On March 11, 2007 over one hundred educators gathered at the Pratt Mansions in NYC for the American Society for Yad Vashem’s Ninth Annual Professional Development Conference. Once again, this program was co-sponsored by the Association of Teachers of Social Studies of the United Federation of Teachers. Remarks on behalf of the president, Levi Anthony, were delivered by Ms. Carolyn Herbst, past president of ATSS/UFT; Remarks were also given by Caroline Massel, co-chair of the Young Leadership Associates of the American Society for Yad Vashem; Mr. Eli Zborowski, Chairman of The American Society for Yad Vashem; and Mr. Elliott Zborowski, Chairman of the American Society for Yad Vashem’s Educational Department “works to put a face on individual Holocaust victims in order to introduce a human element to the story. Transmitting these messages is our hope for the future.”

This year, we were once again highlighting the Echoes and Reflections curriculum. This is a valuable education resource developed by Yad Vashem. The Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Authority, the Anti-Defamation League, and the USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education. We were pleased to welcome representatives from all three institutions. We were also very excited about having teachers from eight different states represented at this year’s conference.

The educational conference started with remarks from Shulamit Imber, Director of Pedagogy of the International School for Holocaust Studies of Yad Vashem Jerusalem. Her remarks, regarding the education philosophy of Yad Vashem, were found "insightful, compelling and passionate" by some conference participants. Other workshops during the day were also led by Dan Tarplin, Project Director of the A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE® Institute, Deborah Batiste, Project Director for Echoes and Reflections, and Stephanie McMahon-Kaye, Coordinator of the Desk for International Seminars in English at Yad Vashem Jerusalem. They led the following workshops: 1) The Final Solution 2) Jewish Resistance 3) Survivors and Liberators 4) Perpetrators, Collaborators, and Bystanders and 5) The Ghettos. The Echoes and Reflections curriculum is a comprehensive ten-lesson program that focuses on the history of the Holocaust within the context of contemporary issues. For example, it deals with cultural diversity, genocide, and intolerance. This year’s conference tried to show educators how to utilize this innovative curriculum in their classrooms. The aim of the American Society for Yad Vashem hosting these education conferences is to transmit the lessons of this historical event to present and future generations. Teaching about the Holocaust in an age-appropriate and historically accurate manner will promote greater sensitivity and understanding to reduce the hatred, intolerance and prejudice prevalent in today’s society. What also sets this particular curriculum apart from others is its use of testimonies. This is one of the first multi-media curricula to be used in classrooms. Educators can have the voice of those people who lived through the atrocity right in their classrooms by using the DVD or VHS provided with the curriculum. As Shulamit Imber stated, it is so much more than just the words that these survivors use, it is the way their voices sound, they lock in their eyes, and the posture of their bodies. Studying the Holocaust is important to students today in a world of growing Holocaust denial and anti-Semitism. A curriculum like Echoes and Reflections will enable students to think about the responsibilities they have as individuals, when confronted with prejudice and intolerance. The Holocaust provides a context for looking at the dangers of remaining silent in the face of the oppression of others. As Pastor Martin Neimoller said: "When the Nazis came for the communists, I remained silent; I was not a communist. When they locked up the social democrats, I did not speak out; I was not a social democrat. When they came for the trade unionists, I did not speak out; I was not a trade unionist. When they came for me, there was no one left to speak out.”

The educators who attended this conference will be able to show their students the importance of social awareness, so that the words “Never Again” will ring true. As one participant noted, “Emphasizing the human element of the Holocaust allows for more thoughtful learning.” Many people can remember their teachers, they can remember the lessons they were taught. It is our hope that the teachers who attend the American Society for Yad Vashem’s Educational Conferences will be reminded of the lessons that they are transmitting. It is our hope that they will go on and inspire their students, teaching them tolerance, understanding, and unity. For more information regarding upcoming educational activities, please contact our office at 212-220-4304.
GERMANY TO COMPENSATE

The German government plans to compensate Holocaust survivors who were defaced in Jewish cemeteries with swastikas in Kiev and Odessa.

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

German parliament passed a law to grant survivors a complete pension, but the drive proved unsuccessful, due to bureaucratic complications in processing the claims. In view of this, German Chancellor Angela Merkel has now instructed the German finance minister to settle the claims in a non-bureaucratic manner, and set up a fund based on the model used for the slave labor victims, the magazine said.

IRISHAN HOLOCAUST FOUNDATION

DEMANDS DOCUMENTS ON JEWISH MASSACRE

The so-called Holocaust Foundation of Iran demanded from Austria, Germany, Israel, and France that they submit documents related to the massacre of Jewish people in the Second World War.

The head of the Foundation, Mohammad-Ali Ramin, told Yedioth that the documents were needed for the “fact-finding commission” to clarify the real extent of the Holocaust and the number of Jewish victims.

The fact-finding commission was formed during a Holocaust conference in Tehran last December, which had been attended by controversial historians challenging the extent of the mass killings of Jews by the German Nazi regime.

The conference had prompted widespread international criticism, and Ramtin is well-known for his anti-Semitic standpoints and sympathies for neo-Nazi groups. He has, however, no official position in Iran’s political system.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had branded the Holocaust as a “fairy tale” and demanded the relocation of Israel to the Arabian Peninsula.

Ahmadinejad had not attended the Holocaust conference in Tehran, but welcomed the formation of the fact-finding commission at a reception of the participants.

Ahmadinejad had blamed the West for allegedly prohibiting any investigation into the Holocaust, while accepting insults against Muslim Prophet Mohammed in the world.

"There are also swastikas on hundreds of graves, up to one thousand according to diverse informants," Bela Kapulik, a spokesman for Odessa’s Jewish community, told reporters.

"It’s a planned operation as the monument and the cemetery are in two different locations," he said.

He said such incidents is rather rare in the city, which is home of a large Jewish community since centuries.

The monument was erected at the site where thousands of Jews were killed and burned by the Nazis between 1941-1944. It is reported that police launched a probe into the “hoiiligionism.”

But Avraham Wolf, chief rabbi of Odessa and southern Ukraine, told Yedioth that he believes that this act is “purely anti-Semitic.”

Ukrainian sociologists recently expressed concern about a rise in xenophobic attitudes in the country over the last years.

Ukraine is home to about 450,000 Jews, one of the largest Jewish community in the world.

YAD VASHEM TEACHES JORDANIAN EDUCATORS

Yad Vashem secretly bought a group of Jordanian educators about the Holocaust.

Yad Vashem, a member of Yad Vashem’s main school of Holocaust studies, told the media that a seminar was held at the Jerusalem museum for about a dozen Jordanian Muslim educators in 2006.

Yadin told Yedioth Ahronoth that he initiated the project after a chance conversation with high-ranking Jordanian officials, and was surprised that they didn’t reject the idea.

"They were not at all familiar with the subject of the Shoah," Shalev said.

"They did not know its influence on Israeli society and really knew almost nothing about us."

The seminar was given in Arabic and in English, and included a meeting with a Holocaust survivor.

FRANCE TAGS A NAZI COLLABORATOR: THE RAILWAY

The French court ruled that a railway which once helped the Nazis to deport Jews was guilty of complicity.

It was the first time a French court had condemned a government institution, rather than an individual, in connection with Holocaust crimes.

VANDALS IN EASTERN POLAND BADLY DAMAGED HALF OF THE TOMBSSTONES IN A JEWISH CEMETERY

Half of the 20 tombsstones in the Jewish cemetery of Swidwin were broken March 1, according to Albert Stankowski, head of the Foundation for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Warsaw.

The alleged vandalism was done during the same time as the Claims Conference was visiting in Poland, and I have no doubt that the act against the cemetery was related," he said. Stankowski was referring to a Claims Conference meeting with the government about compensation for Jewish property stolen by the Nazis and communists.

"The articles in the press gave readers the feeling that the Jews were coming to take towels to deeply entrenched and thorny problems.

“These uncompromising and offensive comments have to diminish the memory of victims of the Holocaust and mobilize the consciences of those who seek to lessen their responsibility for Nazism,” he wrote.

The German bishops’ bitter con- tents about the “fact-finding commission” hosted by Yad Vashem officials, who had hosted the sen- ior Christan leaders just hours earlier.

In the morning, we saw the pictures at Yad Vashem of the inhumane Warsaw Ghetto, while in the evening we were in the Ramallah Ghetto,” Franz Hanke reportedly said.

Another visiting bishop, Joachim Meisner, who serves as the Archbishop of Cologne, reportedly described the conditions at Israeli security checkpoints as “something done to ani- mals to human beings.”

In his letter, the head of Yad Vashem noted the words of the late Pope John Paul II when he said in 1994 in a speech in which he said “no one can diminish the memory of the Shoah.”

