“WE MUST SAFEGUARD THE SACRED CAUSE OF REMEMBRANCE”

ELI ZBOROWSKI, Founder and Chairman of the American Society for Yad Vashem

Welcome to the American & International Society Tribute Dinner.

I am privileged to preside over this program with my friend and colleague, Dr. Miriam Adelson. I extend a heartfelt "mazel-ov" to this evening’s honorees, Cecile and Edward Mosberg, and Matthew Bronfman. The Mosbergs, both Holocaust survivors, have dedicated themselves to preserving Jewish memory through the rescue of religious artifacts that were abandoned during the war. Matthew Bronfman, a member of the first post-Holocaust generation, is the second member of his family to be honored at an American Society Tribute Dinner. We were privileged to honor his father, Edgar M. Bronfman, exactly a decade ago.

The theme of this year’s Tribute Dinner, Pirkeh Avot, “And you shall tell your children,” takes me back to my own childhood and the Shabbat afternoon study sessions with my father when we would together explore the wisdom found in Pirkeh Avot, the Ethics of the Fathers. I am truly indebted to my parents for instilling in me a respect for learning, a sense of justice and a commitment to the Jewish people and the Jewish land, Erez Yisrael.

Who could have thought then, that we would experience the unthinkable horrors of the Holocaust and that, we the survivors, would then have to transmit this to our children, and their children, gives me the assurance that you, all of you, will continue to support Yad Vashem’s mission.

I wish that I wouldn’t have to stand here and talk to you about the Holocaust and say that the Holocaust never happened. But it happened, and I have to tell you about it.

The lessons of the Holocaust are not the sterile stories of history, but warnings for the future. They are lessons the many Holocaust survivors here tonight know all too well. They are lessons for how we must lead today.

Though we live in times of unprecedented security, peace and prosperity, we face very real challenges. Iran, the world’s leading state sponsor of terrorism, continues marching, unimpeded down the nuclear corridor. Ahmadinejad’s declaration of intent includes the elimination of another six million Jews.

The rights and lives of Jews around the world are threatened anew by neo-Nazis and unashamed anti-Semites. Israel’s security remains gravely threatened.

Though there are those who may deny our history, we shall never forget it. Though there are those who may seek to repeat our history, we shall never permit it. Though in every generation there are those who rise up against us to wipe us out, God shall never allow it.

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I wish that I wouldn’t have to stand here and talk to you about the Holocaust and say that the Holocaust never happened. But it happened, and I have to tell you about the atrocities that were committed by the Nazis to the six million Jews.

Four years ago, my wife and I, one of our daughters, her husband, and two of our grandchildren participated in the March of the Living. On Yom Hashoah, seven thousand children, plus hundreds of adults marched from Auschwitz to Birkenau. My daughter and I have participated on the March of the Living before. For my wife, this was her first March of the Living. My wife in 1944 went on one of the Marches of Death, but Dr. Mengele selected her to live.

While we were in Poland we went through the concentration camps. Majdanek, Treblinka, Auschwitz, Birkenau, Plaszow, and Belzec. I would like to tell you about Belzec. From March 1942 until December 1942 the Nazis brought Jews from Poland and other countries into the camp at Belzec. Arriving prison

IN THIS ISSUE

American & International Societies for Yad Vashem Tribute Dinner.1, 8-9, 16
A Hungarian pariah is a Holocaust hero.5
One family’s “Sophie’s Choice”6
Unearthing mass graves unseals history.6
France gives director of Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial Legion of Honor.10
After freeing wartime slave labor, his crusade became Holocaust education.11
In the Shadow of Horror.11
Scholar unearths previously unknown Primo Levi text at Yad Vashem.12
A Holocaust Mystery Finds Some Answers.13
Heirs Make Huge Claim Over Dutch Works of Art.15
Nazi prosecutors still hunt death head doctor.15

“We HAVE NO RIGHT TO FORGIVE”

ED MOSBERG, Recipient of the Yad Vashem Young Leadership Remembrance Award

Yad Vashem is a great organization which we should support, in order for us to maintain viable memories of our family and the six million Jews who were murdered by the Nazis in the Holocaust. Yad Vashem has been amongst the top leaders in remembering the victims of the Holocaust.

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UNESCOadopts resolution on Holocaust remembrance

The UNESCO General Conference, adopted by unanimous vote a historic resolution calling to promote awareness of Holocaust remembrance through education and to combat all forms of Holocaust denial.

The resolution was drafted by the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and submitted by a group of states that included Israel, the United States, Russia, Australia and Canada, and was supported by 72 additional states.

The resolution calls on the Director-General of UNESCO – the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization – “to consult with the United Nations Secretary-General regarding his outreach program, with a view to exploring what role UNESCO could play in promoting awareness of Holocaust remembrance through education, and in combating all forms of Holocaust denial.”

The UNESCO resolution was adopted in the wake of resolutions on Holocaust remembrance and Holocaust denial adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2005 and 2006 respectively. The current draft resolution will, if adopted by UNESCO, alongside the program for Holocaust awareness being developed by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, “to prepare and disseminate an educational program on Holocaust remembrance and to encourage the inclusion of the Holocaust in educational curricula throughout the world, as well as in research and conferences.”

