said. My intention was to say that for many years I have had the feeling that a media spectacle is being made out of the most horrific of things. The comments, which were entirely my own opinion, simply slipped out. It is clear that Yad Vashem is an instructive institution of enormous importance. I myself visited dozens of times. I was also not referring to Jeff Goldblum's visit to the museum, which was personal and was done without newspapers and cameramen.

"My opposition was aimed at the protocol that has been created, which dictates

(Continued on page 14)

YAD VASHEM SLAMS BRITISH MP FOR NAZI COMPARISON

BY ETGAR LEFKOVITS

In an unusually harsh condemnation, Yad Vashem blasted as "grossly illegitimate" and "malicious demagoguery" a comparison made by a veteran British parliamentarian between Israel's offensive against the Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Nazi's extermination of the Jews during the Holocaust.

"Whereas it is legitimate to disagree with Israeli policies and actions, it is grossly illegitimate and malicious to compare them to the most evil and massive crime in modern history in order to heighten the disagreement," a Yad Vashem spokesperson said in a statement.

Sir Peter Tapsell, a Tory MP, said that British Prime Minister Tony Blair was "colluding" with US President George W. Bush in giving Israel the okay to wage "unlimited war" in Lebanon, a "war crime" he claimed was "gravely reminiscent of the Nazi atrocity on the Jewish quarter of Warsaw."

"Tapsell's remarks, and indeed, similar comparisons between Israel and the Nazis, illustrate a woeful ignorance of history and a warped sense of perspective," a spokesperson for Israel's Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority said.

"Yad Vashem urges all people to keep the Holocaust out of cheap political exploitation and demagoguery. Such use of the Holocaust misrepresents both today's reality as well as that of the Shoah, distorts historical facts and context, and diminishes the memory of the Holocaust's victims and events," the Yad Vashem spokesperson said.

After the Nazi invasion of Poland in 1939, more than 450,000 Jews from Warsaw and its environs were forced into the squalid confines of the Warsaw Ghetto.

By July 1942, nearly 100,000 people had died there of disease, cold and starvation.

Beginning that summer, 300,000 Jews were deported from the ghetto to death camps throughout Poland, 265,000 of them to Treblinka. In 1943, the Ghetto was completely demolished, following the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, with nearly all of the remaining Jews killed by the Nazis. Blair has faced withering criticism in the UK for his staunch support for US policy in the Middle East, which clash with the traditional British support for the Arab world dating back to Colonial times, a worldview which is still strongly maintained in the British Foreign Office.

HUNGARY'S HOLOCAUST MUSEUM TO INAUGURATE PERMANENT EXHIBIT

A permanent exhibition at Budapest's Holocaust Memorial Center illustrates how Hungarian political and religious leaders helped lay the groundwork for the persecution of Jews in the decades before the Holocaust.

The exhibit goes beyond the Holocaust deaths of the 550,000 Hungarian Jews and 50,000 Roma killed by the Nazis during World War II by illustrating the oppression Jews faced even in the 1920s and 1930s.

By touching upon the role Hungarians played in facilitating the Holocaust – instead of simply blaming the Nazis – the collection is expected to cause controversy.

"The exhibit examines the relationship between the state and the citizens," said exhibit director Judit Molnar. "It shows how Jews were first deprived of their basic rights, and over the years of their possessions, freedom, human dignity and, finally, their lives."

The display titled "From Deprivation of Rights to Genocide" includes personal belongings of Holocaust victims, short films, photographs and interactive features, both in Hungarian and English.

Hungary first passed laws limiting Jews' rights in 1920 and by 1938, they were declared second-class citizens as Hungary sought to "curb the expansionist moves of Jews in public life and the economy," according to one of the displays.

While the exhibit points out the general responsibility of Hungary's post-World War I political, intellectual and social elite in the "ideological preparation" of the Holocaust, it also highlights some of the individuals it considers at fault.

A picture of Catholic Bishop Ottokar Prohaszka – who died in 1927 and is considered by Hungarian Catholics as one of the most distinguished church figures of the 20th century – bears the caption: "Leading figure of conservative anti-Semitic ideology," without further details.

In a country like Hungary, where numerous historical events – both ancient and recent – are just starting to be comprehensively investigated and discussed publicly, naming names is a guaranteed lighting rod for tension.

The exhibit also includes detailed histories of several Jewish and Roma families and how the Holocaust affected them, a haunting depiction of how normality was destroyed.

Other displays deal with the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp – where a third of the victims were from Hungary; the aftermath of the Holocaust and its survivors; Gentiles who saved Jews, and Hungary's 1944 occupation by Germany, which ended the Jews' relative safety here.

Despite the restrictive "Jewish laws" and the WWII alliance with Germany, Hungarian authorities managed to block Nazi demands for the Jews' deportation until German troops occupied Hungary in March 1944. Then, more than 400,000 countryside Jews were sent to concentration camps in just 56 days.

In 1910, Hungary's 910,000 Jews made up 5 percent of the population. More than a fifth of Budapest's population of 880,000. Today, around 100,000 Jews are believed to live in Hungary, which now has a population of 10 million.

(source: Associated Press)

YAD VASHEM MOURNS THE PASSING OF JUDITH WILF

The Officers, Board of Directors, and Staff of American and International Societies for Yad Vashem mourn the passing of Judith Wilf, beloved wife of the late Harry z'l, mother of Leonard and Beth Wilf, grandmother of Orin (Lisa), Halle, Jenna and Harrison and great-grandmother of Harley and Alex. Judith passed away on June 29th, 2006. She will be remembered as a renowned business leader, philanthropist, and treasured friend.



Judith Wilf was born in Poland, the 5th of seven children. Her parents, Deborah and Leon, moved the family to Tarnow when Judith was a small child. Judith attended a Polish public school and a Bais Yaakov school for her Hebrew education. Judith was a member of the Hanoar Hazoni youth organization during her early years.

She spent the war years engaged in hard labor in Siberia and Uzbekistan. When she returned to Poland following the war, she discovered that it had become a graveyard for her family and millions of fellow Jews.

Judith met her future husband, Harry Wilf, in Uzbekistan and they were married in 1946 in Valdenburg. Harry's family also fled their hometown of Jaroslaw in Poland at the outbreak of the war. In years of their marriage, before entering the business world, Harry was a teacher

to the many refugee children whose education was interrupted by the war.

Their hardship during the war instilled in Judith and Harry Wilf a commitment to Klal Yisrael that translated to providing support for cultural, education and health care services in the United States and Israel. Passionate Zionists, their imprint on the growth of the State of Israel is prevalent throughout the country. Harry, a founding member of the American and International Societies for Yad Vashem, was a leading light in the organization until his death in 1992.