“I urge all people to keep the Holocaust out of cheap political exploitation and diminish the memory of the Holocaust’s victims and events," he concluded.

YAD VASHEM OFFICIALS CRY "POLITICIZATION OF HISTORY"

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GERMAN CLERICS ENRAGE YAD VASHEM

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L awyers for the Vatican Bank — including Pope Benedict's personal attorney — have argued that genocide occurred in Germany and during World War II by a Nazi regime was permissible under international law. In the ongoing lawsuit Alperin v. Vatican Bank, the Vatican Bank has filed a motion set for 9 April 2007 which argues in part that the Vatican Bank is immune because the Nazi-backed Croatian regime did not violate international law by slaughtering 500,000 of its own citizens — Serbs, Jews, and Roma (Gypsies) in an ethnic cleansing campaign. The Vatican Bank stands accused of the post-war laundering of the profits of genocides — including dental gold taken from the victims of the Nazi-backed Croatian regime known as the Ustasha.

**NAMES RECOVERY MONTH LAUNCHED IN ADVANCE OF HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY**

March-April 2007 has been designated Names Recovery Month by Yad Vashem. The month, including both Passover and Holocaust Remembrance Day (April 16), is currently marked by local community campaigns to recover names of Holocaust victims. Thousands of Jewish communities will engage in this historical grassroots initiative.

Names Recovery Month is part of the overall 11th hour campaign calling upon people to memorialize Jews murdered in the Holocaust. It is named after the victims' names, and when available, photos and other biographical data on Pages of Testimony. It has taken up five decades of decades to document over 3.1 million names currently held in the database. The main agency in Austria dealing with compensation, bank accounts and stolen savings accounts.

**GERMAN COURT CONVICTS FIVE MEN FOR BURNING ANNE FRANK’S DIARY**

A court in Magdeburg, Germany convicted five men of sedition for throwing a copy of Anne Frank's Diary onto a bonfire last year at a community party organized by neo-Nazis. The men were each handed a suspended sentence of nine months, including a “sandwich” in which they had to inscribe the memory of the dead.

The Summer Solstice Festival, numbered some 3.5 million prior to World War II, was obliterated. Poland's Jewish community, after it was revealed that the town mayor and police were also present and saw nothing wrong in the book and a US flag being burned amid applause by torch-waving neo-Nazis. Local policemen claimed they had never heard of Frank.

**VATICAN LAWYERS CLAIM NAZI REGIME VIOLATED NO LAW IN GENOCIDE OF 500,000 SERBS, JEWS AND ROMA**

Two years after the end of World War Two by a Nazi regime was permitted under international law. Jonathan Levy, one of the attorneys for the Holocaust survivors, questions whether the Pope is even aware of what the bank's attorneys are proposing: “On the one hand, the Vatican is quick to condemn Israel and Syria in recent years, but in essence, says it's OK to butcher 500,000 people, steal their belongings and trash it in the Vatican Bank...Pope Benedict should be concerned that the moral integrity of his Papacy is being under-mined in a Federal Court.”

The lawsuit has been ongoing since 1999. Despite growing evidence of the Vatican Bank’s complicity in criminal acts, the lawsuit has been resisted tenaciously by the Vatican Bank.

**ARAB NOMINATED AS RIGHTEOUS GENTILE**

Arab rescuers’ desire not to be found, since the Holocaust, which made plain the Jews’ need for their own state, has become a touchy subject in the Arab world.

A Tunisian farmer was the first Arab nominated for Yad Vashem’s Righteous Gentile designation. Ha’aretz reported that the efforts of Khaled Abd al-Wahab, a Tunisian farmer who died in 1997, were uncovered by historian Robert Satloff. The 69 Muslims are among the more than 20,000 Righteous Gentiles already named by the Holocaust museum and museum in Jerusalem. While no formal list existed, Satloff, executive director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, had kept track of the sale of the research in the area, and also to testimony.

A fund for victims of the Nazi annexion of Austria is looking for the owners of thousands of artworks lying in national museums, which are waiting to be returned to their mainly Jewish owners or their heirs.

A fund, which was created in 1995, is the main agency in Austria dealing with the restitution of stolen artworks. It deals not only with property which needs to be returned, but also distributes money to compensate the victims of Nazism.

So far, the fund has paid out a total of 180 million euros, or about 5,000 euros to each Austrian survivor of the Holocaust. It has paid compensation to Austrians who were thrown out of their homes by the Nazis, as well as holders of life insur- ance bank accounts and stolen savings accounts.
I WAS A CHILD OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS


I


REVIEWED BY TOM TUGEND

Whole libraries are filled with accounts of the Holocaust, with eyewitness reports by victims, perpetrators and bystanders, together with analyses by historians and fictionalized versions by novelists. Rarer are accounts by those, mostly young Jewish men and women, who took off into the other side to survive as clandestine “Aryan” or resistance fighters.

One of the more readable and convincing of such recollections is by Zenon Neumark, a retired aerospace engineer, who waited until his late 70s to write his story.

Neumark was barely 15 when Nazi armies occupied his native Lodz in September 1939. He was 20, and living in Vienna, when Soviet troops liberated him in April 1945.

During those long years, he lived as a Polish underground fighter during the 1944 Warsaw uprising, one year after the heroic Jewish defense of the ghetto.

He devotes three chapters to his work with two non-Jewish Polish resistance groups, one left-wing, the other right-wing.

Neumark acknowledges that not all Jews could have followed the escape choice and undertook the lonely risks of seeking daily shelter, food and work, while facing constant exposure.

But many who were otherwise equipped to take the risks were deterred by the comforting presence of family and friends in the ghetto, a reassuring daily routine, and had difficulty to imagine what was in store for them.

In the end, those who took their chances vastly increased their odds for survival. In Warsaw alone, according to the best statistics, 28,000 Jews lived outside the ghetto on the Polish side, either in hiding or with false papers. Of these, 41 percent survived the war, compared to only 3 percent of camp inmates.

Neumark is an engineer, not a professional writer, and the book is much the better for it. He tells his story without literary embellishments, honestly and straightforwardly, and with self-deprecating humor.

“Hiding in the Open” is part of the excellent London-based Library of Holocaust Testimonies, whose eminent editors include historian Sir Martin Gilbert.


REVIEWED BY DR. DIANE CYPKIN

I

In all the years this reviewer has critiqued books for M&R — more than fifteen, I have never felt the need to comment on the title of this book. But, this book’s main title deserves comment.

It is so very right. The Holocaust was a roaring fire that ruthlessly consumed its prey. And even those it didn’t consume, but merely touched, were Scorched. Additionally, in all the years this reviewer has critiqued books for M&R, she has generally critiqued non-fiction. But, this book is


I was a Child of Holocaust Survivors. By Bernice Eisenstein. McClelland & Stewart, 2006. 187 pp. $32.99

REVIEWED BY STAN MACK

In the old days, that is, when I was young, life for the book reader was simple. There were books, and there were illustrated books. Of course, there were always pulpy comic books, but they were mainly adventure stories for boys, and were generally considered a disposable item.

Today, bookstores trumpet a new section, “Graphic Novel.” Okay, but what exactly is a graphic novel?

Over the past several years, a number of books — notably Art Spiegelman’s Holocaust saga Maus and Marjane Satrapi’s Iranian political memoir Persepolis — have broken new publishing ground by using comic-strip formats to tell serious stories. They, combined with the aggressive campaign by comic-strip devotees to have comic strips accepted as a legitimate art form, have caught the attention of publishers fighting to keep competitive in this new multimedia universe.

Witness the transmogrification of my old notion of publishers fighting to keep competitive in an aggressive campaign by comic-strip devotees to have comic strips accepted as a legitimate art form, yet another example of the way in which this book belongs. However, there’s something different here. The book is filled with the author’s cartoon drawings, comic strips and word balloons in a wild array of sizes, shapes and layouts.

Eisenstein’s book is not a comic book-y graphic novel (a meaningless term, anyway, since many of them are not novels). Nor is it an illustrated book (the traditional book illustration elaborates on a particular moment in the narrative, but doesn’t move the story forward). We could, instead, call her a hybrid, but there aren’t any shelves in the bookstore labelled “hybrid.” This book is in the language of the author, a writer and an artist, who has chosen a particular way to tell her story. Must we chase around looking for new genre labels to fit each variation of words and pictures?

For argument’s sake, allow me to redefine a graphic book. It is a novel, memoir, history or documentary that tells its story equally in words and visuals, and does a richer job than either art form would by itself. By this definition, each graphic work would be evaluated in terms of its combined power to inform and move the reader rather than its adherence to the purity of a grid system.