The resolution is an important addition to the ongoing efforts of the Israeli Foreign Ministry to instill the memory of the Holocaust, which has included the adoption of resolutions by the UN General Assembly, the display of the Yad Vashem exhibit at UN headquarters in New York and Geneva, and the special session of the UN General Assembly in January 2005 marking the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camps.

GERMAN HOLOCAUST ARCHIVE TO BE MADE PUBLIC

The Greek parliament voted unanimously to make the information contained in the Bad Arolsen archive public. Greece is the last of the archive’s 11 governing countries to approve amending the treaty governing the Nazi-era documents. The archive is in Frankfurt, Germany, and contains information kept in the former Soviet state.

With its Gestapo records, victims testimonials and other first-hand accounts, the archive is an amazing amount of information about the minutiae of life and death in World War II concentration camps.

The archive materials are so complex that for the time being, people will have to contact the archives directly to get a better understanding of what happened to individuals during the Holocaust.

AUSTRIA OFFERS REWARD FOR TWO NAZI CRIMINALS

Austria has offered a reward for information on two alleged Nazi criminals still at large, and is considering further monetary incentives for similar cases in the future, the justice ministry said.

The ministry announced on its website that it was offering 50,000 euros to anyone who could provide “evidence that can lead to finding, capturing and convicting” SS doctor Anton Heim and Alois Brunner, a co-worker of notorious Nazi criminal Adolf Eichmann.

“Should we receive concrete proof, we are perfectly ready to offer further rewards” in the future, Justice Minister Maria Berger told journalists. She said it was important to take action while Heim and Brunner were still alive, and added there was evidence that they were.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE HOLOCAUST IN UKRAINE HELD IN PARIS

The first international conference on the Holocaust in Ukraine was held this month at the Sorbonne university in Paris.

It was organized by the Paris Shoah Memorial in collaboration with other similar institutions. About 1.5 million Jews in Ukraine were exterminated between 1941 and 1944, after the invasion of Soviet Union by Nazi Germany.

The Shoah in Ukraine had not been studied during the 50 years, and only recently became a “new” subject. The interest in Ukraine today is because it is the first time that Ukrainian researchers come abroad to share their works and meet international research organizers.

Speaking at the opening of the two-day symposium, participants underlined that research was very difficult until the disbanding of the former Soviet Union in 1991. A French Catholic priest, Father Patrick Désbois, who heads the Research center on Shoah in the east, undertook at the beginning of 2000 a systematic work of identifying the sites in Ukraine where Jews were exterminated during WWII. He said he wanted “to reach the truth on what took place.”

More than 500 common graves of the “Shoah by bullet” – the massive fusillades of Jews – could be located, thanks to testimonies gathered in the Ukrainian countryside.

Over the two days, some 30 Frendgerman, Ukrainian, American and Israeli historians confronted their works on “the historical and cultural contexts, the legal and domestic contexts of the “Shoah in Ukraine” and the social and political contexts of the “techniques of the murderers” or testimonies gathered during the war.”

Participation of seven Ukrainian historians is supported by the Victor Pinchuk Foundation. Victor Pinchuk, a philanthropist and one of the most successful businessmen in contemporary Ukraine, has co-produced in 2006, with American director Steven Spielberg a documentary on the Shoah in Ukraine. Titled “Spell Your Name,” this film is devoted to explain the Holocaust to young Ukrainian scholars.
POLAND HONORS RIGHTEOUS GENTILES

Poland has honored the nation's Righteous Among the Nations, who risked their lives to save Jews during World War II. The ceremony was held on November 7, 2007, at the Jan Karski Corner, which was opened in November 2006 to commemorate Jan Karski, the Polish diplomat who warning the world about the Holocaust.

ROMANIA SEEKS MORE AWARENESS ON ITS HOLOCAUST COMPlicity

Romania's government has announced plans to build a new Holocaust museum in Bucharest, the capital city. The museum, which will be located on the site of an old German military barracks, is expected to be completed in 2012. The museum will display artifacts and documents related to Romania's role in the Holocaust, including photographs, diaries, and personal stories of survivors.

GERMANY STARTS WORK ON GESTAPO EXHIBIT

Germany has started construction on an exhibition center at the site of the former Gestapo headquarters in Berlin. The center will be dedicated to the memory of the millions of people who were detained and killed by the Gestapo during World War II. The exhibition will explore the history of the Gestapo and its role in the Holocaust.

HOLOCAUST MUSEUM OPENS AT BELSEN

The museum opened in March 2007, and it is located in the former Nazi concentration camp of Bergen-Belsen, which was liberated by British forces in April 1945. The museum aims to educate visitors about the history of the camp and to honor the memory of its victims.

SURVIVORS’ CHILDREN SUING GERMANY

The lawsuit, which involves about 4,000 survivors' children, was filed in a German court in 2005. The complainants are seeking compensation for the crimes committed by the German state during World War II. The German government has denied any responsibility for the crimes.

MANHATTAN MONUMENT

The monument is located in New York City and was unveiled in 2009. It honors the 10,000 Jewish victims of the Holocaust who were interred in the Jewish cemetery in New York City after their deaths at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.
The Great Escape, Revised
The Great Escape: Nine Jews Who Fled Hitler And Changed The World.

