On January 29, the United Nations marked the annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust with an urgent appeal that the remembrance of the millions of Jews and others murdered by the Nazis serve to prevent new massacres, a rebuff for those who deny that the tragedy ever occurred, and moving testimony from survivors.

“The Holocaust was a unique and undeniable tragedy,” Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a video message played to a special memorial ceremony in the General Assembly Hall on the Holocaust in which 6 million Jews, 500,000 Roma and Sinti and other minorities, disabled and homosexuals were killed.

“Decades later, the systematic murder of millions of Jews and others retains its power to shock. The ability of the Nazis to command a following, despite their utter depravity, still strikes fear. And above all, the pain remains: for aging survivors, and for all of us as a human family that witnessed a descent into barbarism. He emphasized the importance of remembrance in tribute to those who perished and in global efforts to stem the tide of human cruelty. He said the presence at today’s ceremony of disabled persons and the Roma and Sinti community has not been consigned to the past and forgotten. The Holocaust was a historical event, which cannot be denied, its consequences still reverberate in the present,” she told the ceremony.

“It is a tragedy that the international community has not been able to stop new horrors in the years since the Holocaust. This makes it all the more important that we remember the lessons of the past so that we do not make the same mistakes in the future. We must remain vigilant. The forces of hatred, bigotry and racism are still at work in the world.”

Thomas Schindlmayr, who works on disability issues for the UN but was speaking in his personal capacity, discussed the persecution of people with disabilities under Nazi Germany. “They were stripped of any legal protection and denied control over their own lives and bodies,” he said, recalling the forced sterilization of persons with disabilities and other abuses. While much had been learned since then, the notion that persons with disabilities are somehow inferior is still prevalent, he warned.

The keynote speaker, Simone Veil, a member of the Constitutional Council of France and President of the Foundation Pour la Mémoire de la Shoah, said it had two key purposes: “Of course, we meet to mourn that part of our human family that is missing – to remember the individuals and tell each other their stories. But we also meet to unearth the lessons we can draw from their lives and their fates.”

She said that, while those who survived hoped and pledged “Never again,” their warnings were in vain. “After the massacres in Cambodia, it is Africa that is paying the highest price in genocidal terms,” she said, referring in particular to the events in Darfur, Sudan, and calling for UN action in response.

Under-Secretary-General Shashi Tharoor, who moderated the event, said it had two key purposes: “Of course, we meet to mourn that part of our human family that is missing – to remember the individuals and tell each other their stories. But we also meet to unearth the lessons we can draw from their lives and their fates.”

He said the first among those lessons is “that, just as human beings have an almost infinite power to destroy, they also possess an enormous capacity to learn, to grow and to create.”

Ceremonies were held in other UN posts around the world. “The sheer dimensions of the organized murder of Jews and others, the very scale of the systematic attempt at destroying an entire people, make the Holocaust a unique calamity that cannot – and should not – be forgotten, let alone denied,” the Director-General of the UN Office in Geneva told a ceremony at the Palais des Nations.

Earlier, the General Assembly condemned without reservation any denial of the Holocaust, with only Iran publicly disassociating itself from the consensus resolution. The Assembly condemned the denial of the Holocaust as “an affront to human dignity and a negation of the lessons of history.”
Israel's Holocaust memorial, Yad Vashem, has launched a version of its Web site in Farsi to educate Israel's most bitter enemy, Iran, about the Nazi slaughter of 6 million Jews.

“Every year, nearly 20,000 people from Muslim countries, including Iran, visit the Yad Vashem Web site,” said Avmor Shales, Yad Vashem’s chairman. “We believe that making credible, comprehensible information about the Holocaust available to Persian speakers can contribute to the fight against Holocaust denial.”

January 27, marked the 62nd anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp’s liberating by the advancing Soviet army, and came a day after the U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution condemning the denial of the Holocaust. Only Iran opposed it.

The U.N. resolution did not single out any country, but Israel and the United States both suggested that Iran should take notice.

Yad Vashem’s Farsi site includes 20 historical chapters, including dozens of photos, arranged chronologically, from the rise of the Nazis to power until the postwar trials of Nazi leaders. The site also includes a poem by Abramek Koplowitz, a Jewish boy murdered in Auschwitz at age 14.

The site was unveiled last week of August 2006, some 8,000 offences were registered. Sixty-one years after the end of Hitler’s Third Reich, his followers continue to brutalize and intimidate Jews and other minorities across the country.

But the latest crime figures have shown a marked decrease in violent hatred and bigotry. It is also our responsibility to honor the survivors and those courageous souls who refused to be bystanders, and instead risked their lives to try and save the Nazis’ intended victims.

Remembering the victims, heroes, and lessons of the Holocaust is particularly important today, as Holocaust denialists continue to be bolstered by the Iranian regime, which bizarrely seeks to play up the Soviet role of the Nazis campaign of mass murder.

We must continue to condemn the resurgence of anti-Semitism, that same virulent intolerance that led to the Holocaust, and we must combat bigotry and hatred in all their forms, in America and abroad.

May God bless the memory of the victims of the Holocaust. And may we never forget.”

L"ife for Jewish people in Germany has become reminiscent of the 1930s, a community leader claimed recently, after figures showed the number of neo-Nazi hate crimes had increased by 50 percent in two years.

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The aggression has become reminiscent of 1933.”

That was when Hitler began a boycott of Jewish businesses and his stormtroopers unleashed their reign of terror – beatings and threats – that ultimately led to the Holocaust.

She accused both politicians and socie- ty of deliberately neglecting the spiralling neo-Nazi hate crimes as part of a (D)enial of the present.

Mrs. Knobloch said that these attributes were “firmly anchored in certain sections of the population.”

A German foreign minister spokesman said: “We have a problem we must face now if we are to preserve Germany’s image abroad and its chosen multi-cultural path at home. The situation as it stands is simply intolerable.”