Harry and his brother Joseph were founding partners in Garden Homes Management Corporation, a real estate development, building and management company located in Short Hills, NJ.

The Harry and Joseph Wilf families are major donors of the New Historical Museum at Yad Vashem.

True to her family tradition, Judith Wilf took a great personal interest in Jewish endeavors, especially in the cause of remembrance. She was a National Vice Chair of the American Society for Yad Vashem. She was also active with many other American and Israeli institutions.

Former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made a special presentation to Judith Wilf at the Knesset in Israel in 1998 in recognition of her outstanding support of the health care needs of the people of Jerusalem.

Judith Wilf was the Guest of Honor at the American and International Societies for Yad Vashem Annual Tribute Dinner in the year 2000 where she received a Yad Vashem Remembrance Award.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes to the entire Wilf family.

IN PURSUIT OF THE DESK MURDERERS

BY BRUCE EDWARDS

If not for a chance encounter at a Paris Metro station, history probably would have forgotten the likes of Kurt Lischka, Maurice Papon and Klaus Barbie. They would have continued to live out their lives after the war in relative obscurity, their past crimes an ever-fading memory. But when a young German-born au pair bumped into a University of Paris political science student on that subway platform one day in 1960, the course of history changed. And for men like Lischka, Barbie and numerous others, the pair would become their worst nightmare.

For nearly 40 years, Beate and Serge Klarsfeld have dedicated their lives to tracking down those who were major cogs in the Nazi killing machine and "the Final Solution", the annihilation of the Jews of Europe during World War II. While their better-known counterpart, the late Simon Wiesenthal, focused much of his efforts on those who ran the infamous death camps, like Auschwitz and Buchenwald, the French couple have gone after what Beate Klarsfeld calls the "desk murderers," those who signed the orders and those who collaborated with their Nazi masters to arrest and deport Jews to a certain death. For her indefatigable pursuit of such war criminals, Beate has twice been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Seated in a slightly worn upholstered leather chair in her large fifth-floor office on the *Rue Boetie*, not far from the *Champs Elysees*, Beate Klarsfeld is surrounded by ceiling-high bookcases with shelves neatly stacked with file folders

of different colors, microfilm and books on the Holocaust and its perpetrators.

The collection represents a Nazi-hunting career that has taken her and her husband to almost every corner of the globe and to some not so hospitable places like Syria, Chile and Paraguay. It



Beate and Serge Klarsfeld

has not been an easy job tracking down those who disappeared after the war to take up lives of respectability. Their task was made more difficult because the Cold War was the focus, and ex-Nazis were seen as a good investment by the United States and its allies in the fight against communism. There was little interest, Klarsfeld says, in rehashing the past and bringing those who "followed orders" to justice. But as a German, and a Christian married to a Jew whose father died at the hands of the Nazis, Klarsfeld says she became acutely aware of the crimes committed by her countrymen.

For Serge Klarsfeld, his epiphany came when he visited Auschwitz in 1960, the place where his father, Arno, was murdered. It was then that he realized that he should follow the lead of Beate, and that those who were responsible for mass murder on an unprecedented scale should be held to account.

And while others may have wanted to forget the past, the Klarsfelds were determined to draw attention to their efforts to bring the former Nazis to justice. That often meant very public displays of protest, risking arrest or worse.

In 1966, Klarsfeld says she was fired from her job at the Franco-German Alliance for Youth after she wrote a newspaper article accusing the new German chancellor, Kurt-Georg Kiesinger,

of hiding his past as a key figure in the Nazi Ministry of Propaganda under Josef Goebbels.

"I can tell you, in the very beginning when I started my campaign against Kiesinger, I was dreadfully alone," she recalled.

Refusing to give up, Klarsfeld organized a campaign in Germany to oust Kiesinger, who was seeking reelection. Disguised as a reporter, she gained entry to Kiesinger's Christian Democratic Union party congress meeting. What took place next made Klarsfeld a force to be reckoned with in the ensuing years.

Klarsfeld confronted Kiesinger with shouts of "Nazi, Nazi" and slapped his face, bringing the German chancellor's wartime past into the public spotlight.

Recalling that incident nearly 40 years ago, Klarsfeld says resorting to dramatic acts of protest was the only way to draw attention to their cause.

Klarsfeld was arrested on the spot but received a suspended, one-year jail sentence. Undeterred, she continued her public campaign against Kiesinger who didn't survive "the slap" heard around Germany. He lost the 1968 election to then-mayor of Berlin, Willy Brandt. Kiesinger was the first in a long line of ex-Nazis forced to confront the Klarsfelds and their pit bull-like tactics. Others targeted by the pair were Kurt Lischka, Gestapo chief for Jewish affairs in France, and one of those responsible for arranging deportations to the death camps.

In 1970, the Klarsfelds hatched a plot to kidnap Lischka from his home in Germany and return him to France for trial, but the plan failed. The Klarsfelds, however, didn't give up.

In 1972, Beate led a group of protestors into Lischka's Cologne office. Lischka, according to Beate, pulled out a handgun and threatened them. Some time later, Serge returned the favor by confronting Lischka on the street and sticking an unloaded gun in his face before walking away.

Lischka, however, couldn't escape his past. After Germany ratified a treaty allowing for the prosecution in Germany of war crimes committed in France, Lischka and two other former SS men were tried in 1979 for their crimes, convicted and given

(Continued on page 14)

PALESTINIANS ADMIRING FUHRER

BY YAAKOV LAPPIN

Historical documents in Britain's National Archives in London show that Nazi Germany attempted to ship arms to Palestinian forces in the 1930s.

A British Foreign Office report from 1939 reports of "news of a consignment of arms from Germany, sent via Turkey and addressed to Ibn Saud (king of Saudi Arabia), but really intended for the Palestine insurgents." Britain's chief military officer in Mandatory Palestine also noted reports "regarding import of German arms at intervals for some years now."

British documents from the same period, and German records photographed by an American spy and sent to the British government, said that a number of Nazi agents were sent to Mandatory Palestine, in order to forge alliances with Palestinian leaders, and urge them to reject a partition of the land between the Jewish and Arab populations.

One Nazi agent, Adam Vollhardt, arrived in Palestine in July 1938, and was reported to have gained strong influence with Arab leaders, meeting with Palestinian leaders throughout 1938. Vollhardt held several meetings with leading Arab politicians and told them "that the Palestine question would be settled to the satisfaction of the Arabs within a few weeks," adding that "it would be fatal to their (Palestinians) cause if at this juncture they showed any signs of weakness or exhaustion."