Reviewed by Elaine Margolin

I t is unbearably sad to try to imagine the agony your parents have endured, especially if you have always been taught by your mother to put a good face on things, keep your chin up and never let anyone see you unsmoke.

But Hungarian-born author Kat Marton no longer feels compelled to maintain a facade, and after recently losing both of her parents, she feels free to explore their sorrow and her own about the once glorious Budapest in which they lived.

In her compelling book, The Great Escape: Nine Jews Who Fled Hitler And Changed The World, Marton explores the lives of nine Jewish Hungarians who fled Hitler and went on to accomplish extraordinary feats in science, photography, filmmaking and literature, she begins by exploring her own traumatic Hungarian heritage.

Marton’s parents miraculously survived the horror in Hungary by fleeing with Christian friends in Budapest. Her maternal grandparents were killed at Auschwitz. After Hitler’s defeat, her parents worked as journalists for the Associated Press until they were arrested by the Communists and imprisoned for two years, while young Kat and her sister were put in the care of grandparents. Just prior to the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, when thousands filled the streets protesting the Soviet occupation, her parents were released and managed to escape to America. Marton was raised as a Catholic and was unaware as a child of her Jewish heritage.

Marton, who was about a group of men who were members of the genera-
tion that spanned the last decade of the 19th century until the outbreak of World War I. Budapest between 1890 and 1918 was a relatively safe haven for the Jews who flocked there. Although she never met any of the men she discusses, she explains, “I felt like I knew them personal-
ly. Their un펫다리 of their own histo-
ry and their fear that peace cannot last – resonated inside me.”

Marton brings to life the artistry of Andre Kertesz’s pho-
tographs, which took quiet notice of the vul-
nerable moments of daily life. She probes deep into the rest-
less and turbulent soul of Arthur Koestler, whose brilli-
ant novel, Darkness at Noon, shattered any lingering romantic notions about communist ideals. She exposes the brutal honesty of Robert Capa’s pho-
tography that showed the violence of war upon its victims’ faces. She studies the work of filmmakers Alex Korda and Michael Curtiz, whose masterpiece, Casablanca, was based on the memories he cherished in Budapest.

And finally, she uncovers the dramatic historic role physicists Edward Teller, Leo Szilard, John von Neumann and Eugene Wigner played in convincing Albert Einstein to persuade Franklin Delano Roosevelt to move more quickly toward the Manhattan project in order to create an atomic bomb.

(Continued on page 13)
A HUNGARIAN PARIAH IS A HOLOCAUST HERO

While the names Oskar Schindler, Carl Lutz and Raoul Wallenberg evoke images of heroism and feelings of gratitude in the hearts of Holocaust survivors, Munk, the gold baron, best known as the "Story of Resz Kasztner, Unknown Hero". When it comes to Kasztner's story, there are several compelling accounts, but one that stands out is her memoir, "The True Story of Resz Kasztner, Unknown Hero of the Holocaust".

O ne person who is decidedly cer- tain of Kasztner's heroism is Peter Munk, the gold baron, best known as the protagonist in the novel "A World Without Maps," said offhandedly about Munk, "the world's largest producer and a prominent Canadian philanthropist. Munk owes his life to Kasztner."

In June 1944, Munk was just a teenag- er, part of an affluent Jewish family in Budapest and was on a train bound for neutral Switzerland. It was a journey that Kasztner had brokered with Nazi officials, dubbed "Kasztner's Train." "He saved me, my family, and 1,628 others," Munk said. "He saved 1,628 lives in one day, which is why he was a hero." Kasztner's heroic man than history has given him credit for.

Despite her Hungarian background, Porter had never heard of him before, but the name stuck. A few months later, she was in Budapest on publishing business, when she met a man named Erwin Schaeffer. He turned out to be, too, on Kasztner's train, and was a good friend of Munk's. But Schaeffer, now a successful busi- nessman, was seething with the oppo- site sentiment. Schaeffer's parents were thrown off the train, and only his mother survived. Kasztner had oversold the train, Porter was told, and the SS threw three people off to make room.

"His last words to me about Kasztner were, 'I wish I had killed him myself,'" Porter said. She knew then she had a story of unusual complexity.

DEALINGS WITH THE DEVIL

When I started writing the book, I didn't have an opinion one way or another," Porter said. By the end, she says, "I became a Holocaust survivor. His tattoo from the war. You can tell where Gasch had been living in this country, the gen- erosity of this country and it is unbeliev- able. I just let it go."

"I figured we were living in a communi- ty here. I just let it go." Gasch, 88, forced to move back to Germany last month, after investigators tracked the man's history through immigration records, old ros- ters and other documents, said Jaclyn Lesch, U.S. Department of Justice spokes- woman. "His wife lied about where she was born, to not raise questions," Lesch says, and "(Hartmann) said he worked in a canteen."

During World War II, Hartmann had been an armed SS guard at Germany's Sachsenhausen concentration camp, where prisoners were forced into slave labor, subjected to horrific medical experimentation and tortured. Thousands died of starvation, dis- ease, exhaustion and murder.

Born in Romania, Hartmann immigrat- ed to the United States in 1955 and became a citizen in 1961, according to the Justice Department. He joined the SS Death's Head Guard Battalion at Sachsenhausen in July 1943 and served with the Nazis until the end of the war.

