MARTYRDOM & RESISTANCE

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AMERICAN & INTERNATIONAL SOCIETIES FOR YAD VASHEM ANNUAL TRIBUTE DINNER

And You Shall Tell Your Children (Exodus 13:8) והגדת לבנך

"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-tov*" 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, *V'higadetah L'vincha*, "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 they to their children? But, hard as it was, our children grew up knowing our stories and in turn, have shared this bitter chapter in our history with their children.

But my friends, telling our children is not enough. Those of us in leadership positions in the Jewish communal world have an obligation beyond our own families. We need to support Yad Vashem, the world's foremost remembrance authority, so that it will continue to have the resources to carry our message beyond our lifetimes.

As I look out at this audience, it is heartwarming to see so many young faces, scores of American-born young men and women, some with direct ties to the Holocaust, others for whom Shoah remembrance is a historical imperative. To see the presence of survivors, Friends of Yad Vashem, sitting side by side with the younger generation and their children, gives me the assurance that you, all of you, will continue to support Yad Vashem's mission.

I would like at this time to acknowledge our benefactors, the Society's board and its many supporters who have traveled this journey with me. I thank you for your 26 years of continued interest and support. We can, indeed, be proud of our accomplishments in partnership with Yad Vashem. Additionally, the many young people who have joined our ranks are evidence that we have prepared successive generations to continue with our work.

It is a Jewish custom, when visiting a cemetery, to place a small stone at the gravesites of family or friends. This signifies that we were there and that "we remember." It is in the spirit of this gesture – and for all the gravestones that were never erected for those that perished through mass killings and in concentration camps, that we must marshal our forces to work together to safeguard the sacred cause of remembrance –*ZACHOR*.

"LET US BUILD A FUTURE WORTH LIVING"

MATHEW BRONFMAN, Recipient of the Yad Vashem Young Leadership Remembrance Award

Ladies and gentlemen, I am only going to speak with you for a few moments tonight.

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, G-d shall never allow it.

When one wants to know the true greatness of those who died in the Holocaust; to grasp the totality of six million individual lives; to comprehend the incomprehensible, one need only look at those who serve their memory.

Eli [Zborowski], Avner [Shalev] and all those who give of themselves day after day for Yad Vashem: you give memory to the forgotten, voice to the silenced; you preserve the

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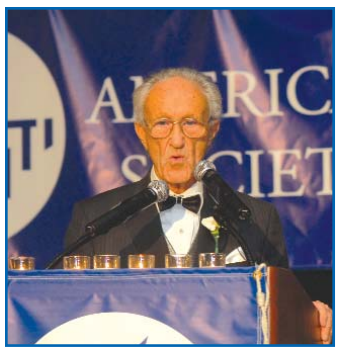
"WE HAVE NO RIGHT TO FORGIVE"



ED MOSBERG, Recipient of the Yad Vashem 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.

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, Studhoff, 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-

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IN THIS ISSUE

UNESCO ADOPTS 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 Israel 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 resolution will enable UNESCO, alongside the program for Holocaust awareness being developed by the UN Secretariat in New York, 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.

This resolution is an important addition to the ongoing efforts of the Israel 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.

UKRAINE HANDS ISRAEL HOLOCAUST MASS GRAVE EVIDENCE

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko during his recent visit to Israel, handed to Israeli officials hundreds of previously classified documents detailing mass grave sites of Jews murdered during the Holocaust in the former Soviet state.

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko speaking with President Peres at his official residence in Jerusalem.

During a visit to Jerusalem, Yushchenko gave Israeli President Shimon Peres a box containing documents and maps locating Jewish mass graves, Peres's office said in a statement.

Peres welcomed the move and said the documents would "shed light on one of the darkest periods of Jewish history and Ukrainian history." The papers also traced the fate of Jewish activists killed under Soviet rule in the Ukraine.

"We don't deny the past but we are looking to the future and we ask Israel to see us as a faithful partner," Peres's office quoted Yushchenko as saying to Peres.

Yushchenko, whose father was a prison laborer in Auschwitz, also donned a black skull-cap and visited the Western Wall remnant of the ancient Jewish temple during his visit.

Yushchenko also handed over declassified papers about Jewish underground activities in Ukraine during the 1920s.

CONGRESSIONAL FIGHT ON FOR SURVIVOR FUNDS

A U.S. Congressional hearing has drawn attention to the dearth of funds awarded to Holocaust survivors.