"Germany was interested in the settlement of the (Palestine) question on the basis of the Arabs obtaining their full demands," Vollhardt was reported to say to Palestinian leaders, according to a report by the British War Office. Vollhardt also assured Arab leaders that "the Germans could continue to support the Palestinian Arab cause by means of propaganda."

German documents photographed and sent to Whitehall by an American spy revealed that in 1937, German officials had calculated that "Palestine under Arab rule would... become one of the few countries where we could count on a strong sympathy for the new Germany."

'ARABS ADMIRE OUR FUHRER'

"The Palestinian Arabs show on all levels a great sympathy for the new Germany and its Fuhrer, a sympathy whose value is particularly high, as it is based on a purely ideological foundation," a Nazi official in Palestine wrote in a letter to Berlin in 1937. He added: "Most impor-

tant for the sympathies which Arabs now feel towards Germany is their admiration for our Fuhrer, especially during the unrests, I often had an opportunity to see how far these sympathies extend. When faced with a dangerous behavior of an Arab mass, when one said that one was

German, this was already generally a free pass."

A second Nazi agent, Dr. Franz Reichart, was reported to be actively working with Palestinian Arabs by the British Criminal Investigation Division "to help coordinate Arab and German propaganda."

Reichart was also head of the German Telegraphic Agency in Jerusalem.

German records show that the Nazis viewed the establishment of a Jewish state with great concern. A 1937 report from German General Consulate in Palestine said: "The formation of a Jewish state... is not in Germany's interest because a (Jewish) Palestinian state would create additional national power bases for international Jewry such, as for example, the Vatican State for political Catholicism or Moscow for the Communists. Therefore, there is a

German interest in strengthening the Arabs as a counterweight against such possible power growth of the Jews."

JEWISH REFUGEES ABANDONED

The records also show that the news of increased Nazi-Arab cooperation panicked the British government, and caused it to cancel a plan in 1938 to bring to Palestine 20,000 German Jewish refugees, half of them children, facing danger from the Nazis.

Documents show that after deciding that the move would upset Arab opinion, Britain decided to abandon the Jewish refugees to their fate.

"His Majesty's Government asked His Majesty's Representatives in Cairo, Baghdad and Jeddah whether, so far as they could judge, feelings in Egypt, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia against the admission of, say 5,000 Jewish children for adoption... would be so strong as to lead to a refusal to send representatives to the London discussions. All three replies were strongly against the proposal, which was not proceeded with," a Foreign Office report said.

"If war were to break out, no trouble that the Jews could occasion us, in Palestine or elsewhere, could weigh for a moment against the importance of winning Muslim opinion to our side," Britain's Minister for Coordination of Defense, Lord Chatfield, told the British cabinet in 1939, shortly before Britain reversed its decision to partition its mandate, promising instead all of the land to the Palestinian Arabs.

NAZI'S DAUGHTER AND VICTIM MEET IN NEW DOCUMENTARY

BY TOM TUGEND

Monika Hertwig was 1 when her father was hanged as a war criminal in 1946.

Amon Goeth, memorably portrayed by Ralph Fiennes in Steven Spielberg's movie "Schindler's List," was the SS commandant of the Plaszow forced labor and concentration camp, who relaxed by shooting inmates from the balcony of his villa.

Helen Jonas-Rosenzweig, then 17, was picked among the prisoners as Goeth's maid and was terrorized by him for two years. She survived, thanks to Oskar Schindler, and lives in the United States.

Now, more than 60 years later, the two women are the unlikely protagonists of "Inheritance: A Legacy of Hatred and the Journey to Change It."

Their first meeting in the documentary is memorable. They stand, holding hands, in front of the Plaszow memorial stone, which recalls the brutality of one woman's father and the suffering of the other.

Later, they visit Goeth's villa and Jonas-Rosenzweig, who is Jewish, demonstrates how she breathlessly rushed up the stairs, two steps at a time, to answer the call of her master, who regularly slapped her face for imaginary infractions.

The reign of Goeth, dubbed the "Emperor of Plaszow," is recalled in old photos and film snippets.

In 1946, he was condemned in Poland to death by hanging and a Polish cameraman filmed the event.

Until she was 13, Hertwig believed that her father had died as a war hero and said she was devastated when she learned the truth.

"Inheritance" is the creation of James Moll, a longtime Spielberg associate and a founding director of the Shoah Foundation.

Moll was producing additional material for the "Schindler's List" DVD, he recalled in an interview, and needed permission to use some photos of Goeth. "I tracked down Monika, called her on the phone, and the first thing she said was 'I am not like my father,'" said Moll, now president of Allentown Productions.

"It struck me then that one side of the Holocaust that has never been explored was the impact on the children, grandchildren and even great-grandchildren of the perpetrators."

Hertwig had been told by her mother about the Jewish maid in the Goeth household, and told Moll she would like to talk to her. Jonas-Rosenzweig was reluctant to meet the daughter of the man she had served, but eventually agreed.

Hertwig, 60, is now educating German children, including her grandson David, about the Holocaust.

"This is my work," she says. "You can't change the past, but maybe you can do something about the future."

First published by JTA



Holocaust survivor Helen Jonas-Rosenzweig, left, meets Monika Hertwig at the Plaszow concentration camp memorial.



Nazi Germany shown 'great sympathy' by Palestinians, documents say

FILM SHOWS SUFFERING OF JEWS BRITAIN SENT TO OUTBACK EXILE

BY KATE CONNOLLY

The horror experienced by Jewish and anti-Nazi outcasts shipped to the Australian Outback by the British Government during the war has been documented in a new film that highlights the darker side of Britain's fight against Nazi Germany.

The men, mainly scientists, academics and artists who had fled to Britain from Nazi Austria and Germany at the outbreak of the war, were considered a security threat after the fall of France.

On the orders of Winston Churchill, they were dispatched from Liverpool on the Hired Military Transport (HMT) ship *Dunera* in July 1940.

Their arrival in Australia – after a 57-day journey in appalling conditions – was seen as the greatest injection of talent to enter Australia on a single vessel.

They were taken to a detention camp in the Outback, where they set up an impromptu university to pass the time.

Among the passengers were Franz Stampfl, the athletics coach to the four-minute-mile runner Roger Bannister, Wolf Klaphake, the inventor of synthetic camphor, and the photographer Henry Talbot.

John Burgan, 44, the director of *Friendly Enemy Alien*, said he made the film to illustrate that, while refugees are often seen as a burden, they contribute a lot to the countries in which they settle.