"Here was a fellow person who was living in this country, enjoying the gen- erosity of this country and it is unbeliev- able," Lesch said. "You have to ask the devil, do you have to keep your word? That's the question, to which I don't know the answer."
A

s we proceed with our daily lives in an ordinal fashion, we never know what choices we might be forced to make, and what disastrous impacts they can have on us and our children.

I was born in the Netherlands 76 years ago, and one of my earliest memories is of playing with my two brothers on a Sunday afternoon while the radio carried a maddening, screaming voice in German. I also recall my mother saying after the speech, “That man (Hitler) will kill us all.” My father tried to soothe her by saying, “Oh, We’re safe enough. Holland was neutral in the last war, and it will most likely be neutral again.” Thus, even though we hosted many family members from Dortmund and Essen who were running from the Nazis in 1938, and were on their way to a grand family meeting in my great-grandfather’s town of Shefield.

The extraordinary story has gone untold. In Frydmans miraculously defied death, and in the family’s assets. He was going to run my father’s business, and my father was to work for him in managing it, for which he would be paid a small salary. We were of course in shock, but saw no alternatives, and so our lives continued, a lot more desperately now. What did we not realize at the time was how lucky we were.

Schilder was a very nasty Nazi, and he threatened my father over every little thing that you can possibly imagine, always using the descriptive expression that if my life up to that point, my grandmother, Rosa. To make such a trip required that my family would blend easily into the surroundings. Unfortunately, this did not work for my grandmother. Although she was only in her mid-fifties, she spoke only Yiddish, and she was hard of hearing and diabetic. After much arguing with her, she agreed to come with him.

The morning of November 1st, we discovered that my father was gone. So were my Uncle Eddie and Izzy, as were some very good male friends of my father. My mother was tense all through the month of November, but her smile came back at the end of the month. I figured out that smile that somehow she knew that my father was safe. In March, 1942 the three brothers-in-law sent back a very elegant lady whom they had hired, who was a star smuggler and a member of the French Underground. She could take the three siblings and their children (two, counting me) through three weeks of incredible adventures from The Hague through Belgium to Vichy France. I never saw my grandmother, nor my uncle, aunt, or cousins ever again.

The adventures of my family in trying to escape from the Nazi yoke was somewhat of a shaky character. Because of his experiences, he stepped in with some very practical suggestions. In the thirties, he had done some smuggling between Holland and Belgium, and had connections near the border that would help us cross into Belgium clandestinely. Suffice it to say that the ultimate destination was to be unoccupied (Vichy) France. The big problem was the love of my life up to that point, my grandmother, Margaret.

20 years ago, it is the culmination of a long-held ambition. “My friend’s mother happened to be Lucja’s cousin, and when she heard that I made documents, she said, Have I got a story for you,” said Attwell.

“While it’s rumored that one other family of Polish Jews did manage to survive, the Friedmans are the only family whose story has been confirmed as true.”

“The Jews of Poland, like those of Germany and Austria, had even less chance of survival than Jews in other parts of Europe – apart from anything else, they lived under Nazi tyranny he was imprisoned and deported to Treblinka, removing 300,000 within just a few months. ”

Lucja made the heart-rending hard but vital decision to have her daughters smuggled out, one at a time,” said Attwell.

“She was able to arrange for the family’s former chauffeur to take Irene, then six.”

“Smuggling me out was a harder propostion,” Margaret said, “because I was then 12 and I had a bad face.”

By that, she means she looked obviously Jewish.

However, Lucja knew of a teenage girl who had died, leaving a permit to go out of the ghetto to do unpaid work for the Gestapo, so she dressed Margaret in a very practical suggestions. In the thirties, he had done some smuggling between Holland and Belgium, and had connections near the border that would help us cross into Belgium clandestinely. Suffice it to say that the ultimate destination was to be unoccupied (Vichy) France. The big problem was the love of my life up to that point, my grandmother, Margaret.

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More than the Holocaust: the Burial Issue

By Michael J. Jordon

I

On August 30, 2007, the Associated Press published an article entitled "Villagers in Ukraine Seek Clues to Jewish Burial Sites," which detailed how relatives of Jews who perished in the Holocaust were searching for unmarked graves, especially in Eastern Europe. The article highlighted the challenges faced by the Jewish community in identifying and preserving these burial sites, and it underscored the importance of commemorating the dead.

The article noted that the Ukrainian government had identified over 700 burial sites in the country and was working to preserve them. It also mentioned that the International Tracing Service (ITS) and the JewishDatabase.org had compiled a list of unmarked graves in Ukraine, which included 2,000 sites.

The article also discussed the role of Jewish organizations, such as the Vaad, in conducting grave-searching activities. It highlighted the work of the Vaad's Field Force, which had located thousands of unmarked graves in Eastern Europe.

The article concluded with a call to action, urging Jewish organizations and individuals to continue searching for unmarked graves in Ukraine and other countries in Eastern Europe.

The article's publication was significant because it brought attention to a neglected aspect of the Holocaust: the burial of the dead. It underscored the importance of commemorating the dead and preserving their memory.