Florida Congressman Robert Wexler led a hearing on October 3 on Capitol Hill to show how few funds the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims awarded to Holocaust survivors between 1998 and the time it closed its doors this spring.

Wexler has drafted The Holocaust Insurance Equitability Act to seek an opening of insurance company records in Europe, and grant American survivors the ability to have their claims addressed in United States Federal Court. Wexler, who heads the Subcommittee of Europe of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, said he heard testimony from survivors who'd been denied their insurance claims by the international Holocaust commission.

Alex Moskovic, a Boca Raton resident who at the age of 14 was the only member of his family to survive the Auschwitz-Birkenau and Buchenwald concentration camps, told the committee that he'd found evidence of his relatives' life insurance policies on the commission's website, but had only received a $1,000 humanitarian award, as did 31,000 of the 48,000 survivors who received restitution through the program. Wexler estimates that only three to five percent of Holocaust survivors' insurance policies have been paid.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL OPENS IN WESTERN BELARUS

A Holocaust memorial was opened in what was once a Jewish ghetto in Navahrudak, Hrodna region, on July 24. As many as 250 prisoners escaped from the ghetto through a tunnel they dug in September 1943.

The memorial carries the names and photographs of the Jews who failed to escape from the ghetto and were executed by Nazi troops, as well as the names of those who managed to break out and joined guerillas outside the town.

Workers reconstructed the rooms where the ghetto prisoners were kept and unearthed the entrance to the tunnel, which all are now part of the memorial. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Inna Herasimava, director of the Museum of Belarusian Jews' History and Culture, emphasized the importance of the memorial, which she said proves that Jews offered resistance to the Nazis, rather than accepting their fate with humility.

"We must unite in order not to let the dark pages of our history repeat," Alyaksandr Zhuk, deputy education minister, said at the ceremony. He expressed hope that the memorial would become a Holocaust studies center.

The ceremony was attended by relatives of the Jews who managed to escape from the ghetto.

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.

France, US, Israel, Britain, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Germany and Italy agreed to the amendments earlier this year.

The archive tells the stories of individuals killed by the Nazis.

Much of the digital information kept in the archive has already been transferred to national Holocaust repositories in countries such as the US and Israel, but previously this information was only available to Holocaust survivors and their families.

The digital transfers should be completed by the end of 2007, officials said. Eventually, the information will also be made available to the public via the Internet.

The archive in Bad Arolsen north of Frankfurt helps tell the individual stories of some of the six million Jews who were murdered by the Nazis. Survivors of Nazi concentration camps have used information stored in Bad Arolsen to claim pensions and get compensation. In addition, families have combed the archives in search of information about what happened to loved ones during the war.

The United States led the campaign to open the archives to researchers and the general public, arguing that it needs to happen before the last Holocaust survivors die. Ambassador J. Christian Kennedy, the U.S. special envoy for Holocaust issues, has spearheaded efforts to open the archive to the public.

"This is an enormously important evolutionary process," Kennedy told the Associated Press in a telephone interview.

"We have now come to the end of the political and diplomatic part of the process," he said from Thessaloniki, where he was meeting with Greek officials and representatives of the Jewish community.

With its Gestapo reports, victim testimonials and other first-hand sources, the archive provides 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 still have to rely on the archivists, Kennedy said.

"But it is a step toward searchable, digital databases that will be very important," he said.

Experts hope historians and descendants of victims can use the information 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 money 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 Aribert Heim and Alois Brunner, a co-worker of renowned 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.

Heim, who would now be 93, and was apparently last sighted in Latin America, is believed to have killed numerous prisoners at the *Mauthausen* concentration camp in northern Austria in 1941 by injecting poison into the heart.

Brunner, now 95, worked at the Central Office for Jewish Emigration in Vienna with Eichmann, as well as in Greece and Hungary, where he is suspected of having been "significantly involved in the deportation of Jewish persons with the aim of murdering them," a notice on the ministry's website said.

The reward notice, available in German, English, French and Spanish, features biographical information and photos of the two men as well as ways to contact the ministry with information about their whereabouts.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE HOLOCAUST IN UKRAINE HELD IN PARIS

The first international conference on the Holocaust of Jews in Ukraine was held in October 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 many years, and only recently became a "new" subject. The main interest of this symposium is that it is the first time that Ukrainian researchers come abroad to share their works and meet international researchers, organizers said.

At the opening of the two-day symposium, participants underlined that research was very difficult until the the dissolution of the former Soviet Union in 1991.