"Refugees are invariably unwanted and unloved when they arrive, but being at the bottom of the heap, they knuckle down and make the best of the chance they've been given, to become an asset to their adopted country," said Mr Burgan.

"Nowhere is that better illustrated than with the story of the *Dunera* boys, many of

whom had lost everything in the Holocaust. They made the best of what they had."

When the overcrowded *Dunera* set sail from Liverpool, its 2,500 internees were told they were bound for Canada.

Watched over by 309 poorly trained British soldiers, the men endured horrendous conditions. They were stripped of their personal possessions. They were beaten and insulted as "Jewish swine" and forced to sleep below deck on floors awash with human waste. The hatches and portholes were battened shut.

"There was so little air that to get the job of peeling potatoes on deck was seen as a life-saver," said Walter Kaufmann, 82, a Jewish refugee now living in Berlin whose book *Touching Time* details the *Dunera* experience.

Klaus Wilczynski, 86, author of *The Prison Ship*, recalled being told to walk on the deck in bare feet. "Soldiers had smashed beer bottles so people cut their feet."

Mr Burgan said the story was well-known in Australia. But it is still under embargo by Britain's Official Secrets Act until 2040.

The medical army officer Alan Frost, who was the first Australian to go on board when the *Dunera* docked at Sydney's Darling Harbour, was appalled by the conditions.

His report led to the court-martial of the officer-in-charge, Lt Colonel William Scott.

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbour, the men were reclassified as "friendly aliens," and hundreds were recruited into the Australian army. After the war most stayed in Australia.

First published in *The Daily Telegraph*

FILES UNCOVER NAZIS' TRAIL OF DEATH

(Continued from page 5)

a Jewish "race defiler." She was sent to Ravensbrueck concentration camp, disappearing into the maw of the Holocaust.

But she didn't disappear entirely: If nothing else, interrogation sheet No II-H-537 — a form stashed in a long-forgotten manila folder — gives evidence that Elisabeth was a woman who once lived, laughed, and loved.

"The files are a kind of rescue from total anonymity," Jost said. "Her story is at least known."

As the Allies closed on Germany, SS troops often tried to obliterate damning documents. At the Gross-Rosen concentration camp in present-day Poland, for example, death lists were destroyed. But the SS saw no danger in leaving behind "delousing" records — scraps of pink paper that detailed how many lice were removed from the head of each prisoner.

Inmate No. 87986 in Camp Block 8, had a single louse plucked from his scalp on Jan. 14, 1945.

Decades later, seeking to prove that he had indeed been an inmate of the camp, the man turned to the Red Cross, which discovered that single mention of his name among the millions on file.

"It was enough," Jost said. "Because one louse was found on his head, this man could prove he was a victim and may be entitled to compensation."

The Bad Arolsen records deal mainly with concentration camps and slave laborers, who were often Jews, but also included citizens from every country conquered by the Third Reich.

There is a Russian slave laborer killed on Sept. 14, 1943, at 4:25 p.m. while "defusing dud bombs" dropped by Allies

on the center of Kalkum. There is a Jewish businessman named Aaron from the Dutch city of Rotterdam, whose records indicate good health when he was admitted to a camp in 1943, but who died weeks later of "collapse of the heart, loss of blood circulation, fractured limbs" — almost certainly the victim of torture. There is a woman named Katrina, from the French border region, who was arrested by the Gestapo "for complaining she was involuntarily sterilized by authorities after giving birth to a colored bastard."

The Red Cross will continue managing the archives and also continue its mission of fleshing out the fates of Nazi victims.

"Many times, these are people who know only that they were seized by the Germans and forced to labor. They remember their inmate number, the name of their camp, but nothing else — not even where, precisely, they had been held," Jost said.

As an example, he showed the documents of Jelena, a Ukrainian woman pressed into industrial labor in Germany in 1942.

"We were finally able to discover her details from files of a camp outside Berlin," he said. "She worked in a factory making telephone parts for Siemens. When liberation came, she just wanted to go home. But all these years later, she is asking, 'What was it that happened to me? Where did they take me? Why did I suffer?'"

"These files cannot replace stolen lives or stolen years," Jost said. "But they can fill in some of the awful blank areas."

First published in *The Boston Globe*

A TALE OF TWO STORIES ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM

BY JEFF JACOBY

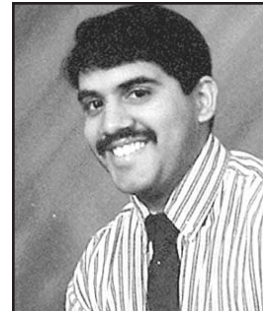
Two incidents occurred on July 28. Both took place on the West Coast; both involved an American venting his hostility to Jews. But only one of them became, in the days that followed, the big national story about anti-Semitism. The other was treated as a serious but local matter, and drew only modest coverage around the country.

Incident A involved a guy spewing crude anti-Semitic slurs when he was arrested for drunk driving; after sobering up, he publicly and profusely apologized. Incident B involved a Muslim gunman's premeditated assault on a prominent Jewish institution; his attack left one woman dead and sent five to the hospital, three of them in critical condition.

Which would you say was the bigger story?

Unless you've spent the past several months submersed in the Mariana Trench, you know that the intoxicated driver in Incident A was Hollywood's Mel Gibson, who railed at a Los Angeles County police officer about the "[expletive] Jews" and how "the Jews are responsible for all the wars in the world." The story was soon everywhere. In the first six days after his arrest, the media database Nexis logged 888 stories mentioning "Mel Gibson" and "Jews." And that didn't include the countless websites, talk shows, and smaller publications that also took it up.

By any rational calculus, Incident B was far more significant. According to police and eyewitness reports, the killer forced his way into the offices of the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle by holding a gun to the head of a 13-year-old girl. Once inside, Naveed Haq announced, "I am a Muslim American, angry at Israel," and opened fire with two semi-automatic pistols. P a m Waechter died on the spot; five other women were shot in the abdomen, knee, or arm.



When one of the women managed to call 911, Haq took the phone and told the dispatcher: "These are Jews and I'm tired of getting pushed around and our people getting pushed around by the situation in the Middle East."