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Avner Shalev, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate, Edward and Cecile Mosberg, Recipients of the Yad Vashem Remembrance Award and Eli Zborowski, Chairman of the American & International Societies for Yad Vashem.

Dr. Miriam Adelson, Dinner Chairwoman, Sheldon G. Adelson, Stacey Bronfman and Matthew Bronfman, Recipient of Yad Vashem Young Leadership Remembrance Award.

A gathering of a thousand supporters.

Ira Mitzner, Dinner Co-Chair, Mindy Mitzner and Barry Rubenstein.

Avner Shalev, Chairman of the Yad Vashem.

Sheldon G. Adelson, Dr. Miriam Adelson, Dinner Chairwoman.
Dr. Miriam Adelson, Dinner Chairwoman, Sheldon G. Adelson, Ambassador Sallai Meridor, Ambassador of Israel, Elizabeth Zborowski and Eli Zborowski, Chairman of the American & International Societies for Yad Vashem.

Stacey Bronfman and Matthew Bronfman, Recipient of Yad Vashem Young Leadership Remembrance Award, Avner Shalev, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate, Dr. Miriam Adelson, Dinner Chairwoman and Eli Zborowski, Chairman of the American & International Societies for Yad Vashem.
YAD VASHEM TO SHOWCASE MUSLIMS WHO SAVED JEWS FROM NAZIS

BY ESTGAR LEPKOWITZ, THE J

On March 31, the opening of a new exhibition at Yad Vashem highlighted a little-known but significant aspect of the Holocaust: Muslims who saved Jews during World War II.

The exhibit, titled “BESA: A Code of Honor – Muslim Albanians Who Rescued Jews During the Holocaust,” is a collection of photographs by the American photographer Norman Gershman, who is featured in the film “Righteous Among the Nations.”

The exhibit includes more than 200 photographs and documents, and is accompanied by short texts. Before World War II, only about 200 Jews lived in Albania, a country where the borders were open to Jews from around the world.

In 1939, when the Albanian government announced that Jews were forbidden to enter the country, a code of honor known as “BESA” was established by Albanian Muslims to protect Jews from persecution.

The code of honor was based on the Muslim understanding of justice and compassion, and was intended to ensure that Jews would be protected from violence and discrimination.

The exhibition at Yad Vashem features stories of Muslims who saved Jews during World War II, including Enver Alla Sheqer, a barber in Vlora who saved a Jewish family by hiding them in his shop.

Another hero was Ali Sheqer Pashaj, who hid a Jewish family in his home in Prizren. He was later recognized as Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem.

The exhibit also includes the story of the Snapper family, who saved 12 Jewish children from the Nazis in Albania.

Johan Snapper, the Snappers’ son, now a professor of German at the University of California, Berkeley, speaking at the ceremony. “Our parents understood that..." Snapper said.

The penalty for hiding Jews was a concentration camp or death, Snapper said. “The daily stress put on Hein and Martha was enormous,“ Steinefeldt said. "It’s impossible to imagine the terrible panic, and the courage it took to respond to such threats." He said that Jordan and his wife were saved by the Snappers because they were from a Jewish family.

“Nothing has ever made a bigger impact on me, as young as I was,” Jordan said. He said that the Snappers were a model of heroism. “It’s not because they were Jews – they would have done it for anybody.”

The exhibit will be on display at Yad Vashem until December 31, 2008.

YAD VASHEM DISPLAYS LIFE-SAVING TREE

A tree trunk that hid a young Jewish man during the Holocaust was put on display at Yad Vashem for the first time.

The tree, which was donated by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, was used by the Snapper family to hide 12 Jewish children, including the son of the museum’s director, Avner Shalev.

The tree was presented to Yad Vashem by the Snapper family, who are Jewish descendants of Muslim Albanians who saved Jews during World War II.

The tree is a symbol of the importance of remembering the past and ensuring that future generations will not forget the lessons of the Holocaust.

The tree is part of an exhibition at Yad Vashem that highlights the role of Muslims in saving Jews during the war.

The exhibit, titled “BESA: A Code of Honor – Muslim Albanians Who Rescued Jews During the Holocaust,” includes more than 200 photographs and documents, and is accompanied by short texts.

The exhibition is open to the public until December 31, 2008.
Poland starts building Jewish museum

Polish authorities will today broke the ground for a new museum dedicated to centuries of Jewish culture and country which until the Holocaust was home to the world's largest community of Jews.

A ceremony at the site of the future Museum of the History of Polish Jews marked the near-culmination of a two-decade project to show centuries of history.

The museum was the brainchild of Shaike Weinberg, a Warsaw-born Israeli.

In the early 1990s, Weinberg had the idea of a third museum in what had been the centre of pre-war Jewry, to join Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial and the Holocaust Museum in Washington, of which he was director.

Construction is due to take two years and the museum is expected to open its doors by 2010, in time for the 10th anniversary of Weinberg's death.

The building will be located in Warsaw's former Jewish quarter, which was once home to a community of 400,000.

After invading Poland in 1939, Nazi Germany transformed the district into a ghetto, to isolate and eventually exterminate the Jewish population.

The museum will also house the stirring late 1940s memorial to the heroes of the 1943 ghetto uprising.

Poland was home to around 3.5 million Jews before the war, and many towns, particularly in the east, had an overwhelming Jewish population.