ITALIAN PRESIDENT INAGURATES NEW HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL IN MILAN

ITALIAN Head of State Giorgio Napolitano was one of the major guests at the ceremony celebrating the establishment of a Holocaust Museum Memorial in Milan’s Central Station.

Donated by the Italian railway company to the local Jewish community, the Milan memorial is housed in a small but two-room space in the under-ground area of the train station. Form erly known as “the invisible station,” the six-thousand square-meter space overlooks platform 21, the ill-famed departure point from which 8,000 Italian and foreign Jews were deported towards Nazi extermination camps between 1943 and 1944.

While track 21 was in use, Jews were crammed into wagons situated in the underground level. Hidden from sight, a then very modern railway project, the rail lines, were not even visible to the railroad enthusiasts.

Some 800 people were killed on the spot and the rest started to be transported to death camps. The uprising lasted for almost a week. Some 350 to 400 insurgents only had 25 guns and 100 pistols. About 1,000 Jews, who found shelter in the nearby forest, survived the war. About 10,000 were taken to death camps at Treblinka, Majdanek and Auschwitz.

From L to R: Milan’s Mayor Letizia Moratti, Enzo Napolitano, President of the Milan Jewish Community, Filippo Poniat, President of Milan’s Jewish community EJIP, Napolitano called the initiative “very meaningful” and praised the intention of keeping alive the memory of Holocaust, that he defined “one of the harthest lessons in contemporary history.”

Particularly struck by a ceremony that was accompanied by the rattling of the trains from the ground floor, the president also stressed the importance of recalling that “an everyday life place of a great town hosted great atrocities.”

E vents marking the 63rd anniversary of the uprising in the Bialystok Jewish ghetto in eastern Poland were held in this city, the second-biggest Jewish ghetto in eastern Poland were held in the city. It was the second-biggest Jewish ghetto in eastern Poland were held in the city.

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They have the potential to become a new repository of Holocaust information — could lead to new information — could lead to new insights, perhaps the largest repository of Holocaust-era information — could lead to new information — could lead to new insights. The site was unveiled last week.

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Germany in 1990.

Six million Jews were killed by the Nazis and their collaborators, part of the Nazi “final solution” aimed at wiping out the Jews of Europe. One-quarter of France’s Jewish community perished during the Holocaust, compared with 90 percent in Poland and 75 percent in the Netherlands. Speaking at the Pantheon, Chirac urged the French people to be “merciless” in the fight against Holocaust denial, which he called a “crime against truth, an absolute perversion of the soul and the spirit.”

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German Federal Minister of Justice, Christine Lambrecht, said at a press con-ference that Germany will attempt to make denial of the World War II era Holocaust illegal, in which millions of Jews were taken as a result of a racist ideology that embraced a national policy of violent hatred and bigotry. It is also our responsibility to honor the survivors and those courageous souls who refused to be bystanders, and instead risked their lives to try and save the Nazis’ intended victims.

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Germany in 1990.
The editors of the Encyclopaedia Judaica’s new edition confronted a whole new world. In the more than 30 years since the first edition was published, Jewish life has been revitalized in the former Communist world, Las Vegas and Atlanta have become fast-growing Jewish communities, and women have taken on a much more active role in Jewish life — and their contributions have been increasingly recognized.

"The original edition did not take into account that 50 percent of Jews are women," said Judith Baskin, the director of the Jewish studies program at the University of Oregon and the encyclopedia’s assistant editor for women and gender.

The new edition, the encyclopedia’s second, attempts to rectify that oversight with more than 18,000 entries on lesser-known women, like Beatrice Alexander doll collection — and Asenath Barzani, an Iraqi woman trained by her father in the 1600s as a Torah scholar.

许可, online version also will be available, but the hope is that institutions, and individuals, will be willing to fork over $1,995 the online version will cost a few hundred dollars more — to have everything men wanted to know about the Jews printed, and at their finger tips.

The comprehensiveness offered by the collection is not available in any one online source, says Jay Flym, a publisher with Thomson Gaige, which owns Macmillan Reference USA.

Plus, Jews buy books out of proportion to their numbers, says Michael Berenbaum, the encyclopedia’s executive editor.

"It’s the smell of leather and all that stuff," says Berenbaum, a Holocaust scholar known for his book, "The Last Days" by Macmillan Reference USA and Israel’s Keter Publishing. The 22 volumes contained more than 21,000 entries on Jewish life.

The new resource center will have classrooms, both permanent and temporary exhibit space, a resource room with multimedia equipment, and staff offices. The University will maintain the facility as part of its unique partnership with the Holocaust Resource Center. Working with the University, the HHRC will strengthen its educational, cultural and outreach programs.

The new resource center is housed in the former Sherman Center, located next to the University’s Performing Arts Center, and the University’s Athletic Complex. The Sherman Center was named in memory of Michael Klahr, who was a child survivor of the Holocaust, and his sister, Bonnie Klahr, who was a victim of the Armenian Genocide. The Sherman Center was the home of the University’s Athletic programs for many years, and the building will be open to the public on a limited basis.

The new resource center will be the home of the Holocaust Resource Center, which was founded in 1996 to provide educational programs and resources to the community. The center’s mission is to educate and empower individuals and communities to understand the history of the Holocaust and to prevent similar atrocities from occurring in the future.

"The Sherman Center was an important part of our community," said Klahr, who passed away in 2001. "I am honored that the University has chosen to honor my family and the memory of the Holocaust by opening the new resource center in the Sherman Building."
SAVING THE JEWS


REVIEWED BY JANET MASLIN

The author of Saving the Jews, lawyer and historian Robert N. Rosen of Charleston, South Carolina, deftly attempts in a well-researched and highly readable tome to save the tarnished reputation of President Franklin D. Roosevelt regarding his role in saving the Jews during World War II. Rosen's interest in this complex subject was sparked in 2001 when he visited with his daughter Ali, then a student at Andover's Phillips Academy, the Holocaust Memorial in d o w n t o w n e r i t a y . T h e y b o t h were b a t t e d by the etched message: “By late 1942, the United States and its allies were aware of the death camps but did nothing to destroy them.”