A French Catholic priest, Father Patrick Desbois, who heads the Research centre 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 bullets*"– the massive fusillades of Jews – could be located, thanks to testimonies gathered in the Ukrainian countryside.

During two days, some 30 French, German, Ukrainian, American and Israeli historians confronted their works on "the role played by the Ukrainians," " the techniques of the murderers" or testimonies gathered on the ground.

Participation of seven Ukrainian researchers is supported by the Victor Pinchuk Foundation. Victor Pinchuk, a philanthropist and one of the most successful businessman and industrialists in Ukraine, has co-produced in 2006, with American director Steven Spielberg a documentary film about the *Shoah* in Ukraine.

Titled "*Spell Your Name*," this film is devoted to explain the Holocaust to young Ukrainian scholars.

KEY DOCUMENTS ON HOLOCAUST HERO TURNED OVER TO RUSSIA'S CHIEF RABBI

The Russian government turned over to the country's Chief Rabbi Berel Lazar crucial documents dealing with the case of Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat who saved thousands of Hungarian Jews during the Holocaust.

Questions over Wallenberg's death have long gone unanswered and many speculate that after being arrested by Soviet forces in 1945, he was murdered under orders by secret police.

Russian Chief Rabbi Berel Lazar, left, looks over once-secret documents with Nikolai Patrushev, director of the country's Federal Security Service.

According to the AP report, Nikolai Patrushev, director of the Federal Security Service, the successor agency to the notorious KGB, handed to the rabbi photographs and copies of formerly classified materials about Wallenberg. The Federation of Jewish Communities of the Former Soviet Union, whose activities are overseen by Lazar, a Chabad-Lubavitch rabbi, had requested the documents in connection with its new Museum of Tolerance, set to open in Moscow next year.

During World War II, Wallenberg distributed Swedish passports to Jews who were being deported and won diplomatic protection for sections of Budapest. The Russian government said that he died of a heart attack in 1947 while in prison, but his family and others maintain that he was executed.

HOLOCAUST TRAIN SETS OFF TO TELL THE STORY OF AUSCHWITZ

A train has pulled out of a German railway station to travel more than six decades back in time. Its destination: hell on earth. The Train of Commemoration is a traveling exhibition dedicated to the children deported by the Nazis during the Holocaust. Over the next six months, it will visit 30 cities between Frankfurt and its final destination – the Auschwitz death camp.

The train left Frankfurt station on Friday to begin a six-month, 1,864-mile trip through southern Germany to the Auschwitz Memorial near the present-day town of *Oswiecim* in Poland. It is scheduled to arrive on 8 May – the 63rd anniversary of VE Day.

An estimated 1.5 million children and young people were rounded up between 1940 and 1944 and transported by the former state railway, the *Reichsbahn*, to the concentration camps. Fewer than 10 per cent survived. The exhibition train is made up of a vintage 1921 locomotive and four carriages detailing both the bureaucracy of genocide and the human responses to it.

The displays include *Reichsbahn* maps, letters, chronologies, laws and regulations, as well as official documents related to the railway's role in carrying children from across Europe to their deaths. There are also poignant letters, drawings and poems from some of the unwilling passengers who never made the return trip. The exhibition commemorates the Jewish, Sinti and Roma victims of the Nazis from Germany, Norway, Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Italy, Greece, Poland and the former Soviet Union. It also aims to honor the aid organizations which helped to save children from the death camps.

POLAND HONORS RIGHTEOUS GENTILES

Poland for the first time officially honored its citizens who aided Jews during the Holocaust.

Polish President Lech Kaczynski paid tribute to 50 Catholic Poles at a ceremony attended by some 1,800 people at the National Opera in Warsaw.

Most of the honored are recognized by the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem as Righteous Among the Nations, gentiles who risked their lives to help save Jews from the Nazis.

Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev thanked awardees on behalf of Israel. Each walked to the stage in the company of two Polish children, one Jewish and one Catholic.

"You were lonely and isolated and frightened," Shalev said. "You have proven to us that it is within each of us to fight evil. The Jewish people will forever remember you and the lessons you have taught us."

Some 6,000 Poles are recognized as Righteous Among the Nations, more than in any other country. Before World War II Poland had the largest Jewish population in Europe, 3 million, of which 90 percent perished during the Holocaust.

ROMANIA SEEKS MORE AWARENESS ON ITS HOLOCAUST COMPLICITY

Romania's president, Traian Basescu has lamented the lack of awareness about the Shoah in his country. "We have a long war ahead," Basescu said at the third annual Holocaust Day commemorations in the capital, Bucharest.