Half of the six million Jews exterminated by the Nazis were Polish, and most died in camps set up in occupied Poland, such as Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The holocaust was the brainchild of the stirring late 1940s, he said, to learn the lessons of the Holocaust. Obviously not.

As each year leaves fewer witnesses to one of history's darkest memories, Saharovici says that it is more important than ever to tell these stories.

"They are going to carry on our message," he added.

"It shows a group of cheerful young women who worked as SS communications specialists eating bowls of fresh blueberries. One turns her bowl upside down and makes a show-frown because she has finished her portion.

On that day, said Judith Cohen, a historian at the Holocaust museum in Washington, 150 new prisoners arrived at the Birkenau site. Of that group, 21 men and 12 women were selected for work, the rest transported immediately to the gas chambers.

The killings were part of the final frenetic efforts of the Nazis to eliminate the Jews of Europe and others deemed undesirable as the war neared its end.

That summer, the crematoriums broke down from overuse and some bodies had to be burned in the street.

Saharovici says it is more important than ever to tell these stories.

"As soon as I had confidence people could understand my message, I went to schools and colleges," he said.

But his is more interested in encouraging other survivors to speak of their experiences.

"We have films about our lives, you can keep to the fire burning. People forget the stories," he said.

Born in Bucharest, even before the start of World War II, Saharovici recalls it being staunchly anti-Semitic.

Because he was Jewish, at 13 years old he was kicked out of school. His family was forced out of their home. Taken in by an aunt, they lived five to a room.

By the time he was 15, they were under German occupation, and he was ordered to report daily to a forced labor camp where, after a bombardment on the city, he would dismantle still-ticking bombs.

For the ones that had exploded on impact, he would use a pick ax and a wheel barrow to clean up the rubble.

In fear of being sent to jail, he would leave his country and had to leave all valuables behind.

When they fled communist Romania in 1961, as he joined the Hungarian resistance, his family was also forced to leave all valuables behind.

"My parents were among those who fled Romania," he said.

"As a Jew, I can't accept the idea that my children have to go through this again."
feeling that she had had a part in con-}

No matter how hard my mother tried, she

I was very angry with her, as I felt

It did several times. As an adoles-

New York to persuade my mother to return

after about three months, sometimes less,

my father (then deceased) had

My mother would go with him, but

lonely there, he would come back to

New York after the war, and he periodical-

example, my father (then deceased) had

I decided to build a three-week vacation around it,

I squirmed. No doubt that’s his intention.

A scientist from the Russian Academy of Sciences has com-

"The Book of Pogroms" by Lidia

As a result of the book’s publication, non-Jews in the
turned over to the police. I was not

with his exceptionally human voice,

Belpoliti wrote, is the same "tranquil, pre-

I thought there was no talk of executions

There was no talk of executions and the atmosphere

We were allowed to keep

Our conditions in the camp were quite good. There

We were given, on a regular basis, a food

We were permitted to travel in turn and performed

"The Truce," about his journey from

Auschwitz to Italy after the death camp’s

"The Truce," about his journey from

"The Truce," about his journey from

PRIMO LEVI TEXT AT YAD VASHEM

UNEXPLORED HOLOCAUST STORIES

I squirmed. No doubt that’s his intention.

UNEXPLORED HOLOCAUST STORIES

I squirmed. No doubt that’s his intention.
The Extraordinary Family Who Defied Hitler – and Survived the Holocaust

(Continued from page 6)

(Continued from page 4)

nuclear bomb so that it was ready to be used in 1945 to end the war. Although the Budapest of their youth had been destroyed, most of the men drew comfort from remembering an earlier time when the city seemed magical; when Budapest was filled with cafés, music, theaters, opera and thousands of Jews full of passionate energy and idealism. Within a few short decades, that would change. Only one in 20 Jews survived Hitler's assault and most of them were murdered in the last months of the war. Marton's compelling narrative zigzags in and out of their lives and tells the story of how they brought the album back from Dachau, the Nazis, and the Polish resistance. The collision of the fragmented futures they would face as victims of the Holocaust and their desire to leave the past behind is perhaps most evident in Marton's book. It forces the reader to confront the question of what it means to survive the Holocaust: to forget, to move on, or to remember and carry the weight of the past into the present. Only one in 20 Jews survived Hitler's assault and most of them were murdered in the last months of the war. Marton's compelling narrative zigzags in and out of their lives and tells the story of how they brought the album back from Dachau, the Nazis, and the Polish resistance. The collision of the fragmented futures they would face as victims of the Holocaust and their desire to leave the past behind is perhaps most evident in Marton's book. It forces the reader to confront the question of what it means to survive the Holocaust: to forget, to move on, or to remember and carry the weight of the past into the present.
SON ACCEPTS THE AWARD FOR HIS MOTHER

Masha Spivak decided to go into hid-
ing when her parents and two sib-
lings were killed in the town of Kherson, Ukraine, during the Holocaust.

When two of Spivak's teachers heard about her fate, they changed her Jewish identity and took great risk to save a life.

In November 1941, one of those teachers, Yevgenya Zamoroko-Lysenko, was hon-
ored by Yad Vashem with the Righteous Among the Nations medal. It was the first time the award for non-Jewish rescuers was presented at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington.