Now, we can look at Eisenstein’s book for what it is, rather than a book that isn’t. She presents some of her story in a traditional narrative. One example: She describes how her parents met in Auschwitz, and how she marries her torment, Aaron, also a survivor. She manages to convey the lengths to which she went to survive, and the horror of her experiences in a way that makes this work even more valuable to us.

At the same time, her drawings communicate some ideas faster and better than words. In one drawing that sprawls across a spread, she draws herself as a child, artist’s brush in hand, speaking to the reader. She’s pointing to her drawing of her mother, grandmother and aunt, now looking matronly and well-fed in 2002, distanced from their time in Auschwitz.

The problem with artists who both write and draw is that they may do one better than the other. In Eisenstein’s case, I am sometimes left confused by her sentences. She seemed to feel compelled to add extra words, possibly in the belief that words are easier to grasp than images. However, she never miss the message. “How is one able to regain connection, belonging, when all that was as innocent as being alive has disappeared?” she asks.

(Continued on page 13)
Irena Sendlerowa recently celebrated her 97th birthday in her small room in a Warsaw nursing home. Among the flower-bedecked wishers were a number of people who owe their lives to this tiny, courageous woman.

They were among the estimated 2,500 Jewish children Mrs. Sendlerowa and a small group of social workers rescued from the Warsaw ghetto during World War II. She is a Polish Catholic who risked her life to save Jews during the Holocaust. For doing so, she was awarded the title of Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem, Israel’s Holocaust remembrance authority.

Unlike her fellow Righteous, German industrialist Oskar Schindler, who was immortalized in Steven Spielberg’s film *Schindler’s List*, Mrs. Sendlerowa was not rescued from the Nazis, nor was she known to the world until a half century after the war.

In December 1942, the Polish under-ground set up Zegota, the Council of Assistance for Jews. Mrs. Sendlerowa became the head of its children’s department. She had noted the names of all of the rescued children on cigarette papers and sealed them in two bottles.

In April 1943, several thousand of the remaining Jews in the ghetto rose up against the Germans. Armed with hand grenades and Nazi war criminals as bomb launchers, they held an SS brigade at bay for three weeks. By mid-May the ghetto was a giant field of rubble.

Mrs. Sendlerowa continued her work, but on October 20, 1943, she was arrested at her home, released to the notorious Gestapo headquarters in central Warsaw and tortured. During the sessions, they dragged her to the ground and beat her. But she refused to reveal any names.

“I still carry the marks on my body of what those ‘German supermen’ did to me. But on October 20, 1943, she was arrest-

“I once carried such a tearful, broken-hearted little girl to me, and when he asked me, crying and sobbing, ‘Please tell me how many mums can you have, for this is the third one I’m going to,’ ” she said.

**EXECUTION FOILED**

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FRENCH RAILROAD SUED OVER HOLOCAUST

BY MARY PAPENFUSS

Ernest Hirsch was a scared 5-year-old in a French children’s home the last time he heard from his mother. The boy had been rescued from the French internment camp Rivesaltes in 1941, but his parents were still trapped there when his mother, Lisa Kirchheimer, wrote that they were about to be moved. “She said not to worry, that we would see each other again. She said she loved me,” recalled Hirsch, a retired operations manager.

Shortly after Hirsch got that letter, his parents were loaded onto a train headed for death. When they arrived at Auschwitz, “they were marched directly to the gas chambers and killed,” he said. His mother’s parents, two brothers and two sisters were killed. After liberation, with the oppression and massacres fresh in their minds, her parents concealed their ethnicity and religion for fear of further persecution. Ms. Dojc said she has adopted a similar instinct over time. “I just know,” said Ms. Dojc, one of the organizers of a conference in Toronto for adult children of Holocaust survivors. “When you’re vulnerable, why increase your vulnerability?” Another organizer, Margie Levitt, also a child of Holocaust survivors, said she agrees. Ms. Levitt said she was prompted to change her behavior by an incident that took place 21 years ago this month aboard an Italian cruise ship. On Oct. 7, 1985, heavily armed Palestinian terrorists hijacked the Achille Lauro near Egypt. Leon Klinghoffer, a disabled Jewish retiree from New York, was shot and thrown overboard, along with his wheelchair. “Up until then I always wore a little mezuzah that was given to me when I was 12,” Ms. Levitt said. “I took it off that day and never put it back on.”

Paula David, a social worker at the Baycrest Wagman Centre, a long-term care facility that houses some of the largest populations of Holocaust survivors in North America, said that those segments echo those of other survivor families. “If you have intimately experienced oppression, ranging from personal insults to someone wanting to annihilate you, you are going to be extremely cautious of having an automatic sense of trust, and many have experienced anti-Semitism to validate that feeling,” she said. Ms. Dojc said there are certain triggers that should be avoided in the company of survivors, like references to “showers.” The sight of dogs can also conjure up painful memories for some. One should also keep a close eye on possible health problems. In many of the camps in Europe, the sick were automatically killed. “So maybe they don’t tell you they’re sick until it’s too late,” Ms. Dojc said.

The conference held a panel discussion on returning to places in Europe where Jews were persecuted and massacred. Ms. Levitt, for example, said in 2001 she returned to Poland, where her mother spent three years in a slave labor camp that produced munitions. “There was blood everywhere,” she said. Beautiful iron works, like the Star of David, and beautiful synagogues... There was a square with restaurants serving Jewish food. It’s all Jewish. The only thing missing were the Jews,” she said, clenching a tissue. “It was haunting.”

Her father’s two brothers survived the Holocaust, but her mother lost her entire family. Ms. Levitt said, examining the framed pictures in her Forest Hill home. “When the family escaped to Canada in the fall of 1956, nine-year-old Eva asked her father whether they would be getting a wave of more than 200 new complaints

The suits have deeply divided the French Jewish community. SNCF officials argue that the agency had no choice but to follow the orders of the Germans and the collaborator Vichy government. It’s a position supported by some French historians, who have also expressed concern about a backlash against the Jewish community.

Paris attorney Arno Klarfeld, son of famed French Nazi hunters Serge and Beate Klarsfeld, wrote in Le Monde newspaper following the June decision that the deportations were an “authoritative act of state from which the SNCF could not shy away.”

For Abe Dresner, 78, of Brooklyn, whose family managed to survive the war, the “French were as bad as the Gestapo.” French police and rail workers “stole everything from us except the clothes on our backs,” he said.

Others in the suit, like Wildmann, are more ambivalent about the culpability of the French railway. Some feel the litigation may serve to shed light on the issue. “I don’t know how much freedom the French (running the SNCF) had to choose,” he said.

A similar case against the French rail- road was filed several years ago in New York, but the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the French agency was protected by the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act. Ironically, the SNCF does not have the same protection in France. American law does allow exceptions, including suits seeking restitution for stolen property.

New York attorney Harriet Tamen is seeking restitution for stolen property for 500 clients. The judges held that SNCF administrators failed to protest the transfer of prisoners to concentration camps in 1944. The suits are being heard in a class action case seeking restitution for stolen property.

Meanwhile, time for payback is running out for the Holocaust survivors. “My baby sister is one of the youngest survivors and she’s already 67,” said Dresner. “We have been waiting a long time.”

First published in the San Francisco Chronicle

Page 6

MARTYRDOM & RESISTANCE

March/April 2007- Adar/Nisan 5767
BY ADI SCHWARTZ

The first question that must be asked is: why has this taken so long? About three weeks ago the Dutch, after the end of World War II, a committee of historians appointed by the Belgian government published a comprehensive report on the role of the Belgian authorities in the persecution and deportation of the Jews during the war. In other words, the committee was appointed to investigate the extent of the Belgian state’s collaboration with Nazi Germany.

“Most Belgians are unaware of the gravity of the persecution experienced by the country’s Jews,” stated the Belgian Senate in its 2002 decision to establish the committee. “Why it was necessary for half a century to elapse in order for us to discuss this part of our past? Is it the Senate’s duty to preserve the memory of the genocide, relying on facts that cannot be questioned. This is our obligation to the coming generations.”

What, in truth, can possibly explain this delay? Professor Dan Machman, chief historian of Yad Vashem and a specialist on the Holocaust in Belgium and Holland, says Belgium began dealing with the Holocaust later than other nations, but its state-commissioned report is an exception to the rule. He says that such reports have been established in Romania, Switzerland and Lichtenstein thus far, and similar research is currently underway in the Baltic states. However, in France, for example, no such project has been launched.

Machman explains that one of the reasons the Belgians held off from dealing with the issue was the fact that King Leopold III remained in the country during the German occupation, unlike the Belgian government, which went into exile in London. This fact gave rise to questions about his collaboration with the Germans. He relinquished his crown after the war to his 20-year-old son Baudouin.