"Finding out the reality did not solve the problem of national conscience regarding the crimes committed by state authorities."

Romania allied itself with Nazi Germany in 1940 and participated in the killing of as many as 380,000 Jews during World War II. The state's complicity in the Shoah was largely ignored during the almost five decades of Communist rule under dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. But with Romania seeking to join the European Union, authorities have encouraged a better historical outlook. "It is a difficult process which requires a change of mentality and the ability to accept reality," Basescu said.

GERMANY STARTS WORK ON GESTAPO EXHIBIT

The German government started construction of an exhibition center at the site where the Gestapo, leaders of the SS and other top officials in Adolf Hitler's police state presided over Nazi-era crimes.

The site "stands like no other place in Berlin for terror and genocide," Berlin Mayor Klaus Wowereit told reporters while marking the start of work. With the new center, he said, "one of the most important, authentic places of remembrance in Berlin will gain in stature."

The functional glass-and-metal structure, a single-story pavilion designed by German architect Ursula Wilms, will complete a memorial known as the "*Topography of Terror*" at what was one of the centers of Nazi power. It should be opened on May 8, 2010 the 65th anniversary of Nazi Germany's final surrender.

Visitors currently around 500,000 a year have been able to view an open-air exhibition in what remains of the Gestapo cellars, which were uncovered in the 1980s in what is now largely wasteland. The Gestapo also had its prison at the headquarters.

Next door once stood the Hotel Prinz Albrecht, which housed the leadership of the SS, the Nazi party's dreaded paramilitary unit including Heinrich Himmler and Reinhard Heydrich and the Reich Security Main Office. Officials prepared the 1942 Wannsee Conference, where Nazi leaders formalized their plans for the Holocaust, at the site.

The SS acted as a special police force and was involved in some of the worst crimes committed in territory under Nazi control during World War II.

The remains of the damaged buildings were leveled after World War II. The site is in what was for decades a neglected corner of postwar West Berlin, right next to the Berlin Wall. It is still bordered by one of the wall's few remaining sections. Andreas Nachama, a former head of Berlin's Jewish community, who leads the foundation overseeing the project, said that it would include a library and seminar rooms, as well as the documentation center.

The site will now become "a worthy place of memory," said Wolfgang Boernsen, a lawmaker for Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democrats. "We more than owe this to the victims of the Nazis' regime of terror, on whose fate decisions were made here."

HOLOCAUST MUSEUM OPENS AT BELSEN

Germany has inaugurated a new museum at the site of the Nazi concentration camp where diarist Anne Frank died.

The new exhibition center at Bergen-Belsen, in the north of Germany, highlights the fates of those who died at the camp during World War II.

Among the exhibits are the drawings and diaries of Jews imprisoned there, plus video statements by survivors.

Some 100 survivors were at the ceremony at the camp, where an estimated 50,000 Jews perished during the Holocaust.

The new exhibition is part of an effort to reconstruct the lives of those sent to Bergen-Belsen during the Nazi occupation of Europe.

It contains photographs, prisoners' records and objects donated by the survivors.

"Use of the new material makes it possible to faithfully recreate the history of the camp," said Christian Wulff, governor of the state of Lower Saxony.

"The genocide of Europe's Jews – a crime against humanity of unimaginable proportions – will now and forever keep its paramount place within the German memory," German Culture Minister Bernd Neumann said as he opened the museum.

Liberated by Allied troops in 1945 and later razed, Bergen-Belsen began life as a prisoner-of-war camp.

From 1943 until the end of the war, it was a concentration camp for Jews, gypsies and homosexuals, with an estimated 125,000 people held there.

SURVIVORS' CHILDREN SUING GERMANY

Children of Holocaust survivors are suing Germany to pay for their psychotherapy.

The lawsuit, involving some 4,000 plaintiffs, was filed in a Tel Aviv court. The children of survivors argue that they have been scarred being raised by parents who experienced the Nazi Holocaust, and as a result, Germany should pay for their psychological therapy.

Baruch Mazor, director of the Fisher Fund, which filed the lawsuit, said thousands of people raised by survivor parents suffer from depression and anxiety and cannot function normally at work or home. He estimated that some 5 percent of Israel's 400,000 children of survivors are in need of therapy.

The lawsuit seeks the establishment of a German-financed fund to pay for three years of biweekly therapy sessions for some 15,000 to 20,000 people, at a cost of about $10 million, according to The Associated Press. The Germany Foreign Ministry declined to comment.