At a time when jihadist murder is a global threat and some of the most malevolent figures in the Islamic world — Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Hezbollah chieftain Hassan Nasrallah, to name just two — openly incite violence against Americans and Jews, the attack in Seattle should have been a huge story everywhere. Yet, after six days, a Nexis search turned up only 236 stories mentioned. (Continued on page 15)

THE HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS' MEMOIRS

(Continued from page 4)

Jewish Week has called a "distinguished series," is *Fighting for Survival*, by E.H. (Dan) Kampelmacher, the story of an eighteen-year-old boy who left his family and fled his native Vienna to Holland where, as an illegal refugee, he was imprisoned in the state prison at Veenhuizen and wrote a diary relating his experiences. The book goes on to tell of his survival during the war working on Dutch farms, acquiring forged documents from the underground, and hiding in a Dutch woman's home in Utrecht from late 1942 onward.

By the Grace of Strangers, Two Boys' Rescue During the Holocaust, consists of two memoirs. Reaching the Light at the End of the Tunnel, a rare insight into the Holocaust experience in Bulgaria, is Norbert J. Yasharoff's account of how, as an eleven-year-old youth, he was forced to move with his family into the Sofia ghetto, an experience that inspired him to express himself through poetry. The family was later evicted to Pleven, and after the war, they lived under Communist rule in Sofia. The other memoir in this book, *Seeds of Grace: The Diary of Gabriel Mermall*, relates the story of Gabor Mermelstein as a slave laborer in the Hungarian military's Labor Service, and his rescue in 1944, together with his young son. Unable to rescue his wife, who was deported to Auschwitz, Gabor hid with his son in the Ruthenian forests, aided by a poor Hungarian lumberjack who generously supplied them with food for more than six months, and ultimately hid them in his hayloft.

Guarded by Angels, How My Father and Uncle Survived Hitler and Cheated Stalin, by Alan Elsner, is the dramatic story of two

young Jews who were forced to flee their home in southern Poland in 1939, only to be arrested by Soviet authorities in Lwow the following year and transported to labor camps north of the Arctic Circle. Released after 18 months, they traveled thousands of miles across the Soviet Union, passing through Central Asia, before finding refuge in a Cossack village in the Caucasus, surviving six months of Nazi occupation, and participating in the Soviet advance through Poland and into Germany as draftees in a Polish brigade of the Red Army.

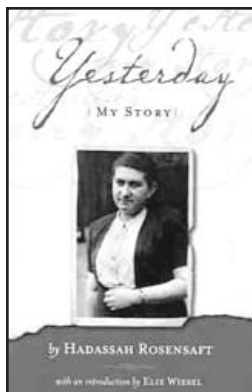
In *Yesterday: My Story*, Hadassah Rosensaft describes her last moments with her five-and-a-half year old son at Auschwitz-Birkenau, how she and a group of fellow inmates kept 149 Jewish children alive in Bergen-Belsen under unspeakable conditions, her historic testimony at the first trial of Nazi war criminals, and her experiences as one of the leaders of the survivors in the Bergen-Belsen Displaced Persons camp.

In *Days of Rain*, Enzo Tayar chronicles how the tranquility of his Florence boyhood was replaced by fear and uncertainty as Italy instituted increasingly severe anti-Jewish measures and the Germans invaded their former ally. Drawing on the diary he kept for the pivotal year 1943, he describes his escape from Florence and his finding refuge on a succession of

farms throughout Tuscany.

Among the memoirs that have been accepted for publication by the Project and Yad Vashem are *On the Fields of Loneliness*, by Hersch C. Altman, the autobiography of a 12-year-old boy who, after surviving the destruction of his home and town, and the murders of his parents and sisters, managed to survive in barns, forests, fields and attics; the as yet untitled memoirs/diaries of Marek (Moty) Stromer, written in April and May of 1944 in hiding, in which the author describes his experiences in the Lemberg (Lwow) ghetto and beyond; the memoirs of Ruth Wachner Pagirsky, who was evicted with her family from Germany to Poland in 1938, and eventually survived more than two years under a false identity as a Polish forced laborer on a farm in Germany; and the memoirs of two survivors of Treblinka, Israel Cymlich and Oskar Strawczynski, a Jewish woman saved by Christians in Belgium, Flora Singer; and a Danish survivor of Theresienstadt, Elias Levin.

The books published by the Holocaust Survivors' Memoirs Project are a critical resource for rabbis, educators, historians and all who seek to explore and understand the Jewish people's tragic recent past. Their rightful place is on the shelves of all libraries, Jewish and secular alike. Our goal is to have these memoirs integrated into high school, university and adult education curricula, so as to provide both the Jewish victims of the Holocaust and the survivors with the dignity of a permanent historical presence, not as impersonal statistics, but as individual protagonists with names, voices and emotions. They are available on Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com.



HOLOCAUST MUSEUM CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

Nearly 700 guests and speakers braved rain in Skokie June 22 to witness an official start to the new Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center.

As part of the sod-turning, organizers buried a milk can containing memories of about 30 Chicago-area Holocaust survivors on the site. That replicated an operation, code-named *Oyneg Shabbos*, or "Joy of Sabbath," by Polish Jews during World War II in which a group led by Emanuel Ringelblum buried three milk cans containing papers chronicling Jewish life during the Holocaust in a Warsaw ghetto. Ringelblum was executed in 1944, but two of the cans were discovered years later.

The new edifice will have roughly 43,000 square feet on a 2-acre site and will include exhibit space, classrooms and a 270-seat auditorium.

Among artifacts scheduled to be displayed when the new building opens are a Torah scroll rescued from a burning synagogue on *Kristallnacht*, a forged ID card from a member of the Jewish Underground and a blanket used to hide a child smuggled out of a ghetto. Other artifacts include:

Yellow star, required to be worn by all Jews.

Uniform worn by a concentration camp inmate.

Brick from a gas chamber at Auschwitz.

Foundation officials expect the new site to attract 132,000 student visitors annually, 110,000 more than the 22,000 who have visited the Main Street museum annually. Harris said the museum's educational importance extends beyond children and students.

'ZION' IS AN EYE-OPENER ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM

BY JOHN DOUGLAS

I am continually amazed at what some people believe.

There apparently are people out there who believe there were no Jews in the World Trade Center when the terrorist attack occurred on Sept. 11, 2001. It seems they were warned of the attack and stayed home that day.

Can you imagine anyone stupid enough to really believe that? Is there no story so ridiculous that it would be rejected by all who hear it? Apparently not, because we meet people in "Protocols of Zion" who are convinced those of the Jewish faith were sitting at home watching "Good Morning America" when America was attacked in New York. A lot of this drivel comes from members of the more fundamental religions here and abroad.

"Protocols of Zion" is a documentary that takes a look at this particular conspiracy theory. It also weaves in the belief some people have concerning "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion," writings that were supposed to have survived for centuries and are used as a reason to suspect Jews of all sorts of horrid activities, including using the blood of non-Jewish children for rituals. The writings,

which were created about a hundred years ago, pretty much give warning that Jews are going to take over the world.