The New Deal president, who was much admired by that era’s Jews as an iconoclastic figure, has come under criticism by scholars for his alleged failure to do more for Europe’s doomed Jews. Rosen laboriously examines the context in which FDR operated with its varied pressures, claiming that he tried his best to first defeat Nazism and thus save as many Jews and Americans as possible. In addition, the president had to overcome an isolationist America with anti-Semitic tendencies to begin efficacy. Hitler’s pessimistic domination (Continued on page 15) J o u r n a l , July 1944, the moment Rabbi Eichhorn landed in Dachau, his dedication to his men was matched only by his dedicated determination to find and help any and all Jews with the kind of personal heroism of Hitler's brutalities. For as Rabbi Eichhorn traveled with the soldiers of the XV U.S. Army Corps, ministering to their needs, he was praised. "Are there any Jewish people in the villages and cities through which [they] . . . passed, 'Are there any Jewish people in the village where they were?'"

Rabbi Eichhorn helped them in every way possible. He would ask, "Are there any Jewish people in the village where they were?" In this way, he would help them. He was a great leader, and his service in Dachau, May, 1945.

At first glance this book, The GI’s Rabbi: World War II Letters of David Max Eichhorn, edited by Greg Palmer and Mark S. Zaid, seems to be simply about an American-Jewish rabbi who devotedly served his country and his men. But it is about much more. And this “much more” will make it of particular interest to readers of the Nazi’s extermination camps. While it is set in Germany during World War II, the story unfolds as symbolic or metaphorical acts of defiance against the Nazi regime. Even transgressions as tiny as the stealing of apples are wrenched and woven into the story. “So much good, so much evil,” Death says of human nature. “Just add water.” Beyond its many variations on that idea, there is a captivating simplicity of anecdotes that are tinged with quiet horror. At its most effective, the book’s tone can be terrifyingly matter of fact. “For the book thief, everything was going nicely,” Death observes, as the extermination camps flourish in the summer of 1942. “For me, the sky was the color of Jews.” It’s possible to be overwhelmed and impressed by such moments in Mr. Zusak’s novel. It’s also possible to wish there were more of them, that their impact were sharper, and that the book was less fussy, more certain of its own strength. To be sure, “The Book Thief” attempts and achieves great final moments of tear-jerking sentiment. And Liesel is a fine heroine, a more capable and dauntless girl. But for every startlingly rebellious episode there are moments that are slack. “The Book Thief” will be appreciated for Mr. Zusak’s audacity, also on display in his earlier “I Am the Messenger.” It will be particularly lauded for its structure, a story in which books become treasures. And because there’s no arguing with a fine novel. First published in The New York Times

STEALING TO SETTLE A SCORE WITH LIFE


REVIEWED BY JANET MASLIN

Markus Zusak has not really written the “Harry Potter and the Holocaust.” It just feels that way. The Book Thief is perched on the cusp between grown-up and young-adult fiction, and it is loaded with biblical allusions. It deploys human misery. It celebrates the power of language. It may encourage adolescents to read. It has an element of the fanciful. And it’s a book that bestowed a self-congratulatory glow upon anyone willing to grasp with it. “The Book Thief” resembles other, better novels that have been widely popular. Its roundabout approach to the Holocaust suggests the Anne Frank Illuminated Lite. Its embattled, feisty young heroine has a Pottersish appeal as she makes her way through a mysterious half-bird, half female whose health permitted.” There were touching speeches given. “The Ark was opened and” Rabbi Eichhorn, “recited Sheechehyanu . . . beshert Gomel and went through a brief Torah service. The Rabbi gave a heartrending speech. “The Scotch coffee,” it is transformed into the song, “God Bless America” and “Hello.” In short, there was joy and lots of tears. And all this happened, even as American troops guarded the perimeter of the area. Unfortunately, there was reason to doubt his Semitic actions. Later, stationed for a longer period in Paris, Rabbi Eichhorn would work with the Joint Distribution Committee, the American Red Cross, the French Red Cross, the French Secour National, the American Army, and all the various appendages thereof to improve conditions for the surviving Jews. Later still, in Austria, he would do much the same for the displaced in that country, working with others.

Finally, and poignantly, we will most especially note how Rabbi Eichhorn organized and conducted the “first Jewish religious service” – a Shabbat service – at the Dachau concentration camp, one week after it was liberated. The service was conducted by every female whose health permitted.” There were touching speeches given. “The Ark was opened and” Rabbi Eichhorn, “recited Sheechehyanu . . . beshert Gomel and went through a brief Torah service. The Rabbi gave a heartrending speech. “The Scotch coffee,” it is transformed into the song, “God Bless America” and “Hello.” In short, there was joy and lots of tears. And all this happened, even as American troops guarded the perimeter of the area. Unfortunately, there was reason to doubt his Semitic actions.

Of course, readers this volume will especially appreciate the many things Rabbi Eichhorn did for his own men. How he counseled all the soldiers. How he prayed with all of them. How he made sure there were High Holiday services for Jewish soldiers, even if that mean doing a major clean-up of a synagogue damaged and desecrated by the Nazis. How he deliberately distributed matzot from off the back of his little jeep Passover time. How he made sure that “the passover” was properly celebrated. How he worked compassionately to all parents consoling them for dreadful losses. When the French civilians would rip open their pockets, strategically and wisely augmented by his sermons and other writings, tell us much . . . from a new perspective . . . from a different book altogether. And it

Rabbi Zusak’s novel. It’s also possible to wish there were more of them, that their impact were sharper, and that the book was less fussy, more certain of its own strength. To be sure, “The Book Thief” attempts and achieves great final moments of tear-jerking sentiment. And Liesel is a fine heroine, a more capable and dauntless girl. But for every startlingly rebellious episode there are moments that are slack. “The Book Thief” will be appreciated for Mr. Zusak’s audacity, also on display in his earlier “I Am the Messenger.” It will be particularly lauded for its structure, a story in which books become treasures. And because there’s no arguing with a fine novel.
ANTI-SEMITISM THREATENS GERMANY'S JEWISH LIFE

BY MADELINE CHAMBERS

The first rabbi to be ordained in postwar Berlin 40 years ago worried about being identified as a Jew if he often wears a baseball hat over his skull.