MANHATTAN MONUMENT HONORING HOLOCAUST EYEWITNESS IS UNVEILED

A monument honoring the Polish underground officer who is credited with giving the first eyewitness accounts of the Warsaw Ghetto and a Nazi concentration camp to U.S. and British officials was unveiled outside the Polish Consulate.

The Manhattan monument features a statue of the officer, Jan Karski, sitting erect on a bench, with his legs crossed and a cane in his hand. A chess board – a game he enjoyed playing – is nearby.

Karski, a Roman Catholic, infiltrated the ghetto and concentration camp and in 1942 and 1943 told President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, among others, what he saw. But few believed him, and little immediate action was taken, said people who attended the dedication ceremony.

Krzysztof Kasprzyk, the consul general of the Republic of Poland in New York, described Karski, who died in Washington in 2000 at age 86, as an "iconic man" and a "true hero of the 20th century."

The monument ceremony was held on Polish Independence Day, which coincided this year with Veterans Day. There's also a proposal pending City Council approval to name the monument's location, at 37th Street and Madison Avenue, Jan Karski Corner.

BOOK REVIEWS

NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART

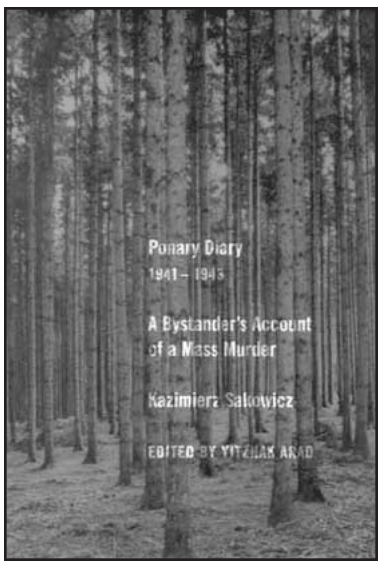
Ponary Diary, 1941-1943: A Bystander's Account of a Mass Murder. By Kazimierz Sakowicz. Edited by Yitzhak Arad. Yale University Press: New Haven & London, 2005. 156 pp. $25.

REVIEWED BY DR. DIANE CYPKIN

One can only wonder why Kazimierz Sakowicz, "a Polish journalist who lived in Ponary" near *Wilno* (Jewish Vilna) kept a diary of the horrific tragedy perpetrated there between 1941 and 1943. Did he intend to publish it one day? Was a book to be the end result of the "diary" – actually but chance, assorted slips of paper and calendar corners hastily written on and documenting all he saw and heard?

We will never know . . . But we must heartily thank Rachel Margolis, a Holocaust survivor herself, for determinedly and "painstakingly" tracking down so much of Sakowicz's work found in so many places and bringing it to our attention in the first English language publication of *Ponary Diary, 1941-1943: A Bystander's Account of a Mass Murder*, edited by Yitzhak Arad. It is a unique piece. It is an unforgettable volume. It is a major addition to Holocaust study.

Why unique? As pointed out by Yitzhak Arad in his Preface to *Ponary Diary*, "The diary offers testimony from a bystander, an 'objective' observer' who saw tens of thousands murdered daily before his very eyes. Ponary was just about at his front door. Moreover, Sakowicz tells it all coolly and quite unemotionally. Only now and then does he comment on just how Jews – the primary victims at Ponary – went to their deaths . . . or Poles . . . or Soviets. No such work, as Arad writes, exists documenting the murderous activities at "*Babi Yar* in Kiev, *Maly Trostinets* near Minsk, *Bogdanovka* in *Transnistria*, and other places in the occupied Soviet Union." In sum, Sakowicz's objectivity makes him exceptionally credible and his work of exceptional worth *vis-à-vis* the Holocaust.



And then there is the unforgettable aspect of this volume.

Sakowicz writes of countless shootings he witnessed up close at Ponary, first of Jewish men, usually in the afternoon, often giving their number. Then he writes of countless shootings of Jewish men, women, and children, throughout the entire day, often giving their number. He writes of the victim's disbelief. All were told they were going to a new worksite. He writes of those Jews who tried to escape and were wildly hunted down like animals in the forest, so as to share the fate of their co-religionists. He writes about just how they were tortured and buried at Ponary – sometimes dead, sometimes half-dead. He writes of the Poles and Soviets — a number of Soviets, "probably Communist big shots," brought by car and murdered at Ponary. Indeed, special "trouble- makers" of one kind or another would, from time to time, arrive by car to Ponary . . . and death.