Filmmaker Marc Levin travels around, interviewing representatives of various factions about their feelings concerning the World Trade Center theory and "The Protocols." It is obvious from what he reveals that hate is still on the march all over the world.

"The Protocols of Zion" is by no means a perfect film. It tends to wander around its various subjects. And there also has to be a darn good reason for filmmakers to insert themselves into a work, as Levin has done. He was constantly getting in front of the camera to give his take on the issues. The case was never made for why Levin was an element in the film.

In spite of this serious shortcoming, plenty of good information is dispensed here that you can shuffle any way you want. I was unaware of the World Trade Center conspiracy theory and the existence of "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion," and I am glad to have been introduced to them.

The positives of this sometimes jaw-dropping film definitely outweigh the negatives.

First published in *The Grand Rapids Press*

YORAM KANIUK APOLOGIZED TO YAD VASHEM

(Continued from page 10)

that every official visitor to Israel must stop at the Western Wall then immediately go to Yad Vashem to be impressed by the horrors. A visit there should not be out of duty or obligation," Kaniuk said.

GOLDBLUM: 'MOST MOVING EXPERIENCE'

Goldblum, who was unintentionally swept up in the sensitive situation, told *Ynet* that his visit to Yad Vashem was one of the strongest and most emotional experiences of his life. "The power of the place is enormous," he said. He added that the guides and staff of the museum were incredibly generous and during the four-hour tour, "told me stories I had never heard before about that terri-



Jeff Goldblum at Yad Vashem

ble time." He said he visited the museum's audio-visual center, which was very helpful to him in researching the role he is to play in the film.

Speaking of his guide, Dana, Goldblum said her devotion to the subject and her involvement in the site were simply admirable. He described his visit as "very moving" and "a total knockout," and noted that he was impatiently awaiting a second,

even more in-depth visit.

"I cried from the moment I walked in and watched the movie that showed what life was like and what it turned into," Goldblum said. When I stepped out of there and into

Jerusalem's amazing landscape, I knew I would never forget this moment, he said.

First published on *ynetnews.com*

IN PURSUIT OF THE DESK MURDERERS

(Continued from page 11)

But to this day, the Klarsfeld's most famous catch was the former Gestapo chief in Lyon. Klaus Barbie was nicknamed the "Butcher of Lyon" for his countless atrocities, including the brutal torture and death of French Resistance leader Jean Moulin. But Barbie's trial focused on his deportation of 44 children from a children's home in the hamlet of Izieu to Auschwitz. They never returned.

Barbie would not have escaped justice for decades without the help of the Central Intelligence Agency, who used him after the war as an anti-communist expert. "When the Cold War started, the thought was to fight against communism, so all these Nazi criminals were anti-communists so they were used," Klarsfeld says. "Barbie was used by the secret service of the United States and the French had theirs and the British had theirs." The Klarsfelds eventually tracked Barbie to Bolivia where he was living under an assumed name and protected for years by the right-wing government in power. In 1983, with a change in government, he was finally returned to France.

At Barbie's trial four years later, Serge Klarsfeld was one of the more than three dozen lawyers representing the victims. The evidence of Barbie's involvement in the Izieu roundup was gathered by Serge and helped seal the former Gestapo chief's fate. Barbie was convicted and given a life sentence. He died in prison.

The Klarsfelds' crusade to hold war criminals to account has not been without peril. The couple has been arrested on numerous occasions, deported from countries unsympathetic to their cause and often receive death threats.

"It's still the generation of Germans who voted for Hitler," she says, noting her father had died before she embarked on her career.

Sixty years after the end of the war, there remains one Nazi fugitive on the Klarsfelds' list: former SS *Hauptsturmführer* Alois Brunner. The Austrian for a time was Adolph Eichmann's deputy, helping to arrange the deportation and murder of Europe's Jews, including 47,000 Jews from Austria and 43,000 from Greece. In 1943, Brunner was placed in charge of the Drancy transit camp near Paris where he deported 25,000 Jewish men, women and children to their deaths in 14 months.

For the couple, hunting Brunner has a very personal side. In 1943, it was

Brunner who commanded the SS units in Nice that arrested Serge Klarsfeld's father, Arno. He, like many others, would perish at a place called Auschwitz. Brunner disappeared after the war and, like Barbie, wound up working for a Western intelligence service (West Germany). The Klarsfelds finally tracked Brunner to Syria, where he apparently lived for years under the protection of the Syrian government.

Despite the efforts of France and Germany to seek Brunner's extradition, Syria has refused to even acknowledge his existence. Klarsfeld speculated that the Syrian government, under the iron-fisted rule of the late President Assad and now his son, regarded Brunner as an asset.

"When he came from Egypt to Syria he unmasked himself, they had known who he was — an enemy of the Jews with some advice to give," she says. "I think he worked in the arms business after the war, so he was very helpful to the Syrians." Brunner has twice been convicted in absentia in France, the last time in 2002, when he was sentenced to life in prison. Klarsfeld adds, however, that at 93 years of age, Brunner is likely dead. And while the couple are best known for their Nazi-hunting work, they have also spent much of their time ensuring that those who perished in the Holocaust are not forgotten.

The Beate Klarsfeld Foundation, established in the late 1970s, has funded Holocaust exhibits and published a number of books, including one researched by Serge Klarsfeld. "The Memorial to Jewish Children Deported from France" is a 1,550-page tome that meticulously details the lives of the Jewish children who never returned home.

They also founded the *Sons and Daughters of Jewish Deportees from France*, an organization which helps support the Klarsfelds' activities in France. In Rogliit, Israel, the pair were responsible for the creation of a memorial to the 80,000 French Jews who perished during the war. They also were instrumental in getting the French government to establish a pension fund for the orphans of the Holocaust.

The Klarsfelds' work has not gone unnoticed. Both have received numerous honors, including France's Legion of Honor and the Raoul Wallenberg Prize. The couple's work has also become a family affair. Their two children, Arno and Lida, both lawyers, have taken up the cause.

First published in *Times Argus*

MASSACHUSETTS COUPLE HONORED FOR SAVING JEWS DURING THE HOLOCAUST

(Continued from page 10)

travelers at a safe distance, so as to lessen the danger of his disclosure by the Spanish police, and the risk of his being returned to Vichy French hands.