"It's a fact — it's not smart to display I'm Jewish. This is a problem and we have to face it," German-born Daniel Alter, 47, told Reuters in an interview. He is worried about neo-Nazi attacks and says anti-Semitism in Germany — still tolerated by memories of the Holocaust in every generation — puts the growth of Jewish communities here at risk.

As a Jew he feels unsafe in several German cities, not all in former communist east Germany where the far-right National Democratic Party (NPD) has made electoral gains recently.

Alter, whose father survived Auschwitz concentration camp, dismissed talk in the German media of a possible blossoming of Jewish life in Germany. Jewish synagogues and shops have sprung up but Germany's Jewish communities will never compare to those in Britain or the United States, says Alter.

But it must be clear that the physical violence of recent months are only the tip of the iceberg of anti-Semitic incidents particularly those that are the most unsolved cases. "If you can prove one of these cases, you can do just about anything," he said.

He described how his investigators discovered the file of Elfi Rinkel, a San Francisco teenager who was found wearing a sign saying "Frank's diaries and made a lucky break have helped the U.S. government uncover Nazi concentration camp documents particularly the centre Europe and find more than 100 Nazi criminals.

Detainee was the daughter of a Nazi concentration camp guard and she had been imprisoned in the Auschwitz type of concentration camp dur-
Bad things, to be sure, didn't begin to manifest until 1938. That was a pogrom in which Jewish men were rounded up in cities across Germany, synagogues burned and so many Jewish shops windows smashed that it was literally called “crystal night.” Now, even in the small city of Katrue, where 11-year-old Walter Falk lived with his widowed mother, the Krayshna, was an approaching terror.

Krainman, a jewelry retailer by profession, including 1.5 million children. But the paradox: Before the curtain of night fell on Germany, strangers swooped in and snatched these 10,000 to safety. Which is how Falk lived to be an old man, to pour his coffee and tell the tale in his Katrue, Lithuania, home. “It’s an unanswered question,” he begins, in his still-thick Black Forest accent. “Some people say, ‘The good Lord wanted it that way.’ Other people would say, ‘Where was the good Lord when they killed all those people? All my life, bad things happened around me. And still, here I am.'”

Of his 68th birthday, Jorge Klainman decided he could remain silent no more about his Holocaust horrors.

The Polish-born, retired businessperson sat at his electric typewriter, he said, “and suddenly the curtains of my memory began to part, revealing events that happened 50 or 60 years ago. After that, my life changed completely. I felt liberated.”

But it was in that window between life and death in a series of Nazi concentration camps that has captivated readers from Buenos Aires to Barcelona. Translated into English as “The Seventh Miracle” and into Hebrew as “Nes Ha-Shhevet,” Klainman’s first-person account offers details from other Holocaust memoirs in its extraordinary attention to detail. It ranges from the 1939 roundup of Jews from Pas de Calais in northern France to Klainman’s frightful March 1944 encounter with psychopathic concentration camp commandant Amon Goeth, the SS officer portrayed by Ralph Fiennes in Steven Spielberg’s movie “Schindler’s List.”

Goeth morphed Klainman, then 15, for execution firing squad.

“Mind my refusing to comprehend the reality of what was happening,” Klainman wrote. “The end had come. They were going to shoot me and burn me. I thought of my loved ones, and that soon I would be taking them. I reached a state of mind where I just wanted, with all my being, to get it over with.”

But Klainman’s Ukrainian executioners somehow missed him that night, and later that night fellow Jewish prisoners risked their lives to bring his bleeding body to the camp infirmary. A kindly doctor there gradually nursed the teenager back to health.

Fate intervened five more times before he was liberated by American soldiers in 1945, and Klainman was saved from certain death.

In 1947 — with the help of international Jewish organizations — Klainman set sail from Italy to Rio de Janeiro, caught a plane to Asuncion, Paraguay, and ammogled himself across the heavily guarded border into Argentina, where he eventualy married and raised a family.

“Six actual miracles occurred and saved my life,” according to Klainman, 78. “The seventh was my being able to write the story.”

And now, with anti-Semitism again rising throughout his adopted country, Klainman feels compelled to share that story with Argentines who may not have yet gotten the message.

“Ten years from now, there won’t be any survivors left to transmit the truth to young people,” he said in an interview at his Buenos Aires apartment. “They’ll begin forgetting the Jewish Holocaust, just as they’ve forgotten the Armenian Holocaust. So it’s impor- tant that everybody knows what happened. That way they’ll be able to understand the terrible struggle of the Israeli people against the fundamentalist Islamic savages who want to throw us into the sea.”

Klainman, a jewelry retailer by profession, lived in Buenos Aires apart from 1971 to 2004. He is fluent in Polish, Russian, German, Yiddish, Hebrew, Spanish and Italian, and was recently appointed official representative of the Holocaust Museum in Buenos Aires.

“I’ve dedicated the rest of my life to explaining the Shoah to students from all over the country,” he said. “Since I’ve moved back from Israel, thousands of students have heard my testimony.”

Klainman says he has “lots of work to do” in explaining the reasons behind the Holocaust to fellow Argentines, many of whom grew up with anti-Semitic attitudes encouraged by the Roman Catholic Church and the thousands of Nazi war criminals who were welcomed by Argentina’s military dictatorship after World War II.

“I’ve visited many colleges and universi- ties throughout Argentina, giving speech- es for high-school kids,” Klainman said. “I even spoke at a Catholic seminary, and afterwards the kids cursed the Vatican for ignoring the Jews.”

“Usually when I finish speaking, after an hour, for three or four minutes they sit there in silence. Then they surround me, hundreds of kids, hugging me, crying, asking for my autograph. Once I took a taxi in Corrientes and the driver recog- nized me. He took me to the airport.” (Continued on page 15)
Rather, they were the middle- to low-level functionaries, the hands-on torturers who had distinguished themselves by their brutality and dedication to their job.