No living relatives could be found to accept an award for Klavdia Sopova, the second teacher. Both women worked in the population registration department under police command while Ukraine was occupied by Germany.

"The righteous showed physical and moral courage when it was sorely lack-
ing," said Fred Z. Siedman, chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial council. "Humankind can honor one of those rare heroes."

Nikolay Zamoroko accepted the award for his mother. She filled in for him only after the Israeli memorial began review-
ing her story.

Zamoroko, 59, said his mother was modest and wise — and completely devoted to her students over a 50-year teaching career.

"It was no surprise for me that my mom, as I knew her, would do this — without any doubt," he said. "She was an inspiration."

More than a dozen Holocaust survivors from the Ukraine region came to honor Zamoroko-Lysenko in the museum’s Testimony Theater, which is built with stone from Jerusalem and usually shows films with survivors’ stories.

Nearly 22,000 Holocaust rescuers around the world have been awarded the Righteous Among the Nations medal since 1983. A tree is planted for each per-
on along a walkway near the Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem. Three Americans have received the award, along with more than 2,100 Ukrainians.

Spivak eventually enrolled in forced labor in Germany during the Holocaust until the camp was liberated by American troops.

She emigrated to Israel in 1948 and kept her rescuers until 2000 when she learned of Zamoroko-Lysenko’s deteriorating health. Spivak died in 2004.

GERMANS ASKED TO FUND STIPENDS FOR HUNGER ARTIST

Israel has asked the German govern-
mment to fund an annual NIS 150 mil-
lion in stipends for about 8,000 Holocaust survivors.

Under the deal, the key new benefit is a stipend for 8,000 concentration camp and ghetto survivors who previously had not been receiving anything. These survivors will now receive a total of NIS 24 million annually. If this package is slated to rise to NIS 160 million a month by 2010. Compensation for this group, which numbers 80,000 people, will be funded by the German government.

The ITS agreement, not signed by Germany, will provide NIS 100 million for medical and nursing services for Holocaust sur-
vivors living in Israel, NIS 70 million in 2009. Most of the money will be distributed through the Holocaust Survivors Welfare Fund.

(Continued from page 13)

A HOLOCAUST MYSTERY FINDS SOME ANSWERS

The two lives, briefly intertwined by the Holocaust and an album of photos and paintings, ended 17 years apart. Unger by hanging himself in 1972, Ponisak in 1989 in St. Mary’s Hospital near Hereford, England, of pneumonia and tuberculosis.

The death certificate gives his age as 74 and his profession as “painter (retired).” Sharr Klages was 12 when her father died. He had just been laid off from his 15-

month job in the aeronautics industry, and his wife had been diagnosed with brain cancer. His suicide is given added weight because some of them were elec-
tricians whom the Nazis needed for their war effort.
HEIRS MAKE HUGE CLAIM OVER DUTCH WORKS OF ART

BY MARULSE SIMONS, THE TIMES OF ISRAEL

J ust as the Dutch government was moving to discourage new claims for restitution of art looted during World War II, the heirs of a Jewish art dealer have filed one of the largest claims to date for paintings now held in Dutch museums. Four heirs of the dealer, Nathan Katz, who died in 1949, say that he was the rightful owner of more than 200 artworks recovered in Germany at the end of the war and handed over to the Dutch government. The claimants are Mr. Katz’s four children: Sybilla Goldstein-Katz, who lives in Florida; her brother, David; and her sisters Margaret and Eva, who all live in Europe.

The details of the restitution claim have not been made public, but Dutch museum directors say the works in question include paintings by 17th-century Dutch masters, among them Jan Steen, Gerard Dou and Nicolaas Maes. Some works are by Flemish and Italian artists.

Many are centerpieces of major museums in the Netherlands, including the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, the Mauritshuis, Jewish and the Frans Hals Museum in Haarlem.

The application filed by the Katz heirs is largely based on evidence made by the heirs of Jacques Goudstikker and finally resolved in favor of the heirs in 2000. However, it also appears to be less clear-cut.

Nathan and Benjamin Katz, brothers, had one gallery in Dieren, their hometown in the east of the Netherlands, and another in The Hague. They reportedly continued doing business after the German occupation of the Netherlands in May 1940. Researchers for the Restitution Commission said that the brothers sold many works to Alois Miedl, who was buying art for Hermann Goering and other Nazi leaders.

Tina M. Talabchyn, the Florida lawyer who is representing the Katz heirs in their claim, said that when Nathan and Benjamin Katz wanted to flee the Netherlands, they traded several sets of paintings for visas, and in this way also passed through their hands.

The commission notified of the claim in June, she said, and still has a pending decision.

While the Dutch government in 1944 began moving to discourage new claims for paintings now held in Dutch museums.

NAZI PROSECUTORS STILL HUNT DEATH HEAD DOCTOR

F or the few surviving inmates of Mauthausen concentration camp, one visitor in the autumn of 1941 left an indelible memory.

Tall and athletic, Anbert Heim was the camp doctor for only two months, and the 27-year-old enjoyed his time in the Austrian town.

On one occasion, he picked out a prisoner passing his office. After checking his teeth, Heim persuaded him to take part in a medical experiment with the vague promise of a small cash payment.