Still, for this reviewer – and other *Litvakes* like herself – what makes Sakowicz's work a major addition to Holocaust study is the unforgiving light it shines on the sizeable number of Lithuanians who eagerly collaborated with the Nazi invaders. In fact, as Sakowicz tells it, anti-Semitic Lithuanian units attached to the Einsatzkommando in Wilno joyously did a lot of the dirty work when it came to roundups, and especially Jewish killing. Then Sakowicz reports of how these Lithuanian anti-Semites sold the clothing of the dead, profiting from their evil deeds. When men were killed, there was lots of men's clothing to be sold. When women were killed, there was lots of women's clothing gingerly being marketed. Nor did any kind of "Saint's Day" stop these usually drunken, Lithuanian anti-Semities from their "duty."

In July, 1944, Sakowicz was shot "while riding his bicycle from Wilno to his home in Ponary." No one knows who did it or why. Perhaps it was an accident. Perhaps a Russian soldier did it. This is another question that will remain unanswered.

Nonetheless, Sakowicz's writings found in "empty lemonade bottles, sealed and buried in the ground," remain – and presented here in this book – are not for the faint of heart.

P.S. Sakowicz did write more than this. Perhaps, by some miracle, that material, too, will surface.

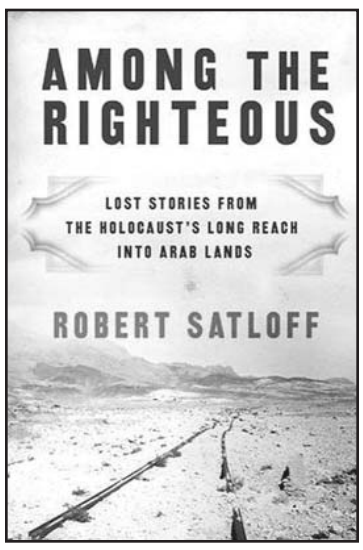
Dr. Diane Cypkin is a Professor of Media and Communication Arts at Pace University.

UNEXPLORED HOLOCAUST STORIES

Among the Righteous: Lost Stories from the Holocaust's Long Reach into Arab Lands. By Robert Satloff. PublicAffairs, 2007. 263 pp. $17.16

REVIEWED BY JONAH RASKIN

I'm a Jew, and I never feel more Jewish than among anti-Semites. I've known about the Holocaust ever since my father described the gas chambers to me as a boy, and I have written about Jews for decades. I'll probably never cease my fascination with Hitler.



Still, I turned to "*Among the Righteous*" with trepidation: eager to know what new stories Robert Satloff might have unearthed, and yet disinclined to hear tales of atrocities.

Satloff begins by looking at Michael Curtiz's 1942 movie "Casablanca," the best anti-fascist film Hollywood ever made. It's a smart start for a serious book about three serious subjects: the exportation of European fascism to North Africa; the collaboration of North Africans with European fascist regimes; and the resistance, by North Africans, to those same regimes. Satloff opts for the word "Arabs," though he explains that it's shorthand, and that many of the people he writes about were not in fact ethnic "Arabs." Then, too, he writes, many of the Jews he describes in his book were "Arab Jews." Describing them by nationality as Algerians, Tunisians and Moroccans might have simplified matters.

"Casablanca," the film, raises almost all the major moral issues about fascism, albeit romantically. Satloff returns to those same issues with a colder eye. He also adds an element omitted from the film: the relationship between Jews and Arabs during World War II. An American Jewish scholar, he has devoted his life to the study of Middle Eastern history. He knows the language, the culture and the people, and he challenges North Africans, and Europeans, too, to understand their dual roles as pro-fascists and anti-fascists. He also turns his knowledge back on himself, and he reflects deeply about what it means to be a Jew — no less complex an identity than ever before in history.

Leaping from continent to continent and from country to country, Satloff travels from Europe to North Africa, and from Tunisia and Morocco to Algeria, hunting for witnesses to history. Like a detective trying to solve a crime — the disappearance of the Jews of Tunis,Algiers and Casablanca — he trusts almost no one. Still, he continues his journey, and at times he tells a riveting tale. He settles in North Africa, gathers clues and builds a convincing case. By the end of the book, he presents a persuasive case that Arabs did indeed behave as "righteous" men and women in the fight against fascism, as righteously, perhaps as, say, Oskar Schindler, the German industrialist celebrated in the movie "*Schindler's List*."