One was Wilhelm Bogner, an SS political officer and inventor of the Boger-Swing torture device, on which the genitals of thousands of Jewish men, women, and children were smashed.

Another was Josef Klehr, an illiterate medical orderly who strutted about impersonating a doctor and killed thousands through phenol injections.

Otto Kaduk, a Zyklon B handler, described the operation of the gas chambers with an engineer's precision. Until his arrest he had been operating an old age home.

By the nature of the subject, this is a difficult, often agonizing film to watch, with few light moments. One is inadvertently provided by defense attorney Hans Laternser, who gives new meaning to the word chutzpah.

Laternser argues that the SS men who had tried ... To leave small children like that.

During the course of two years, 2003-2005, Ezer-Ulitzky interviewed 32 men and women who were children during the Holocaust, and in every case survived in monasteries, convents or the homes of Christians without their parents at their side. Mor is the eldest of them; the youngest are David Frishbin (Horozecz), who was born in 1941 in Dubnow, in Poland-Ukraine, and the twins Shosh Ram and Tammy Shoham, who were born that same year in a ghetto in town near Vlna.

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With a lot of hard work and effort put forth by the Event marked its 10th Anniversary with a very successful evening over 600 people in attendance, the American Society for Yad Va hundreds of new young people in their 20's and 30's who are comm special evening. The evening was highlighted by a raffle which American Society and the Young Leadership Associates, and wh
Chairman, the Young Leadership Associates met at the West Side Loft in Manhattan. With Chair of the Young Leadership Associates, Drew Pfeffer, the event was dedicated to Holocaust Remembrance to this very day. The event helped to raise additional funds for the Simon Wiesenthal Center, which will help further Education and Outreach.
HUNGARIAN WOMAN HONOURED FOR HOLOCAUST HEROISM

BY KORIE WILKINS

Wally Czubatyj always heard the story of how her parents saved the life of a young Jewish girl during World War II. But the heroic efforts of her parents, Danuta and Ryszard, were all the more real when he accepted an award from the Israeli Consul General on their behalf. Her parents are credited with risking their lives to save Hela Rapaport during the Nazi occupation of Ukraine in the 1940s.

"My mother would have loved to see this day," said Czubatyj. She died last February. Her father is also deceased. A Jewish friend asked Czubatyj’s parents in 1942, seeking help sheltering the teenage girl. Czubatyj said her mother could not refuse. The Rapaport family had been expelled from their home in the city of Radochow in the Ukraine.

"My parents, to me, always seemed very meek and mild," said Czubatyj. "I wouldn’t have thought my parents would do something like this. But they did. My mother said she did it because it was the right thing to do. They had to do it." The Israeli consul, Banuch Bina, said the Czubatyj family took a great risk in harboring Rapaport, who was later reunited with her sister and moved to Israel after the war. They could have been killed if the girl’s true identity was discovered.

"We remember those who have committed the crime," he said. "But we also remember those few who rose to the highest human level of courage and benevolence like your parents did." Czubatyj was given a certificate and a medal, as her parents were given the title of “Righteous Among the Nations,” the highest award given to non-Jews by the Israeli government and the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial. Rabbi Charles Rosenzweig, founder of the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills, said the Czubatyjs’ story was one of six people in Michigan given the honor.

In 1944, the Czubatyj family left Ukraine to escape Communism, settling in Michigan in 1950.

"This is such a huge honor," he said. "More than I could have imagined." First published in Free Press

SURVIVORS SEEK MORE HOLOCAUST FUNDS

BY MATTHEW WAGNER

Yaakov Vashem, the Jewish Agency, and the Center of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors, Noah Flug; the chairman of Yad Vashem, Avner Shalev; and the chairman of the Fund for the Welfare of Holocaust Survivors in Israel, Zeev Factor, were among the central figures at the Claims Conference and its various committees should be substantially expanded to reflect the central role of the State of Israel within the Jewish people, the number of Jews and Holocaust survivors who were absorbed into the Jewish state has a long memory.

"We don’t easily forgive. But we remember our friends, too, particularly those who saved Jews during the Holocaust.”

Julian Ambrus, Clara’s husband of 60 years, said his wife and her two brothers were among the hundreds of thousands of Jews who were saved by a network of more than 200,000 gekos during World War II.

"We had a couple of dogs," Ambrus-Baer said. "And whenever anybody came to the door, then I always told them the dogs were very vicious - which wasn't true - and I had to put them away. It gave everybody some time to hide." Ayre Mekel, Israeli consul general in New York, said the heroism of Ambrus-Baer and her family was "worth the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem.

"The Jewish state has a long memory — our enemies. We don’t easily forgive." But they did. My mother never expected this," said Ambrus-Baer, now 81 and living in Buffalo. "I didn’t want to get praised for what I did. I took it for normal that somebody saves people’s lives.”

Ambrus-Baer received a "Righteous Among the Nations" award, presented to people who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust. It is the highest honor bestowed on non-Jews by the Jewish Agency for memorializing the Holocaust, educating future generations and supporting Holocaust survivors.

"The Jews want to remember the Jews who saved the Jews," said Mekel. "This is such a huge honor." First published in The Jerusalem Post

"We became very close friends," Julius Ambrus said. "We had dinner every week."
Influence of Klaus Barbie

Explored at Yad Vashem

A new display of sketches drawn by the French artist Rene Diaz at the trial of war criminal Klaus Barbie has been put on display at the Yad Vashem Holocaust museum in Jerusalem.