The Fascist dictatorship in Spain, headed by Franco, was at the time considering aligning itself with Nazi Germany, and would certainly not have hesitated to hand over Leon Feuchtwanger to the Nazis if they had asked for him. Arriving safely in Lisbon, also at the time a near-Fascist country headed by Salazar, the Sharps arranged for the Feuchtwangers to quickly board a ship heading for New York, and they sailed at the end of September 1940. At the time, they were assured that the US government had allowed their entry into the United States. In 1976, Marta

Feuchtwanger gave a lengthy account of their escape from France with the assistance of Waitstill and Martha Sharp.

Having accomplished this, Martha Sharp returned to France, and journeyed to Vichy to plead for permits (*laissez-passer*) for a group of children — 9 of them Jewish — to leave the country, which she eventually received.

On November 26, 1940 this group left France, including the three Jewish Diamant sisters (Amalie, Evelyn and Marianne), and Eva Esther Feigl, all of whom, thanks to Martha Sharp's efforts, were armed with US visas.

Born in Vienna, Austria in 1926, Eva Feigl had fled with her parents in 1938, and arrived in France. Arrested as "enemy aliens," the Feigls desperately sought ways to leave the country. Luckily

for them, the Sharps were able to add Eva Esther to this group of children, and take her out of the country. Her parents stayed behind.

Mrs. Feigl lives in New York, and gave testimony of her timely rescue by the Sharp couple. After the war, Martha Sharp helped raise funds for *Hadassah*, the Women's Zionist Organization, and was active in helping Jewish children reach Israel under the Youth Aliyah program. In that capacity, in 1947 she journeyed to Morocco, and in 1951, to Iraq, to coordinate clandestine emigration possibilities for Jews desirous to leave for Israel. She died in 1999; Waitstill had passed away in 1984.

In light of the risks taken by the Sharps — first of being apprehended by the French authorities for helping

Leon Feuchtwanger, a fugitive from French law, to avoid arrest, coupled with the offense of bribing French border guards, and the equal risks of arrest while traveling incognito through Spain, a country leaning toward Nazi Germany, and keeping in mind the Sharps' meritorious assistance to other Jewish fugitives of Nazi terror — Yad Vashem decided on September 9, 2005 to confer upon the late Waitstill and Martha Sharp the title of Righteous Among the Nations. A medal and certificate of honor were presented to the Sharps' daughter, Martha Sharp Joukowsky, in a ceremony at Yad Vashem, on June 13, 2006, in the presence of a large audience, including members of the Sharp family, and Mrs. Eva Esther Feigl, one of the Jews rescued by the Sharps.

RECALLING NUREMBERG

(Continued from page 7)

stateless on an Army base where there are only soldiers and officers," he said. "What do you do with her?"

A young couple took her in, but Triest wanted to bring his grandmother back to Munich, her home. So he found a lieutenant's coat for her. She pulled the hood over her head, hiding her face, and got into Triest's Jeep. They drove to Munich.

"She drew salutes all the way," he said. From Czechoslovakia, Triest was assigned to Nuremberg. He had only four or five weeks remaining in his tour of duty. He knew very little about Nuremberg, only that some kind of trial was to take place there.

It was October 1945.

THE "BANALITY OF EVIL"

In Nuremberg, 22 defendants stood accused of crimes against humanity.

For Triest, justice was personal.

"From a former refugee who has lost his family, you are transferred to a prison that holds all the top murderers who are responsible not only for your family's murder but the whole war," he said. "That is a tremendous satisfaction."

A four-week assignment turned into a year.

The prisoners spent most of the day in court and returned to their cells about 3:00 p.m. A guard was assigned to each cell on a constant suicide watch. One defendant had already killed himself before the trial. At its conclusion, Goering cheated a death sentence by swallowing a fatal dose of cyanide.

Triest spent two to three hours a day with the prisoners. Usually, he accompanied the psychiatrists, mainly Goldensohn. On several occasions, he went in on his own. His mission was to collect as much information as possible.

Of the three psychiatrists, Goldensohn had the most effective style, Triest said. He spoke to the prisoners in German, rather than English.

"We would go in and talk to them about life," Triest said, "what they did and why they did it."

The psychiatrists wanted to learn about the nature of evil. They came away frustrated in having found no common source of mental perversion that had driven these men to commit unspeakable horrors. They were chilled by what political

philosopher Hannah Arendt later called the "banality of evil."

No one took responsibility for his actions, Triest said. They blamed Hitler, who was dead, and his deputy, Heinrich Himmler, also dead. It was convenient, Triest said, to blame the dead.

The prisoners complained to Goldensohn about their health problems. They had rheumatism, sties in their eyes and indigestion. Rudolf Hoess, commandant of Auschwitz, complained of cold feet.

"They were a lot colder when he was hanging," Triest said.

Streicher was the only obvious lunatic. It was easy to bait the virulent anti-Semite. Triest remembered a woman lieutenant, taunted Streicher by affixing paper dolls to a string noose and dangling them in his cell. This enraged

Streicher, who pulled his pants down and showed the lieutenant his rear end.

Streicher grew to trust Triest and gave him many of his papers. He always bragged about how he could tell if someone was Jewish by the way they walked, and praised Triest's "Nordic" appearance.

In his book, Goldensohn pegged Streicher as an "old psychopathic personality" expressing his inadequacy through "an obsessive preoccupation which for the past twenty years has filled the narrow stream of his life."

Some of those assigned to Nuremberg collected souvenirs to prove they'd been there — pens, insignia and trinkets. Triest wanted something more. He wanted to prove to his family that he'd seen the men responsible for their grief, that he'd deceived them and helped bring them to justice.

He combed local stores for books about the defendants or written by them. Some prisoners autographed the books. Some did more than scribble their names. Streicher autographed two books, "Hofjuden" and "Kampf dem Weltfeind." "Mr. Howard Triest in memory! Nuremberg, 13.12.45. Julius Streicher." Fritz Sauckel, the man responsible for

deporting forced laborers to Germany, signed a copy of "Europa arbeitet in Deutschland": "I believed to do good for my fatherland and I did my best."

Both were hanged.

RETURN TO MUNICH

After the trial, Triest returned to live in Munich for the first time since he fled the Nazis. Goldensohn came for a visit, and Triest showed him his hometown.

"Instead of being a persecuted person," he said, "I was the victor and they were the vanquished."

Triest was assigned to Office of Military Government for Bavaria. He took reports from smaller cities on what they were doing to hunt down Nazis.

Incredibly, no one seemed to be able to find any Nazis. Triest met peo-

ple who admitted to membership in the Nazi Party. But they all had known and protected Jews, they said. Like the Nuremberg prisoners, the people of Germany denied their guilt. Everyone was looking for an American friend for protection.