The king problem remained a very sensitive issue in Belgium, and historians preferred, therefore, to concentrate on the German occupiers and not to deal with the Belgian collaborators. In the matter of the Jews, says Machman, the Belgians emphasized facts of saving the Jews and participation in the anti-Nazi underground.

King Leopold III with his first wife Astrid. (Continued on page 14)
GLADYS HALPERN: Resistance and Courage in the Face of the Holocaust

The story of Gladys Halpern is one of courage and true speaks of a Woman’s Legacy to her family and the cause of Remembrance. Gladys is the daughter of Sala and Ephraim Landau, and was born in the town of Zolkiew, near Lvov, Poland.

Initially imprisoned in the Zolkiew Ghetto, Gladys and her mother escaped and were hidden by a family who has been recognized as Righteous Among the Nations at Yad Vashem, Jerusalem. Sadly, her father perished when the Zolkiew Ghetto was liquidated on March 25, 1943. Gladys is one of only a few survivors of her family. She survived along with her mother and two of her mother’s sisters.

After the war ended, Gladys and her mother made their way to Western Poland. During this time she met, Sam, who would later become her husband. Sam and Gladys were married in Germany in 1946. Gladys and Sam Halpern currently reside in Hillside, New Jersey. They have four adult sons and are proud grandparents and great-grandparents.

Gladys Halpern is active in numerous Jewish communal organizations in the United States and Israel. Since its inception, she has been a member of the American Society for Yad Vashem, the Spring Luncheon Committee and a member of the Annual Tribute Dinner Committee. In addition, Gladys, together with her husband Sam, are Benefactors of Yad Vashem, and have been honored by Israel Bonds for their support of Holocaust Remembrance Activities. She is an active member of many Israel-related and communal organizations, including the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC, the Jewish Heritage Museum in New York City, the Jewish National Fund (JNF), American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), Hadassah and the Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey. Jewish Family Services of Central New Jersey, and Israel Bonds.

Through their involvement in these many organizations, Gladys and Sam have shown their family the importance of supporting the cause of Remembrance for generations to come.

Gladys and Sam Halpern are benefactors of Yad Vashem, Jerusalem and through their support made possible the refurbishment of the Avenue of the Righteous Among The Nations.

A TALE OF THREE WOMEN – AND A LOST FAMILY

On-stop sleuthing produces a story that twists at every turn: Wilno, Warsaw, the Dead Sea, Tel Aviv, a Righteous Gentile nanny, Stanislawa, and her extensive family and more.

Enter Warsaw teacher Marianna Koszewska, 23, who volunteers to assist members of the Children of the Holocaust Society; Maria Kowalska (Masha Fajnsztejn), 68; a toddler saved by her Righteous Gentleman nanny Stanislawa Butkiewicz; and former Londoner, researcher Patricia (Trish) Wilson, 59, of Raanana.

In September 1941, two-year-old Masha Fajnsztejn and her parents Yakub and Chana (Zygmuntowicz) went into the Wilno ghetto with their extended families, including her cousin, Daniel (Fajnsztejn) Avidar, then aged nine. Chana made contact with Masha’s nanny, Stanislawa, somehow managed to bring the toddler out to her and returned to the ghetto.

Chana told the family that she had given Masha to the nanny, along with money, jewelry and a pair of candlesticks with her brothers’ names and American addresses hidden inside.

Masha tells the story in her cousin Danny Avidar’s Kiyat Ono home: Stanislawa went to one brother, who refused to help. Another brother wouldn’t or couldn’t help, but sent her to a cousin in a forest 23 kilometers away, who built a special shelter for Masha if the Germans came. A priest gave her a new name – Maria Butkiewicz – and papers, and they lived in the forest for three years.

Stanislawa likely gave the candlesticks and jewelry to the priest who helped her.

Although she tried to retrieve them, she was always told to come tomorrow, and understood they would not be returned.

The nanny, who never married, had a photograph of Masha’s parents, told Maria she was Jewish and that no one had survived. Maria married and Stanislawa went to live with her in Zielonie Gory, 60 kilometers from Berlin. She died in 1990 at 88, and in 1992, was proclaimed a Righteous Gentile.

Danny was in several camps: Kaiserau (Riga), Stutthof near Danzig, on a two-and-a-half month march to Stettin, and was savaged by the Russians. After the war, he and his siblings returned home to find if anyone alive, he and his siblings came to Palestine on the Exodus emigration ship, and his sister Dina Fajnsztejn Srolovich submitted Yad Vashem Pages of Testimony (PoT).

Marina had a PoT indicating that Daniel Fajnsztejn Srolovich of Haifa had completed pages for Chana and Jakub (her first cousin): for her own parents Mordechai and Miriam Fajnsztajn, siblings Rywka and Batia; Jakub’s parents Abraham and Ida Fajnsztajn; and his uncle, philosophy professor Daniel Fajnsztajn, wife Rachel and three children.

In her October 27, 2006 posting to a Jewish genealogy discussion group, Mariana wrote, “Mama didn’t know about [Dina] and the family members until yesterday,” adding that she was traveling to Israel to see the (Continued on page 9)

RITA LEVY: Remembering the Past, Ensuring the Future

Deeply committed to Israel, Holocaust remembrance, and Jewish cultural preservation, Rita Levy and her husband, David, are long-time supporters of Hadassah, the Jewish National Fund (JNF), the American Jewish Committee, the American Society for Yad Vashem, and the Children of the Holocaust.

Levy’s legacy is deeply committed to Israel, the cause of Remembrance, and Jewish cultural preservation. She deeply committed to Israel, the cause of Remembrance, and Jewish cultural preservation. She is a member of the Board of the American Society for Yad Vashem and the American Federation of Jewish Philanthropies.

Levy’s husband, David, is a member of the Board of the Israel Jacobson Jewish Community Center. She has been involved in countless cultural activities, such as the Literary Committee and Jewish Film Festival of the Center. She is deeply committed to Israel, the cause of Remembrance, and Jewish cultural preservation.

Levy’s wife, Rebecca, is a member of the Board of the Israel Jacobson Jewish Community Center. She has been involved in countless cultural activities, such as the Literary Committee and Jewish Film Festival of the Center. She is deeply committed to Israel, the cause of Remembrance, and Jewish cultural preservation.

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A TALE OF THREE WOMEN AND A LOST FAMILY

(Continued from page 8)

Children of the Holocaust Society. “Do any of you know Ms. Dina Sztulovitz or anyone from her family?” Maria, she said, would be happy to help. Wilson got to work and located two PoTs from 1957 and 1982. She turned to Stephen Smith, co-founder of Britain’s Holocaust Survivors, for help if forced into a desperate situation. It has molded my entire identity.”

Liora Blum, a South Africa native, is sitting in a dimly lit Tel Aviv apartment, speaking along with others like her. They didn’t directly experience the camps or ghettos, but as second-generation Holocaust survivors, they are traumatized by their parents’ pasts.

Intergenerational trauma is being passed along from immediate Holocaust survivors to their offspring, says Chani Cauna came early; she remembers her Support Organization for Second and Third Generation Holocaust Survivors.

“Holocaust survivors endured incredible humiliation and struggle for survival; there was starvation, violence, fear and horror during the war and then, after being liberated, tremendous pressure to achieve, often suffer from a sense of lost childhood and let you have your life,’ ” said Wilson. “They were spared you. They gave you your childhood and let you have your life, just as I’m like: ‘ Lucky you! They spared you. They gave you your childhood and let you have your life.’ ”

Karsevar tells the group.

Stephen Smith, co-founder of Britain’s Holocaust Survivors, is an expert on genocide, says, “The problem is one of humanity. Genocide never happens by coincidence. It requires a sense of old and New. Wilson’s details. A call to her mother confirmed that Aron was one of two brothers. On Tuesday night, Isaac was returning to Milwaukee, and they both arrived at the Tel Aviv hotel on Monday night: his sisters, the children, the grandchildren. Avidar told Wilson, “What can I say to you? There are no words for what you have done. All I can say is that you will be in my heart forever.”

The family visited the Remembrance Hall, and the walls of Righteous Gentiles. Avidar pointed out Stanislawia’s name and told how she had saved Masha. Masha came from Poland, feels herself Catholic and thought the family in Israel was not. She called Mendel; a feeble voice answered. “You are Mendel, son of Aron of Ashmiany.”

In 1930, she found son John, and son Stanley, who went through severe trauma was totally different than other households. When I was two, you were nine. How do you think the story was finished. “I've been looking for shortened names. In 1930, she found son John, and son Stanley, who went through severe trauma was totally different than other households. When I was two, you were nine. How do you think the story was finished. “I've been looking for shortened names. It was explained that Catholic and thought the family in Israel was not. She called Mendel; a feeble voice answered. “You are Mendel, son of Aron of Ashmiany.”