The opening of the exhibition coincided with a symposium held at Yad Vashem on the influence of the Klaus Barbie trial on Holocaust remembrance in France, with the participation of the artist, Nazi hunter Serge Klarsfeld, who was responsible for Barbie’s eventual capture in 1983, French Foreign Ministry counselor Prof. Thomas Praguer, the Chairman of the French Society for Yad Vashem Richard Prasquier, and Klaus Barbie was born in 1913 in Bad Godesberg, Germany. He joined the Nazi party in 1932, was denied entry to Bolivia to France. He was charged with crimes against humanity, for which the statute of limitations did not apply. He was convicted for: the February 1943 raid on the island of Leuven, near Lyon; and the last transport of Jews from Lyon to Auschwitz in 1944. Barbie was also acquitted of deportation of 422 members of the French underground (the Resistance) – half of whom were Jewish – for as long as for the torture and the murder of Jean Moulin, a prominent member of the Resistance. In 1987, Klaus Barbie was found guilty of crimes against humanity, and sentenced to life in prison, the maximum penalty permitted under French law. In 1991, Barbie died of cancer, in prison.

The sketches on display are part of a larger exhibition belonging to the Rene Diaz, which he drew for over ten months at Barbie’s trial in 1987, and over which touched up in 1993.
Report from the American Society for YAD VASHEM

HOLOCAUST PROJECT IMPROVES STUDENT TEST SCORES

When the Florida Chapter of the American Society for Yad Vashem developed a Holocaust curriculum around the Yad Vashem Names Database, our primary interest was to involve the students more closely with the reality of that event. The multicultural students at Lake Worth High School, in Lake Worth, Florida became actively involved in the fate of the victims by working with the yizkorbuch (memorial book) of Lubomil, Poland, a DVD of interviews with former residents of Lubomil, and the Yad Vashem record of the victims. Using the Yad Vashem Names Database, the students read numerous biographies and used site specific concrete images to enhance the learning experience. Art classes created woodcuts, from images in the Lubomil book or original designs. The French class wrote poems about the victims of Lubomil.

Aaron Ziegelman, who was born in Lubomil, holds a woodcut by student Adilet Nazifert showing Ziegelman and his sister as children. Social Science students traced the history and geography of victims, and created posters. In shop class, the students reproduced historical photographs. The cooking class made challah and kugel. From their statements about their work, it was clear that the students learned a great deal about tolerance, and the dangers of prejudice. Now, we find that the curriculum had still another major impact.

The statewide school evaluation in Florida, known as FCAT (Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test) is the most important factor in the educational program. Teachers and principals are evaluated on how well students perform on these tests. Lake Worth High School, where our curriculum was developed, is consistently among the lowest-scoring in the state. Throughout the development of the curriculum, the teachers with whom we worked stressed “FCAT strategies” and formal techniques for students to examine, evaluate and internalize new material. Following the introduction of the American Society curriculum, the 71 students in the remedial reading classes that used our material averaged a jump of 115 points! Sparked by this extraordinary performance, the entire school’s rating improved from D to C. The Principal has attributed this victory to the Holocaust studies, which so engaged the students.

“I WAS ASHAMED TO BE GERMAN”

Mrs. Liselotte Hassenstein received the title of “Righteous Among the Nations” from Yad Vashem. The late Mrs. Hassenstein and her husband, Otto, who was responsible for 16 foresters in Brody, Poland, helped the Jews who worked under his supervision. When the harassment of Jews became worse in 1942, Mrs. Hassenstein started to hide Jews in their house. Word got around and more Jews came around and Liselotte didn’t turn anybody away. She hid mothers and children in their large attic and brought them food.

“I was ashamed to be German,” she wrote in her memoirs, “I could not send them away because it would have been sending them to death.” Liselotte Hassenstein herself was sentenced to death by the Germans, and only the arrival of the Russians in 1945 saved her. Her husband, Otto, was fired from his government position as punishment. Liselotte Hassenstein passed away 2 years ago at the age of 99. Yad Vashem’s medal certificate of the American Society for Yad Vashem, Shmaja Isaac Meier, in the pin progressed the Consul General of the Republic of Germany, Ambassador Hans-Jurgen Heimsoeth.

“The Auschwitz Album” is attracting large crowds in the United States

Yad Vashem’s exhibition “The Auschwitz Album,” is attracting large crowds in the United States. The exhibition is based on the album, which was found by the late Lili Jacob in 1945, and turned out to be photos that were taken of her own transport to Auschwitz in May of 1944. The album, believed to be the only visual evidence of the horrors that took place inside the notorious death camp was donated by Lili Jacob to Yad Vashem.

The exhibition was created in order to be displayed at the United Nations headquarters in New York in January 2005, marking 60 years since the liberation of Auschwitz.

The American Society for Yad Vashem sponsored the exhibition, which was shown from January until October 2006 at the Field Museum in Chicago, and close to 240,000 people viewed the exhibition! Mr. Lester Crown, who brought the exhibition to the Field Museum, expressed great satisfaction about the interest the exhibition created in Chicago. The next stop for the exhibition was the University of Miami – The Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies. 200 people participated at the opening reception on November 9th, sponsored by Mr. Norman Braman, and thousands of people viewed the exhibition at the University.

The American Society for Yad Vashem is attracting large crowds in the United States. The exhibition created in Chicago. The next stop for the exhibition was the University of Miami – The Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies. 200 people participated at the opening reception on November 9th, sponsored by Mr. Norman Braman, and thousands of people viewed the exhibition at the University. Speakers at the reception included Mr. Norman Braman, Mr. Eli Zborowski, Chairman of the American Society for Yad Vashem, Professor Haim Shaked, head of the Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies, and Dr. Michael Bimbaum, who gave a lecture on the significance of Auschwitz in the Holocaust.

The great interest in the exhibition encourages the American Society for Yad Vashem to continue and send it to be displayed all over the United States.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR YAD VASHEM AND THE ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF SOCIAL STUDIES

OF THE UNITED FEDERATION OF TEACHERS (ATSS/UFT)

Invite all Superintendents, Principals and Educators of History, Judaic Studies, English, Humanities and Global Studies (history, social studies) to the 9th Annual Professional Development Conference.

ECHOES AND REFLECTIONS:

A Multi-media Curriculum on the Holocaust

This curriculum was created by the Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education, and Yad Vashem, The Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Authority.