Heim killed the man with an injection of poison to his heart, later severing his head and using the skull as a paperweight.

Injections to the heart — with petrol, water or poison — were a favorite experiment among the SS women alight from a bus at Solahütte, an abandoned SS barracks. In one, SS women awoke in a cattle car at the camp.

M y museum curators have avoided describing the album as something like “monsters at play” or “killers at their leisure.” Mr. Cohen said the photos were instructive in that they showed the murderers were, in some sense, people, also behaved as ordinary human beings. “In their self-image, they were good men, good comrades, even civilized,” she said.

Sarah J. Bloomfield, the museum’s director, said she believed that other undiscov ered caches of photographs, evidence concerning the Holocaust, existed in attics and might soon be forthcoming.

The donor, who had asked to remain anonymous, was in his 90s when he contacted the museum. He had just inherited the collection.

Heim was arrested after World War Two but he was later released and was soon practing as a doctor again. He moved to Baden-Baden, a small town in western Germany.

But survivors of Mauthausen did not forget the camp doctor who delighted in seeing the weary women and children get off a cattle car. Meanwhile, in a picture from the Auschwitz Album taken at about the same time, hundreds of women and children get off a cattle car at the camp.

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When he was sent to Auschwitz, near Krakow in Poland, Heim was transferred to another camp, Dora-Mittelbau in Germany, where he discovered the pictures in a bedside table in an abandoned SS barracks.

She was stunned to recognize pictures of herself, her rabbi and her brothers, aged 9 and 11, both of whom she later learned had been gassed immediately after arrival.

Höcker fled Auschwitz before the concentration. When he was arrested by the British, he was carrying false docu- ments identifying him as a combat soldier. After the 1961 trial of Adolf Eichmann in Jerusalem, the West German authorities tracked down Höcker in Eingarten, his home town, where he was working as a bank clerk.

He was convicted of war crimes and served seven years before his release in 1949. He was allowed to remain in Germany by the bank. Höcker died in 2000 at 89.
"LET US BUILD A FUTURE WORTH LIVING"

(Continued from page 1)

history many wish to deny, tell the story many wish to forget. In you rests the sacred trust of those who perished and the memories of a world once thought lost.

When we want to know the true greatness of those people, we need only look around this room at the actions and attributes of those who serve their memory. In all of you and on the hallowed grounds of Yad Vashem, stands the ultimate repudiation of the Nazi plan. The Nazis – may their names be cursed forever – sought to preserve Prague as a "Museum of an Extinct People." And though our museum, Yad Vashem, is a memorial to the six million. It is a living memorial. It stands on the shoulders of giants to teach us to never forget. That there is a second generation to honor is testament to the sacrifice of the fallen and the strength of those who carried on.

Indeed, our children can be proud of their heritage. For out of the ashes of our darkest hour, the Jewish people rose, rebuilt and triumphed once again. And so tonight, while we remember the fallen, let us also honor the undefeatable Jewish spirit.

We have been given the powerful gifts of success and security. And we can dream of a future of peace and prosperity for all. With the help of Hashem, may we have the strength, will and wisdom to make that future a reality now and for generations to come.

Sivan Ochshorn is reading US President George W. Bush letter at the Yad Vashem Annual Tribute Dinner.

I send greetings to those gathered for the 2007 American and International Societies for Yad Vashem Annual Tribute Dinner. Congratulations to this year’s honorees on being recognized for your leadership in Holocaust remembrance.

The Holocaust will forever remind the world of the power of evil and the constant vigilance required to uphold justice, tolerance, and freedom. Through the Holocaust, we recall what happens when good and decent people ignore acts of hatred and the dangers of anti-Semitism. We must never lose the courage to oppose murderous ambition and aggression wherever it End.

I appreciate the American and International Societies for Yad Vashem for preserving the legacy of the victims, heroes, and survivors of the Holocaust. By raising awareness about the horrific events that occurred, you are helping to ensure future generations understand the strength of the human spirit and the capacity for good in the face of overwhelming evil.

Laura and I send our best wishes. May God bless you.

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Eli Zborowski, Editor-in-Chief
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"WE HAVE NO RIGHT TO FORGIVE"

(Continued from page 1)

ers were pushed into the gas chambers, where they were suffocated from engine and motor fumes. The bodies were burned on the stockpiles. The victims of genocide were adults, men, women, children, and infants.

Belzec had become one of the largest cemeteries of the twentieth century in Europe. How can we forget or forgive the murder of our brothers and sisters in the gas chambers of Auschwitz-Birkenau, Majdanek, Treblinka and Belzec?

To forget or forgive would mean to kill the victims a second time. We could not prevent their first death, we must not allow them to be killed again. We have no right to forgive, only the dead can forgive.

How can we forget or forgive the burning of synagogues, of holy books, and of torah scrolls? And we should remember that the parchment of the torah will burn, but the letters are indestructible. They exist forever.

The Germans deprived me of my youth. My children do not know what it is to have an aunt, an uncle, a cousin, or a grandmother; for this I will not forgive, and for this I will never forget.

As long as I live it is my obligation and duty to tell about the atrocities that were committed on my family and the six million Jews.

Laura and I send our best wishes. May God bless you.

Ehud Olmert