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Report from Yad Vashem

SON OF SAVIORS OF A JEWISH GIRL ACCEPTS HOLOCAUST AWARD

BY KORIE WILKINS, FREE PRESS

Wally Czubatyj always heard the story of how his parents saved the life of a young Jewish girl during World War II.

But the heroic efforts of his parents, Danylo and Rostyslawa, became all the more real when he accepted an award from the Israeli Consul General on their behalf. His 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 Ishoika, who estimated that her parents would have wanted to 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, Baruch Binaf, said the Czubatyj family took a great risk in harboring Rapaport, who was later reunited with her sister and moved to Israel after World War II. "But we also remember those few who rose to the highest human level of courage and benevolence," he said.

"They don't talk enough about the Sobibor escape," he said, "It was a huge honor." He said it means so much to his family.

"Hana's Suitcase" Receives Yad Vashem Award

BY JENNY HAZAN, CJN

George Brady never imagined he would accept an award for children's Holocaust literature at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem. But the Czechoslovakian-born survivor of Auschwitz did just that in October of last year.

Along with his 22-year-old daughter, Lara, and Tokyo-based teacher Fumiko Ishoika, Brady accepted the 2006 Yad Vashem Award on behalf of first-time Canadian author Karen Levine for Hana's Suitcase.

The 2002 book was selected from among 10 children's books, which, other than Hana's Suitcase, were written in Hebrew by Israeli authors. Hana's Suitcase was the story of Brady's younger sister, Hana, who, in 1942 at the age of 10, was killed at Auschwitz, and the Japanese educator who told her story to the world. "Never in my wildest imagination did I ever expect that this would happen," says Brady, a plumber in Toronto for more than 40 years. "Not just these awards, but this whole story – it's like a dream."

The award is the culmination of a story that began when he was mandated. The only thing the little girl left behind was a suitcase, on which was written her name, her birth date and the German word wasienkind, which means orphan. The mysterious suitcase found its way into the hands of Japanese teacher Fumiko Ishoika, co-ordinator of the now-defunct Tokyo Holocaust Education Resource Center. Ishoika had written letters to several Holocaust museums around the world requesting children's artifacts for her modest collection.

After a third of the three million Jews who lived in the Soviet Union were killed in World War II. A considerable number of these were soldiers serving in the Red Army, but hundreds of thousands were murdered by the Nazis, who conquered Ukraine, Belarus and western Russia.

Dr. Guy Miron of the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem says that relatively little data has been collected on the Holocaust in these regions: "It stems first of all from the fact that the murder there was perpetrated in a very short period and through the method of mass executions in killing pits. The second reason is that most of the Jews who survived from those areas lived behind the Iron Curtain." Some 6,500 elderly folks are housed in Amigur housing and 90 percent of these are new immigrants from the former Soviet Union. Amigur director Yuval Frankel of the testimony campaign spurred by random conversations with immigrants on Yom Haatzmaut (Independence Day) celebrations. This is the most important holiday in the year for immigrants from the former Soviet Union. Frankel says, "At every such event, we would hear stories from the immigrants about their experiences during the war, and we thought these things must be documented before they die." Indeed, two of the immigrants died just days after writing their testimony.

Frankel says the immigrants were reluctant to speak about the Holocaust, the "catastrophe" as they term it. "But in mind that the private disaster of the Jews was subsumed by the enormity of the destruction and we thought that the lives of 20 million Jews were worth the price exacted by the war, which took the lives of 20 million citizens."

Many of the immigrants who refused initially to cooperate eventually changed their minds, once they realized the importance of testimony for future generations and the partiality of the campaign against Holocaust denial. "Yad Vashem was pretty skeptical at first," Frankel says, "but when they saw what was involved, their attitude changed completely, and recently they asked us to distribute to the immigrants 2,000 testimony pages, to try through them to obtain new names of Jews who were killed in the Holocaust. Frankel is on other public housing companies that provide assisted living facilities for immigrants to join the initiative.

Yad Vashem is calling on anyone with additional information to telephone 02-44-3752.

Group portrait of people who took part in the uprising of Sobibor (picture taken in 1944)
T he Nazis were masters at stealing public and private art works and dealers. Recently, many works have finally been returned — but the legal path can be circuitous.

"Art: A Handbook to Art Restitution" — with Spitzweg's "Justitia," which forms part of the German president's art collection, is anything but a symbol of justice — quite the contrary. The piece was sold at a cut-rate price by its Jewish owner in the mid-1930s to finance his escape attempt and was appropriated by the Nazis during World War II. Seven decades later, his descendants have still not been compensated for its loss.

But that may soon change. In recent years there have been growing efforts to find and compensate families of art collectors dispossessed by the Nazis during World War II. An important new contribution to that project was revealed in Berlin Tuesday: a new book called "Nazi Looted Art: A Handbook to Art Restitution Worldwide" — with Spitzweg’s "Justitia" gracing the cover.

Over 500 pages long, the encyclopedic tome is filled with case studies of valuable artworks either being taken from their owners by the Nazis, or sold at below-market prices after they escaped. But more than that, the book provides a detailed, country-by-country look at the laws in place intended to help descendants get their art back — in effect, an instruction manual for those dispossessed by the Nazis.

This book gives the victims the possibility to take legal action without having to hire a lawyer,” says Gunnar Schnabel, a history professor who co-authored the book with Monika Tatzkowski, a Berlin historian who specializes in tracking down lost art.

"There have already been hundreds of pictures returned in recent years,” he says. "But there are likely hundreds more in the basements of museums in Germany, Austria, the US and elsewhere.

"Architectural Capriccio," by Bibiana Giuseppe Galli, will be returned to its rightful owner by the Courtauld Institute of Art in the UK.

"He'll never finish the book,” Silberklang says. "We're just beginning. We're in diapers."

The effort has rolled across Europe and the United States, with the new methods helping to locate a notorious fugitive: Aribert Heim.

Gray says it should not matter that the suspects are old. "If scholars live to be 120, work six days a week, and die at 120, we’ll still only have 22 years,” he says. "And there are countless unanswered questions from the Holocaust, says Silberklang.

Since 1953, Yad Vashem has been gathering pages of testimony about the Jews who were killed. Just over half of the victims have been identified thus far. Perhaps a million more names will eventually be collected.

“The Nazis obliterated the rest, their lives and their deaths,” says Silberklang.

Other puzzles include the victims’ response to the Holocaust, Silberklang says. Why did some Jews try to save themselves from mass deportations and near-certain death, going into hiding or organizing Jewish resistance, while others did not?

The date of the decision to launch the “Final Solution” also eludes scholars, says Silberklang.

Since 1992, Yad Vashem has been investigating five stories tall, with nine more stories under the ground, says the Yad Vashem historian. The Soviets didn’t destroy a single document, he says.

To this day, the editor of the journal "Yad Vashem Studies" points out, no book tells the comprehensive story of the Holocaust in Poland, where three million Jews were killed. An 84-year-old scholar in Israel has been working on such a book for over 25 years.

"He’ll never finish the book,” Silberklang maintains. "The problem is, he’s one of the few people in the world with the necessary language skills and knowledge about Poland. If he can’t finish, who can?"

By the end of 2007, Yad Vashem expects to publish its Lexicon of the Ghetto, a compendium of articles detailing over 1,000 Jewish ghettos established by the Nazis and their collaborators during World War II.

The project, which began two-and-a-half years ago, has required the labor of a team of researchers.

Silberklang, who sits on the project’s editorial board, says experts with the ability to read and ensure the accuracy of the ghetto lexicon are very hard to find. Furthermore, there were hundreds, if not thousands, of Jewish ghettos in Poland for which there is no research.

“There is information but no analysis, no interpretation, patterns. ‘We’re in diapers. We’re just beginning.’

Similar questions remain about the Jews in Greece, Romania and the former Soviet Union. Cutting-edge research has set the framework of what needs to be investigated, but there is so much that scholars simply have not explored.

For example, Silberklang says, there is no book on Greece in the Holocaust, in part because of the Greek government’s reluctance to allow scholars complete access to its archives.

In the republics of the former Soviet Union and Russia itself, the task is perhaps even more daunting. Despite some intervention by the Russian government, there are no small number of small sites that scholars cannot affect.

Silberklang insists that there is no shortage of research topics for interested students to pursue.

With the collapse of communism 16 years ago, the defunct Soviet Union opened its archives throughout most of its former republics. In Moscow’s Special Archive, documents are housed in a building five stories tall, with rooms underground, says the Yad Vashem historian. The Soviets didn’t destroy a single file.