The story twists this way and then that way, shuttling back and forth relentlessly from good news to bad news, and from

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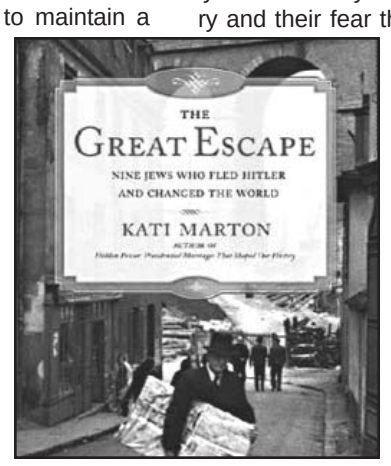
THE GREAT ESCAPE, REVISITED

The Great Escape: Nine Jews Who Fled Hitler And Changed The World. By Kati Marton. Simon & Schuster, 2006. 288 pp. $27.00.

REVIEWED BY ELAINE MARGOLIN

It 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 unmasked.

But Hungarian-born author Kati Marton no longer feels compelled to maintain a facade, and after recently losing both of her parents, 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*, about 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 Nazi horror in Hungary by hiding 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 Kati and her sister were put in the care of strangers.

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 writes about a group of men who were members of the generation 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 personally. Their anxiety – born of their own history and their fear that peace cannot last – resonated inside me."

Marton brings to life the artistry of Andre Kertesz's photographs, which took quiet notice of the vulnerable moments of daily life. She probes deeply into the restless and turbulent soul of Arthur Koestler, whose brilliant novel, *Darkness at Noon*, shattered any lingering romantic notions about communism. She examines the brutal honesty of Robert Capa's photography 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 a

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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, Rezs Kasztner enjoys no such approval.

The first are generally regarded as men who risked their lives during the Holocaust to save countless Jews from a despicable fate. But while Kasztner looks to have spared upwards of 20,000 of his fellow Jews from being herded into gas chambers, according to some accounts at least, history has generally not been kind.

In fact, though Kasztner may have saved more Jews than any other individual during the Holocaust, his critics rebuke him for negotiating with the Nazi SS, making "deals with the devil," and he was vilified in the years after the Second World War and ultimately assassinated in 1957.

Today, few people know his name, and Kasztner's legacy is still vehemently debated, particularly within the Hungarian community. It's that polarization that drew Anna Porter, the former book publisher and award-winning writer, to tell his tale.

"I was haunted by this," she says, sitting in a coffee shop near her home in downtown Toronto. "It's an extraordinary story.

"This person, who saved thousands of people, yet, instead of being revered as Wallenberg was, he was not only reviled, but ultimately murdered by his fellow Jews," she said.

Porter, herself Hungarian, fled her homeland during the revolution in 1956, first to New Zealand, then to England, and eventually Canada. She has spent almost six years exhaustively researching Kasztner's story and, in the end, quit her job two years ago as head of her successful publishing company, Key Porter Books, in order to write *Kasztner's Train: The True Story of Resz Kasztner, Unknown Hero of the Holocaust*.

"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 convinced" he was a more heroic man than history has given him credit for.

MUNK'S TALE

One person who is decidedly certain of Kasztner's heroism is Peter Munk, the gold baron, best known as the president and founder of Barrick Gold, the world's largest producer and a prominent Canadian philanthropist. Munk owes his life to Kasztner.

In June 1944, Munk was just a teenager, 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 told CBC News' Susan Ormiston in a rare personal interview. "On top of that, there's much evidence that he saved another 20,000 to 30,000," Munk says.

It was through a conversation with Munk in 1999 or 2000 that Porter's interest in the Kasztner story was piqued, she says. Porter had been at Munk's house to discuss a possible biography on the fabled businessman when Munk mentioned how much he was indebted to Kasztner.

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. It turned out he, too, was on Kasztner's train, and was a good friend of Munk's.

But Schaeffer, now a successful businessman, was seething with the opposite sentiment. Schaeffer's parents were booted off the train, and only his mother survived. Kasztner had oversold the train, Porter was told, and the SS threw 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"

In the 1940s, Kasztner, a Zionist leader and head of Budapest's Jewish Rescue Committee, brokered a "blood for goods" deal with the SS, Hitler's notorious paramilitary arm. In fact, he negotiated directly with Adolf Eichmann, whom Hitler had chosen to

Rezs Kasztner

exterminate the Jews of Europe. Eichmann made a proposal to the Zionists: he would sell exit visas to Jews who could afford the hefty price, and Kasztner took him up on it.