DATE: Sunday, March 11th, 2007
TIME: 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
9:00 AM Program Commences
PLACE: Marymount School/Pratt Mansion
1027 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10028

Featuring the Most Recent Educational Units on Perpetrators, Collaborators and Bystanders during the Holocaust • Ghetto • Survivors and Liberators • Jewish Resistance Rescuers and Non-Jewish Resistance • The Children

All registered participants will receive a FREE copy of this new developed curriculum upon completion of the program. Additional copies available at $100 each.

Curriculum includes lesson plans and multi-media resources for implementing educational materials.

To register for this conference, please contact:
Education Department
American Society for Yad Vashem
500 Fifth Avenue, 42nd Floor, New York, NY 10101-4299
RSVP Tel: 212-220-4304 / Fax: 212-220-4308
info@yadvashemusa.org
focus on delivering newspapers to prisoners in the labor camps. Even after the war, the newspapers continued to be distributed to the survivors, serving as a source of information and support. ThePinchasZuckermanFoundation, established by a prominent Israeli newspaper magnate, continues to publish and distribute newspapers to Holocaust survivors to this day.
A woman who was one of just a few thousand Lithuanian Jews to have survived the Holocaust was reunited for the first time with an officer of a Catholic family who helped keep her alive.

Lina Ingel and Giedrute Ramanauskiene embraced and held each other during their emotional reunion at Kennedy Airport yesterday.

They cried, acknowledging it might be the last time they would see each other, given their failing health.

Ingel, now 84, said earlier she had no idea what she would say to the last time they would see each other, given their failing health.

Ingel traveled from Tamarac, Fla., to New York for the reunion, and Ramanauskiene came from the small town of Simnas, Lithuania. She still lives on the same farm where her family once sheltered Ingel.

Ramanauskiene’s brother, Gintautas Ivauskas, 73, was also supposed to make the trip, but was unable to travel with his sister due to visa trouble, although he may come later.

The reunion was made possible by the New York-based Jewish Foundation for the Righteous, which gives financial support to mostly Christians from Eastern Europe who helped rescue Jews from the Holocaust.

DETECTIVE WORK UNCOVERS NAZIS IN US

(Continued from page 5)

The office’s creation in 1979. With an annual budget of $5 million, and a staff of 30 that includes 12 attorneys and 10 historiologists, it has deported or stripped the U.S. citizenship of some 4,000 Nazi war criminals.

T he office brought a record 10 new prosecutions in 2002, and has 17 cases in litigation. “We are swamped,” Rosenbaum said.

“We found in the former Soviet Union and other communist countries a veritable treasure trove of evidence,” he said in explaining the increase in cases.

Rosenbaum said his office is in a race against the clock to bring cases as soon as possible, with most of the suspects now in their 80s. “The grim reaper has not returned. Several opportunities to visit former Polish sites, including the town of Zamosc, where my grandmother’s family lived before the Holocaust. These villages are places where Jewish memory has been turned into history.

On a one-lane street leading to a small house near the railroad tracks in Zamosc, I found the house where the Zalacman family once lived. It was from this house that Poles, an American, and a Swede lived, and in 1942 it was converted to the death camp of Belzec, just a few dozen kilometers away, where Jewish killing began.

There are no Jews in Zamosc today. No sign of a once-thriving Jewish life is present.

The only memories left of Teyve the Milkman, Peter Moyse, and my own family’s legacy are their properties, and the property of thousands of other Jews that was seized by the Nazis during World War II and nationalized by the Polish Communist government after the war.

It is estimated that there are currently over 170,000 private properties held in Poland that were wrongfully seized from Jewish victims of the Holocaust and communist terror. These properties have an estimated value of billions of dollars, according to a comprehensive report recently drawn up by experts from the business sector, non-profits and non-governmental organizations at the request of the Israeli government.

The report, which was released in 2001, stated that the number of cases under investigation had increased since 2000, and that the number of cases coming out of the former Soviet Union, where the bulk of Jewish property was seized, had increased.

The report was compiled by a team of experts from the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, and was released in 2004.

In recent years I have had several opportunities to visit former Polish sites, including the town of Zamosc, where my grandmother’s family lived before the Holocaust. These villages are places where Jewish memory has been turned into history.

The Rotunda, used by the Nazis as a prison and execution ground, today houses a museum covering Zamosc’s suffering during the Second World War.

The United States cannot prosecute the former Jewish death camp guard ‘Ivan the Terrible’.

POLAND MUST DEAL WITH ITS PAST

BY DANIEL SCHATZ

My childhood was full of magical, well-known tales, about characters like Teyve the Milkman, as well as tales of love and joy and everyday life in the Polish countryside. I was taught to be warm and kind by my grandparents. There were Moloye and Sorale and Feggyle from the village of kilomos: people I never met, but who were brought to life through my grandpar-

Some of them became my childhood heroes. As a little boy yet unaware of Auschwitz, I wondered about my grand-

father’s sadness: Even when telling funny stories, she seemed to laugh with one eye and cry with the other. I don’t remember when I found out that all charac-

ters, so alive in these vivid stor-

ies, were murdered in Auschwitz.

Democratizing states in Eastern Europe and throughout the world.

To resolve this critical issue.

Poland’s reputation as a force for moral good should be made apparent by reaching a just settlement, acceptable to all parties, on the issue of restitution of private prop-

erties taken from Polish Jews.

The Polish Parliament could take an important step in this direction by passing comprehensive legislation providing for the complete restitution of assets stolen by the Nazis and the communist govern-

The American government’s assistance in providing new information for property loss by victims of Nazi persecution...to Nazi victims or their heirs, allowing them to claim a current citizenship or place of residence.

The remaining ghosts of the past must be fought and old offenses must be com-

pensated. It is high time we honor the memory of those who were murdered during the Nazi tyrannical, and bring justice to the survivors and their heirs by rectifying the wrongful expropriations of property by the Nazi and communist regimes.