According to Silberklang, Shmulik Brodsky, the late Yad Vashem scholar, visited the Moscow archive in 1992 and said: “If scholars live to be 120, work six days a week, and die at 120, we’ll still only have 100 years just to turn the pages, let alone digest the knowledge.”

First published in the Cleveland Jewish News.
The best-known scene in Elie Wiesel’s book “Night” is apparently based on an execution. Three prisoners, two of them adults and the third a little boy, were taken out at the Birkenau camp in Auschwitz after being used by the Gestapo in the discovery of a weapons cache. The little boy, who did not weigh much, hovered between life and death for more than half an hour. 

“Where is God?” someone standing behind Wiesel asked, and Wiesel relates in the book that a voice from inside him replied: “Here, He is. He is hanging here on the gallows.” More than eight million copies of “Night” were sold in the United States alone. Oprah Winfrey chose it for her Book Club, and articles appeared saying the hangman scene never happened in reality, or that there was no child there. The leading question of the scene’s veracity was Prof. Raoul Hilberg, one of the world’s preeminent Holocaust scholars. Hilberg told Haaretz correspondent Daphna Berman that he was convinced the hanging had taken place but “I don’t know whether there was a child there.”

Hilberg bases his claim, inter alia, on the testimony of the three men who were hanging the three persons hanged but does not mention that one was a child. In Hilberg’s opinion, the question of whether there was a child among them is of great significance to Christian readers because the scene in which the adults and a child are hanged are representative of this crucifixion of Jesus Christ. In an interview I had with Wiesel he said that “everything written in ‘Night’ is factual. Even the silence between the words is factual. God forbid, everything in this book is true.” He added that he was not responsible “for the names of those particular people that was hanged in the United States. Subsequently, Rabbi Dov Edelstein, a survivor of Auschwitz, contacted me. He was present at the hanging of the two adults and the boy,” he says. Edelstein, a Conservative rabbi, is now a pensioner who lives at Afula. Menashe and is a member of the Hod Vehadar Conservative congregation in Kfar Sava. “I have been the rabbi of Conservative congregations in Michigan, Wisconsin and Georgia. I say: I remember the exact details. There is no doubt about this. I am a living eyewitness. The story is absolutely true.”

In the article, I mentioned that the number tattooed on Wiesel’s arm is A-77133. Edelstein notes that “there are 155 numbers between his number and mine.” He says: “Every day when we returned from work, the minute we returned, everyone went to his own block. On that particular day they told us no one was to go away. I had to go to Auschwitz, the square called the center of the camp. In the middle of the Appleplatz was a structure with three wooden posts that resembled the goals on a football field. I saw it and didn’t understand what it was. “We waited and waited and meanwhile the orchestra played,” he recalls. “Suddenly I saw three figures approaching under a heavily armed SS guard. They brought them to the three strange structures that I couldn’t identify and then there was a ceremony. We had to put our hats on and take them off.” Edelstein says that “the Nazis told us what the three had done. They had stolen explosive materials from work and blown up the crematoria at Birkenau. I think they even killed some SS men,” he adds. “I was a younger then, about 16 or 17, but I was shocked. It was extremely shocking to see the young boy being hanged. After that, he was a great man. Edelstein does not remember how long the boy remained alive.”

HOLY VIRGIN

A very mystical scene in “Night” takes place following the conclusion of World War II, during the death march that set out from Auschwitz. At night, in a place called Gleiwitz, Juleik, one of the members of the camp’s orchestra, pulled out his violin and played a fragment of a concerto by Beethoven: “The sound of the violin in this dark shad, where the dead were heaped on the living...How could I forget that concert given to an audience of dying and dead men?” Since then, Wiesel writes, he always thinks of the death march when he hears a Beethoven concerto.

The violin scene has also been doubted. In this case, the question is whether someone would have been bothered to take with him such an instrument as a violin in the horrific conditions of the death march. Edelstein says of the death march that it was a “night and day” event. “I was a youngster then, a pensioner who lives at Afula,” he adds. “I was a youngster then, a pensioner who lives at Afula. I was a youngster then, a pensioner who lives at Afula.”

Truman urged the British to admit Holocaust survivors to Palestine, but he never seriously pressured London to do so. He is fondly remembered for granting diplomatic recognition to the State of Israel minutes after the state was created, although he refused to send Israel weapons to defend itself against the invading Arab armies.

Rosevelt expressed sympathy for the Jews being massacred by the Nazis, but also knew that giving them too much help would help them. On occasion, FDR told the British he should open Palestine to Jews fleeing Hitler, but he was never willing to really lean on Churchill to do so. Churchill supported the Zionist cause throughout his career, often vigorously so and in the face of fierce opposition within his own cabinet. Yet, when it mattered most, his support was more in the realm of rhetoric than action. As prime minister during the Holocaust, Churchill left in place the harsh White Paper policy that had failed to deter Hitler from conquer- ing Palestine, thus trapping them in Hitler’s inferno.

Prof. Henry Finkelberg has asked, “Is it conceivable that a policy that severely curtailed Jewish immigration and land sales in Palestine at a time when to deny its availability meant that death was almost certainly the alternative... was not at least partly motivated by anti-Semitism?”

I very rarely know the answer to that question, but in the end, it may not even matter. Whatever his motives, Churchill’s policies spoke for that time.
POSTWAR GERMAN GOVERNMENT AND CIA SHIELDED NAZI CRIMINALS

(Continued from page 5)

the Federal Republic of Germany, including his role between 1948 and 1952, as chairman of the parliamentary committee for Wiederaufbau (Loan Corporation for Reconstruction), and afterwards as a financial advisor to Konrad Adenauer and executive board member of the Deutsche Bank.

Theodor Maunz, who under Hitler was an influential constitutional lawyer, wrote the first commentary on the 1949 post-war German constitution. He did so with his student, Roman Herzog, who later became president of the Federal Republic of Germany. This commentary by Maunz and Herzog is still cited today. Maunz has also provided legal advice to the self-proclaimed Hitler admirer Gerhard Frey, who founded the German Peoples Union and publishes the German National and Soldiers Newspaper. Maunz has written articles for this neo-fascist newspaper.

When the first German Bundesstag (post-war federal parliament) met, more than half of the senior officials were former NSDAP members. Among section heads, the number was four-fifths. Herbert Masuch, a former member of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) after the war, and formerly a member of the NSDAP, who had the same pre-war address in Baden-Württemberg when it was revealed that he had authorized the death sentence in several trials as a naval judge during the Second World War.

Hans Speidel, who had been a professor at the University of Munich, was another Nazi. One becoming a major general in the Wehrmacht under Hitler, was a military advisor to Adenauer and played a central role in the formation of Germany’s post-war Bundeswehr (Armed Forces). He died at 86, a highly decorated officer, having been awarded the Knight’s Cross in 1944 and elevated to the rank of four-star general in 1957. Without the cooperation, or at least approval, of the US government and its intelligence services, the Adenauer government could not have proceeded in this way. A thousands of pages newly released government and voluminous series of Critical Studies archives also cast light on the work of US agencies. The material makes clear that the Nazis maintained a vast spy network of former Nazis during the Cold War.

Probably of greatest significance was Reinhard Gehlen, Hitler’s chief of the military secret service on the Eastern Front. From 1942 to 1945, he led the espionage department in the Army general staff. Immediately after the war, Gehlen had his entire organization, consisting of SS or SD (SS security service) people, were placed in the service of the American secret service, the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), predecessor to the CIA.

Gehlen was assigned to develop Germany’s foreign secret service, to be directed from Berlin by the Soviet Union. “It was important to secure to the Communist state, as long as he was an anti-commu- nist,” the former boss of CIA operations in the Soviet Union, Donald Rumsfeld, wrote. He added, “The necessity of recruiting fellow combatants required a not-too-critical approach to their past. Gehlen was to develop the German secret service (BND) absorbed whole departments from the Nazis’ security service.

At first, the Adenauer government was not informed of the CIA’s collaboration with Gehlen. Instead, the gentleman, who was working with his agents in Pullach, near Munich, “immediately found a good contact and gained the impression that he correctly saw the sig- nificance of my organization,” wrote Gehlen on his first meeting with Glöckle. Gehlen led the BND till his retirement in 1969. Even in 1970, between 25 and 30 percent of BND employees were for- mer members of the SS, the Gestapo or the Nazi security service.

Therefore, it was possible that the CIA was interested in covering up for Glöckle in 1960.