"I never had so many friends," Triest said. "They would tell you how good you were. How much they missed you. And by the way, could you possibly do them a favor?"

"JOURNEY TO JUSTICE"

As interest in World War II heightened with the 50th anniversary of the war's end, Triest's sons, Brent and Glenn, decided to make a documentary about their father. They found Steve Palackdharry, an award-winning public-television producer in the Detroit area.

Palackdharry travelled to Europe with Triest, his wife, Anita, and their sons. They found his family's old apartment in Munich, and the family who lived there welcomed them in.

Ursula Jung had always wondered about her apartment's former occupants. She listened to Triest's story with tears in her eyes. Ursula and her husband,

Andreas, often thought about the horrors perpetrated by the generation that came before them. They gave their children Jewish names, they explained in the film, so that they would be linked to a common humanity.

The Triests were impressed by the Jungs' empathy. When they first went to Europe in 1958, Anita Triest pictured every man of the right age in Nazi uniform. Now that has changed.

Ursula called Triest at his hotel later that night and said she'd found someone else who had lived in the apartment during the 1930s. When Triest and Palackdharry returned the next day, they found Hans Fischach, Triest's childhood friend who had joined the Hitler Youth and stopped speaking to him.

Triest had thought Fischach, who had gone to a Nazi school, was dead. He presumed they'd send him to the front lines after graduation.

"Now . . . this dead person was very much alive," he said. "He had no regrets. Everything you told him, he said, 'Oh this is terrible.' Then he went on to something else. It was not very different from talking to Goering. His explanation was the same."

Fischach brought yearbooks with him from his Nazi leadership school. He showed Triest photos of himself in his uniform. He'd been wounded in battle, he said. He appeared on television and radio programs now, he said.

Later, at home in Delray Beach, Anita and Howard Triest saw Fischach on a cable-television documentary about Nazi Germany.

"He was in it as someone who was very much involved with the SS," Anita Triest said. "He didn't mention the SS to us."

Palackdharry submitted the film, *Journey to Justice*, for consideration at several festivals.

The few who have seen the movie always ask Howard Triest the same question: "How can you, as a former Jewish boy from Munich who has lost his parents in the camps, sit in prison cells with these people and keep your cool?"

"My question was, what was I supposed to do? Pull a knife out and knife him? The cell opened for me after I was done, not them. They were tried. They were eventually hung."

First published in *Palm Beach Post*

A TALE OF TWO STORIES ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM

(Continued from page 13)

tioning Haq — one-fourth the number dealing with Gibson's drunken outburst. Why the disparity?

No doubt, part of the answer is that Gibson is a celebrity, and that "The Passion," his 2004 movie about the crucifixion, was criticized by many as a revival of the infamous anti-Semitic motif of Jews as Christ-killers. Gibson, who belongs to a traditionalist Catholic sect, was already suspected of harboring ill will toward Jews. His crude remarks on July 28 confirmed it, and pushed the subject back into the spotlight. But if previous behavior and religious belief explain the burst of interest in the Gibson story, they only deepen the question of why the Seattle bloodshed was played down. After all, Haq is not the first example of what scholar Daniel Pipes has called "Sudden Jihad Syndrome," in which a seemingly nonviolent Muslim erupts in a murderous rampage.

Just this year, for example, Mohammed Taheri-azar, a philosophy major at the

University of North Carolina, deliberately rammed a car into a crowd of students, saying he wanted to "avenge the death of Muslims around the world."

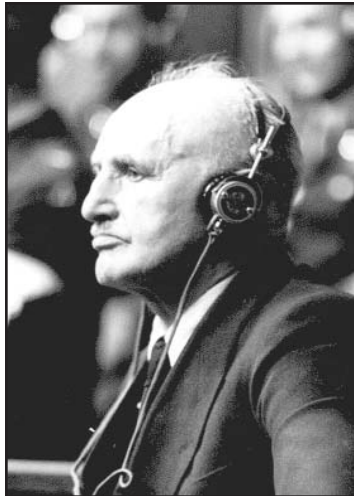
Michael Julius Ford opened fire in a Denver warehouse, killing one person and injuring five. "I don't know what happened to him yesterday," his sister Khali told the press. "He told me that Allah was going to make a choice and it was going to be good, and told me people at his job was making fun of his religion."

Other cases in recent years include Hasan Akbar a sergeant in the

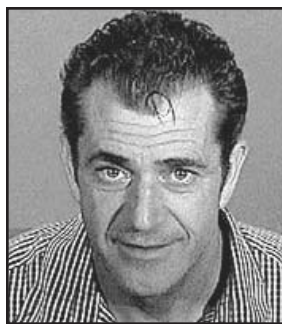
101st Airborne Division, who attacked his fellow soldiers at an American command center in Kuwait with grenades and rifle fire, killing one and wounding 15; Hesham Mohamed Ali Hadayet, who killed two people when he shot up the El Al ticket counter at the Los Angeles airport in 2002; and Ali Hasan Abu Kamal, who was carrying a note denouncing "Zionists" and others who "must be annihilated and exterminated" when he opened fire on the observation deck of the Empire State building.

If the Catholic Gibson's nonviolent bigotry is a legitimate subject of media scrutiny, all the more so is the animus that spurs Muslims like Haq and the others to jihadist murder. As The New York Sun asked the other day, how many more Haqs must erupt in a homicidal rage before we open our eyes "to the possibility that they are part of a war in which understanding the enemy is a prerequisite for victory?"

First published in *The Boston Globe*



Julius Streicher at the Nuremberg Trials.



This picture was taken by Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department on the night of Mel Gibson's arrest

YAD VASHEM MOURNS THE PASSING OF DR. CHARLES TANNEN

The American and International Societies for Yad Vashem mourn the passing away of Dr. Charles Tannen, a "builder" of Yad Vashem.

Very few people respond to a solicitation call and agree to make a significant commitment over the telephone. Dr. Charles Tannen was one of these few. In 2003 he became a "builder" of a new Yad Vashem's Museum.

His generosity is acknowledged on Yad Vashem donor's wall: "Paula and Dr. Charles Tannen, USA"

Dr. Charles Tannen, formerly Chaim Tannenapf, was born in Sadagora-Bukovina-Austria in 1909.

Paula, who passed away in 2002, was also from Bukovina and, together with her husband, they survived the Holocaust, working in the Ukrainian labor camp Hrinovca-Copaigorod.

Dr. Tannen is survived by a daughter, Beatrice and grandson, Joshua.



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