By intensifying our efforts to return the confiscated properties to their rightful owners and by honoring the memory of the past, we safeguard the fundamental principles of tolerance, freedom and democracy – and help ensure that no child in the future will have to learn his childhood heroes were annihilated.

Daniel Schatz is a political scientist and Swedish Candidate for Parliament.

First published on ynetnews.com

PEBBLES FROM THE “KINDERTRANSPORT” (Continued from page 6)

20,000 ugly adults.

As for Walter Falk, who had kissed his mother goodbye and boarded a train out of Germany, thinking they would be reunited before the outbreak of war in September 1939 erased any chance that his mother would safely exit Germany.

Even while German air raids in the Battle of Britain darkened the English sky, Falk managed to correspond with his mother, via a Swiss relative. Nelly Falk’s letters were careful and guarded.

One day, they stopped coming.

From out in the bare December garden, he chooses the smoothest stones, the ones with the rough edges worn away, by weather or by time. He washes them in his kitchen sink, then puts them in his pocket in the way to the cemetery.

In August, his wife Ginger died — like Walter Falk, she was a German Jew who managed to escape the war, fleeing to Argentina. They met in New York City, where he emigrated after the war, with a baby in their arms.

He never set foot in Germany again until 1990, by then a private in the U.S. Army, on a weekend pass. It was too soon to process it all, so he settled for being reunited with his cat and his paintings and his china coffee cups. He still gets visits from Ginger’s haunted, Muslim woman who left behind her own tale of horrors in Africa’s Sierra Leone — exiling via England, just like Walter Falk.

On a December afternoon, Ishta Corchet accompanies the old man to the Jewish cemetery near Four Seasons. He puts on his black shoes to protect his tender feet, for his cold hands, cold stones in his palm, he places one on top of his wife’s headstone, one on his mother’s.

This is the Hebrew way. For those who come later, the stones show that someone was here....
YAD VASHEM MOURNS THE PASSING OF BENJAMIN MEED

Born Benjamin Miedzyrzecki on February 19, 1918, in Warsaw, Poland; died October 22, 2007, in New York following a lengthy illness; survived by his wife of 61 years, Vladka, his children, Steven Meed and Sheryl Scherzer, and five grandchildren. Benjamin Miedzyrzecki was raised in Warsaw, Poland, in a religiously observant home. His father was a tanner and a member of the Agudat Yisroel Party and the Zionist Mizrachi movement. Yound Benjamin studied first in yeshiva school but then attended public high schools and became comfortable with Polish language and culture. He was attending business school the day of Holocaust salvage and Israeli-occupied Europe in 1918. In light of new research, new materials have been produced to help us learn and teach about the everyday life of the Jewish people and the Jewish communities that were destroyed. The seminar will feature academic lectures by leading scholars and education professionals from Yad Vashem and Israeli universities in order to provide the participants with historical knowledge in the field of the Holocaust. Special attention will be given to widening the participants' knowledge on pre-Holocaust Jews and Jewish responses during Nazi occupation. The program will also discuss issues of contemporary antisemitism; uses of survivor testimony; interdiscipli- nary teaching approaches; age-appropriate methodology; and the impact of the Holocaust on the Jewish world and its effects on Western civilization. Special workshops and discussion groups will enable participants to explore educational issues, pedagogical theories and practical applications in Jewish educational frameworks.

CRITERIA FOR APPLYING
• The seminar is open to Jewish educators working in Jewish day schools.
• There will be a maximum of 30 participants.

MORE INFORMATION

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SAVING THE JEWS

The Asper International Holocaust Studies Program
The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany
Yad Vashem – The Holocaust Martyrs & Heroes’ Remembrance Authority
The International School for Holocaust Studies

SAVING THE JEWS

For 50 years I guarded my silence like a hermit, but then I got tired of these delin- quents denying the Holocaust,” he said. “I realized that by keeping silent, I was becoming an accomplice, collaborating with them.” It took Kleinman four months to write the book. His original draft version ran 107 pages; only 25 copies of that version were printed.

“When I read what I had written, I real- ized nobody would believe it was true,” he said. “So we [Kleinman and his wife, Teresa] decided to travel to Poland to look for details. It was very traumatic, that first time back in Poland, more so for Teresa than for me.”

Jorge didn’t talk about it. I knew very lit- tle,” said Teresa Kleinman, an Argentine native who had no idea what a concentra- tion camp was until she met her husband. “I knew he was a survivor, that he had no family and that he was in camps, but it was a taboo subject. Whenever I asked, he would tell me a few things, but he wouldn’t want to go into details, and I did- n’t want to upset him, so I learned not to ask.”

Kleinman would return to Poland twice more, most recently as part of a pro- gram to bring Jewish children to Poland to learn firsthand about the horrors of the Holocaust.
An exhibition of the mixed media photography by Miriam Brysk entitled “In a confined Silence” opened January 12 in the Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center of Florida. “In a confined Silence” is a collection of mixed media photographs by self-taught artist Miriam Brysk, who served as a professor at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston and who now lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Brysk was born in Warsaw, Poland in March 1935. After the German occupation in 1939, she and her parents escaped to the town of Lida, but that city fell in 1941 and its Jews herded into ghetto. Most were killed, but Miriam and her family survived until rescued by Jewish partisans in 1942. Her father helped the Russian partisans to open a hospital in a nearby forest and eventually was awarded the Order of Lenin by the Russian government. They later fled to Italy to escape the Soviet invasion and finally arrived in America in February 1947.

Art has helped Miriam Brysk come to terms with the privations she experienced in an upbringing “filled with hopelessness and darkness”. This art depicts what she calls “the raw pain” of her childhood as she relived it through psychotherapy. All the pieces began as photographs. Each image depicts a real Jew who died in the Holocaust. “The images you see in this exhibit are real. The people are real. They actually lived during the Holocaust,” Miriam Brysk has stated. “It was very important to me to make the work authentic – not to sensationalize, but to give these people the dignity of their lives.”

The exhibit will be on display through March 23, 2007. For more information call (407) 628-0555.