In January 1963, Adenauer was asked by a US press agency correspondent whether it had been an error to make peo- ple like Hans Glöckle and Reinhard Gehlen his closest collaborators. Adenauer answered, “I have heard this question and also other names again and again. But note this well, my dear sir, one needs capable and reli- able people to develop a democratic state. Democracy lives by the will of people to secure liberty and morality within the legal order.”

This seems to have remained the attitude of German governments to the present day. The historian Nathaniel claimed, it is very dif- ficult to illuminate international history from only one side. It is a genuine shame that the American Government refuses to publish its information on this topic. I do not understand why Berlin does not want to release the BND files on the Eichmann case. Why not? I would be very curious to see what information the West German government had about Eichmann, and how the decision was reached about what should happen with Eichmann, taken by the highest circles between Adenauer and Glöckle.

The German establishment has no inter- est in this chapter of German history being debated once again in public. The new exposures about Eichmann and Glöckle have not led to the release of any BND files or any other documents. They are all the more inconvenient at a time when the German government is again engaged in military operations around the world, and is pro- moting a ‘healthy patriotism’ on the basis of 60 years of ‘experience with democracy.’

Richard Gehlen

LACK OF COOPERATION:both the US government and its intelligence services, the Adenauer government could not have proceeded in this way. A thousands of pages newly released government and voluminous series of Critical Studies archives also cast light on the work of US agencies. The material makes clear that the Nazis maintained a vast spy network of former Nazis during the Cold War.

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Therefore, it was possible that the CIA was interested in covering up for Glöckle in 1960.

In January 1963, Adenauer was asked by a US press agency correspondent whether it had been an error to make peo- ple like Hans Glöckle and Reinhard Gehlen his closest collaborators. Adenauer answered, “I have heard this question and also other names again and again. But note this well, my dear sir, one needs capable and reli- able people to develop a democratic state. Democracy lives by the will of people to secure liberty and morality within the legal order.”

This seems to have remained the attitude of German governments to the present day. The historian Nathaniel claimed, it is very dif- ficult to illuminate international history from only one side. It is a genuine shame that the American Government refuses to publish its information on this topic. I do not understand why Berlin does not want to release the BND files on the Eichmann case. Why not? I would be very curious to see what information the West German government had about Eichmann, and how the decision was reached about what should happen with Eichmann, taken by the highest circles between Adenauer and Glöckle.

The German establishment has no inter- est in this chapter of German history being debated once again in public. The new exposures about Eichmann and Glöckle have not led to the release of any BND files or any other documents. They are all the more inconvenient at a time when the German government is again engaged in military operations around the world, and is pro- moting a ‘healthy patriotism’ on the basis of 60 years of ‘experience with democracy.’

I WAS A CHILD OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

(Continued from page 4)

writes. And, “If it is impossible for the truth to be held in one’s pocket, I always filled my own with objects that could facilitate passage to a place and a time. Sometimes, my mother’s sentences and description comes through sharp and clear, as when she envisions that ‘as John conservation of her family, she wants to be part of a piece of barbed wire and sauntering into Auschwitz to howl away the menacing guards and free the prisoners. She’s full of confidence when she adds to her draw- ings the part-Yiddish, part-English dia- logue spoken by her parents and their surv- ivor friends. She leaves silences between the voice balloons and lets us fill in the transitions from her own experi- ence. In one comic-strip section, she recalls the Yiddish-speaking world in which she grew up. The panels are all jointed, impressionistic and nonlinear — and warm, human and effective.

Her figures float, boneless, not quite weighted down by gravity. They have a sharp and clear, as when she envisions a place and a time.”

Eisenstein’s story is an important addition to the many memoirs of other Holocaust survivors. Together, they presented a closed circle that, for the young Eisenstein at least, was an emo- tional barrier it has taken years to sur- mount. Some of her descriptions will haunt me: At a Tokyo bar mizvah circa 1960, we meet Carola, sheathed in a floor-length shiny in her tightly fitting brocade dress and laquered hair, with a personal friend to prepare the documents for inter-

The German spa town of Bad Arolsen, said they believe Germany, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Britain and Greece will ratify the agreement before the next meeting in two months.

The Tracing Service has handled 11 mil- lion inquiries for personal information in the last 60 years, but survivors have com- plained it has taken as long as three years to receive answers, and often, the infor- mation was minimal.

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(Continued from page 4)

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between Brussels and Antwerp derives, whereas in Antwerp the police helped the population was concentrated in the largest cities in Belgium. The deportations, however, had been administrative decisions - and if the latter had superiors, then responsibility then so did their command- structure. The Claims Conference is working in coordination with groups representing non-Jewish former property owners who lost their assets under Communism. The Claims Conference and the former Soviet bloc that, in the 18 years passed and that the program be established by 2010. 15 percent of the value of the confiscated private property stolen during the Holocaust. At the meetings in Warsaw, Prime Minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski committed to legislation by the end of the year, but indicated that compensation will be based on 15 percent of the value of the confiscated property. The Claims Conference and WJRO will be working intensively in an effort to ensure the best possible law be passed and that the program be established. Poland is the only major country in the former Soviet bloc that, in the 18 years since the fall of Communism, has not taken any measures to help former property owners or heirs recover private property stolen since 1939 that is still within the country’s borders. The Claims Conference is working in coordination with groups representing non-Jewish former property owners who lost their assets under Communism. The group are PUVN (Polish Union Wloszczolienurowchi – Polish Union of Real Estate Owners) and the Landowners Association of Poland. In September, 2006, the government of Poland submitted draft legislation proposing compensation for confiscated private property. However, it did not provide for the return of any actual property, excluded the substantial and valuable properties located in Warsaw from its reach, and offered limited compensation at best.

HOW BELGIUM SACRIFICED ITS JEWS TO THE NAZIS

(Continued from page 6) expelled from the schools. In June 1942, Jews were prohibited from working as doctors.

A German officer knocked her unconscious. He stopped the car and left her bleeding on the roadside. One of the rescued was Elzbieta Glowinski, now a literature professor. "I continue to have pangs of conscience that we who were rescuing children are not doing enough to eradicate a matter of such indifference." Mrs. Sendlerowa buried the bodies of the children on the roadside. When the Red Army liberated Warsaw on August 25, 1944, announcing that Jews who had left Germany and were living abroad could not be German subjects (they had lost their citizenship by law issued in 1935) and that all remaining assets of these Jews automatically were forfeited to the Reich. The diplomatic note was written by the Chiang Kai-shek government, translating part of the decree and making the following observations about the policy in question: "The Jewish problem is being partially solved in the Protectorate [Reich Protection of Bohemia-Moravia], as it has been decided to eradicate all the Jews and send some to Poland and others to the town of Terezin, whilst looking for a more remote place. The German triumph [in the war] will leave Europe freed of Semites. Those [Jews] who escape with their lives from this trial will certainly be deported to the last place where the Hitler government has an opportunity to make use of their financial capabilities. In addition to the U.S., increasing its attacks on the Reich, Germany will experience the destruction of Semitism, as she accuses international Judaism of all the calamities which befell the world. "The Exodus of the Jews from the Reich has not had the results prophesied by the enemies of Germany: on the contrary, they have been replaced by Aryans with obvious advantage to everything and in everything, except in the Jewish line in which they are past masters."

THE CLAIMS CONFERENCE PRESSING POLAND FOR RESTITUTION LAW

American and British WWII military intelligence agencies may have been aware of Adolf Hitler’s “Final Solution” plan for the “eradicating” of the Jewish of Europe as early as 1942, according to documents just declassified under the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act of 1998. According to a National Archives press release, by March 20, 1942, a surreptitiously obtained document appears in the files of the United States Coordinator of Information (COI), a predecessor to the Central Intelligence Agency, clearly discussing the Nazi intent to eradicate European Jews. The document is a translated copy of a dispatch filed by a Chilan diplomat on November 24, 1941. The document sheeds new light on the longstanding question of how much the Flemish north and the Dutch and the Nazis murdered depending on secrecy and subterfuge. Warnings would not have stopped the Holocaust, but they could have saved lives. A public member of the Interagency Working Group (IWG), a group that coordinates the government-wide effort to declassify federal records related to Nazi and Axis war crimes.

Another IWG member, Elizabeth Holtzman, added, "This recently declassified document helps pinpoint how much officials within our government knew about the Holocaust and when they knew it. The next question is why our government — not to mention the British — did nothing in response. It is unsurprising to think that plans to eradicate a large population were a matter of such indifference."

THE CHILEAN DISPATCH

During German occupation, Prague was no longer a capital of a country, and most foreign diplomats had departed. The former Chilean consul, Gonzalo Montt Rivás, however, was able to resume his post because of friendly relations between Nazi Germany and neutral Chile. His location and good connections provided a unique vantage point for disclosing the Nazi agenda and actions in Nazi-occupied territories, a perspective not afforded to most Western diplomats. Prompting his dispatch was a decree to be issued by Nazi Germany on November 25, 1941, announcing that Jews who had left Germany and were living abroad could not be German subjects (they had lost their citizenship by law issued in 1935) and that all remaining assets of these Jews automatically were forfeited to the Reich. The diplomatic note was written by the Chiang Kai-shek government, translating part of the decree and making the following observations about the policy in question: "The Jewish problem is being partially solved in the Protectorate [Reich Protection of Bohemia-Moravia], as it has been decided to eradicate all the Jews and send some to Poland and others to the town of Terezin, whilst looking for a more remote place. The German triumph [in the war] will leave Europe freed of Semites. Those [Jews] who escape with their lives from this trial will certainly be deported to the last place where the Hitler government has an opportunity to make use of their financial capabilities. In addition to the U.S., increasing its attacks on the Reich, Germany will experience the destruction of Semitism, as she accuses international Judaism of all the calamities which befell the world. "The Exodus of the Jews from the Reich has not had the results prophesied by the enemies of Germany: on the contrary, they have been replaced by Aryans with obvious advantage to everything and in everything, except in the Jewish line in which they are past masters."

THE DECLASSIFICATION EFFORT

Since 1999, the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group (IWG) has overseen the identification, declassification review, and release of formerly classified US Government records as required by the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act. Under the auspices of the IWG, US Government agencies have declassified more than 3 million pages to date. The records are available for research at the National Archives. A recent report on the Japanese Imperial Government Disclosure Act of 2000 indicates that the effort to finish the European war crimes phase and move into the Japanese and Far East phases is comprehensive in its execution.

ALLIES MAY HAVE KNOWN OF HOLOCAUST PLANS

DECLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS REVEAL FACTS OF HITLER’S “FINAL SOLUTION”

(Continued from page 5) officer with a large backpack full of dol- lars. On the drive to her execution site the officer with a large backpack full of dol-

HOW BELGIUM SACRIFICED ITS JEWS TO THE NAZIS

Hoocaust Heroine’s Survival Tale

Queen Elizabeth of Bavaria.

Martyrdom & Resistance

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Amerian heirs to a property empire
confiscated by the Nazis said they
would fight for restitution from
KarstadtQuelle after the German retailer
filed a court order to compensate them.
Karstadt, one of Germany’s leading retailers,
announced its intention to contest the ruling,
even if that meant taking it to the highest European court.
Principe and her family.
Switzerland’s First Permanant Public Memorial to Poland’s Most Infamous Episode of Postwar Violence for 1946

The memorial, designed by New York-born artist Jack Sal, is to be unveiled July 4, the 60th anniversary of the so-called Kielce pogrom, an attack by a Polish mob that killed 42 Jewish Holocaust survivors and injured another 50 or so. The Kielce pogrom was the worst of a series of Polish attacks on Jewish survivors returning to their homes after the Holocaust. Kielce had 27,000 Jews before the war, but only a few hundred survived. Spurred by rumors that the returning Jews had killed a Christian child to use his blood for ritual purposes, the pogrom became a landmark in fostering the image of the isolated Polish “people against Semitism” and sparked the mass emigration of some 100,000 Polish Holocaust survivors.

New people were hastily tried and executed for the murders by Poland’s Communist authorities, but the pogrom remained a festering and bitterly divisive memory for decades. Many Poles refused to accept that ordinary people could have carried out such carnage and blamed the attack on provo-
cation by Soviet-backed secret police.

Public discussion of the affair during the
Communist era was virtually taboo.
The Polish government made an official apology
for the pogrom 10 years ago, on the 50th anniversary of the attack, but during that ceremony, Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel bluntly raised the issues and questions
that had blemished the memory of Kielce for half a century. “True, the killing was perpetrated by hooligans,” he said. “But what about the soldiers who reportedly took part in them? And what about the others, the bystanders? And where were the ‘solid citizens’ of the town? How many of them even tried to stop the massacre?”

What happened in this place showed that normal citizens could be as cruel as the killers of any death camp,” he said. “Auschwitz, Majdanek, Treblinka, Belzec, Chelmno—all they were against was the Jews. It was not. Kielce’s murderers were Poles. Their language was Polish, Their homeland was Poland.”

The affair remains a touchy issue, openly with the issue over the years, Sal, who describes himself as a conceptual artist, calls his monument to the pogrom victims “White Walls/White Stars.” The memorial will be shaped like a big number seven, lying on its side, as if fallen, to recall both the address on Planty Street and the month of July — the location and time of the pogrom. The cement blocks will make up the exterior surface. Forty-two of them will be covered with lead sheets and placed at random across the face of the work, representing the 42 victims.

Next to the seven, there will be a column bearing a commorative plaque with inscriptions in Polish, English and Hebrew. The entire surface of the monument will be painted with a white lime wash, which will be maintained by the city. This recalls that before the war, Jews in Kielce were active in the quarrying and manufacture of lime, Sal said.

The Kielce monument is not the first time that Sal has dealt with the Holocaust in his work, and he readily acknowledges that his family history has influenced him. Sal’s father, born in Lithuania, was liberated from Dachau after surviving the Holocaust in numerous Nazi concentration camps. His mother, born in what is now Ukraine, survived the war by hiding with her parents in the forest for two years. The two met after the war’s end in a displaced persons camp near Munich and eventually moved to New York, where Sal was born in 1954.

In 1998-2000, Sal created a sculptural installation in Munich, outside the apartment building where his newly married parents lived after the war. The work, sponsored by the Munich Public Art Commission, entailed a bronze column, approximately the size of two large paving stones, with its surface most likely covered by scored markings. The reason, as Sal put it, if it had been wiped clean — or eroded.
BY ROBERT NOLIN

Occupying a corner in an orderly arrangement of children's toys, games, art-work, diaries and poems, South Florida families recently learned about the Holocaust in a way that spoke directly to the younger generation. This display of children’s treasures is Yad Vashem’s “No Child’s Play” exhibit, which showcases the creative results of imagination tainted by fear.

Through children’s toys, games, art-work, diaries and poems, South Florida families recently learned about the Holocaust in a way that spoke directly to the younger generation. This display of children’s treasures is Yad Vashem’s “No Child’s Play” exhibit, which showcases the creative results of imagination tainted by fear and loneliness, magnified by inhumanity.

In February, The Samuel Scheikl Community Day School, the largest Jewish day school in the southeastern United States, hosted the regional premiere of “No Child’s Play.” The week was highlighted by an opening night welcome from Eli Zborowski, Chairman of the American and International Societies for Yad Vashem. Mr. Zborowski spent the following two days with Hillet’s middle and high school students, walking through the exhibit and sharing his story of survival and struggle.

“Rarely can our children so easily relate to their history, yet ‘No Child’s Play’ directly connects them with the past,” said Dr. Adam Holden, Hillet’s head of school. “Hillet is grateful to Yad Vashem and Mr. and Mrs. Zborowski, the time, images and stories they shared made an inspirational, ever-lasting imprint on our students.”

Unlike other Holocaust exhibitions, “No Child’s Play” does not focus on statistics or physical violence. Instead, it provides a glimmer into what children’s lives were like during the Holocaust and how everyday items became sources of comfort and companionship.

From early childhood through high school, Hillet is a Jewish community day school structured to cultivate and inspire students’ interests and talents and to prepare them for college admission. By engaging students in meaningful cultural and religious experiences, Hillel strives to deepen their commitment to Judaism, the State of Israel, and the American and international Jewish community.

Toward the end of the two days of visits by the students, there were speeches about Holocaust remembrance and religious experiences, Hillel strives to deepen their commitment to Judaism, the State of Israel, and the American and international Jewish community.

Becki Apelker at 212-220-4304. For Educational materials regarding the availability of any of the exhibits, please feel free to contact Elizabeth Zborowski at 212-220-4304. For Educational materials regarding the availability of any of the exhibits, please feel free to contact Elizabeth Zborowski at 212-220-4304.

BY ILANA LIPSON, THE DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS AT THE SAMUEL SHECK HILLEL COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL

Hillel parent Stefanie Wolf walked through the “No Child’s Play” exhibit with her daughters Shoshi and Alexandra.

If you want more information on the availability of any of the exhibits, please feel free to contact Elizabeth Zborowski at 212-220-4304. For Educational materials regarding the availability of any of the exhibits, please feel free to contact Elizabeth Zborowski at 212-220-4304.

Eli and Elizabeth Zborowski (center) presented to Hillel’s Dr. Adam Holden (left) and Rabbi Michael Druin a gift of an Israeli postage stamp of the image of a survivor’s teddy bear.