While there is some debate about who was able to board that train, Porter concludes it was a misconception that it was only the wealthy, and that Kasztner was the one who made the final call.

A group would pay the price for themselves and subsidize others, Porter says. One criteria would be people who were in grave danger, such as the young Zionists.

In June 1944, the Kasztner Train left Budapest, taking Munk and other passengers to neutral Switzerland, sparing them from execution. Kasztner also convinced the Nazis to put another 20,000 Jews "on ice," meaning to put off their extermination for possible trade later.

In the last days of the war, Kasztner travelled to several concentration camps with SS Lieutenant Colonel Kurt Becher to try and save thousands of inmates from being gassed. According to some accounts, Becher drove Kasztner from one camp to another to convince the SS guards that their commander, Heinrich Himmler, had countermanded the order to kill every Jew.

"The lowest possible number who survived as a result of that journey he took with Becher would be 100,000 people," Porter estimates.

Kasztner's bargaining chip was a promise to try to help Becher, who feared he would face execution for his war crimes. By that point in the war, it had been announced that there would be trials for war criminals and Kasztner promised to testify about Becher's help during those last days.

"Becher, by this time, being smarter than most, could see that the Germans were going to lose the war," said Porter. "And Kasztner said, 'Look. If you do this, I will save your life when the time comes.' Becher took the bait."

Critics didn't like this kind of deal-making, especially when Kasztner did go out of his way to help Becher later. "Becher was an SS officer," notes Porter. "He was a war criminal and he owed his life to Kasztner. So, if you make a deal with the devil, do you have to keep your word? That's the question, to which I don't know the answer."

AFTER THE WAR

When Kasztner moved to Israel after the war, rather than a warm welcome, he was labeled a Nazi collaborator. He charged one of his accusers, Malkiel Grunwald, with libel. But the focus of the high-profile court case shifted and the judge ruled that Kasztner did indeed sell his soul to the devil.

The ruling was overturned years later, and Kasztner's reputation exonerated, but that wasn't until after Kasztner was gunned down in Israel by Jewish extremists in 1957.

"Kasztner felt honor-bound" to help Becher, says Munk. "And you know what? I think you would have, too, because the situation was so dramatic. Becher's actions were so unbelievably uncharacteristic in light of the unparalleled murdering and mayhem those SS people caused for five years."

In his view, Munk says he believes Kasztner did the right thing, but understands the logic behind the disdain. "If your whole family had been murdered and machine-gunned, including your daughter and your children, and there is somebody who actually testified on behalf of an SS officer and is a Jew? I am not in a position to pass moral judgment."

In her research, interviewing hundreds and traveling to several countries, Porter stumbled upon a taped interview with Hansi Brand, a woman with whom Kasztner had an affair.

"She said, 'If he had 100 souls, in order to save 1,000 people, he would have sold them all," Porter recounts.

However, morals are relative. Brand was the wife of his friend and co-worker. And the facts are still murky, even Porter acknowledges, with several conflicting witness accounts. Porter says she had to be subjective and choose the stories that were the most convincing.

"This is not a simple guy," she says. "And this is not a simple story."

First reported by CBS News

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR'S NEIGHBOR WAS NAZI

Nathan Gasch and Martin Hartmann lived next door to each other for four years in a quiet retirement community called Leisure World.

You can tell where Gasch had been six decades earlier by the tattooed number on his arm. Gasch could see where Hartmann had been when he walked into his neighbor's house and saw a picture of him on the wall wearing a Nazi hat.

Gasch, a survivor of the Auschwitz concentration camp, saw the picture soon after he first moved in, when Hartmann and his wife invited him to their house in Mesa, east of Phoenix.

"I just walked out of the room," said Gasch, a soft-spoken 84-year-old with a Polish accent.

But he didn't notify authorities.

"Maybe I was too childish," he said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I figured we were living in a community here. I just let it go."

Hartmann, 88, was forced to move back to Germany last month, after investigators tracked the man's history through immigration records, old rosters and other documents, said Jaclyn Lesch, U.S. Department of Justice spokeswoman.

"His wife lied about where she was born, to not raise questions," Lesch said, "and (Hartmann) said he worked in a cantina."

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, disease, exhaustion and murder.

Born in Romania, Hartmann immigrated 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 generosity of this country and it is unbelievable that it took this long," said Judy Searle, president of the Phoenix Holocaust Survivors Association. "Holocaust survivors live with the horror every single day of their lives.... Here is a person who is living very nicely."

Lesch said officials don't have jurisdiction to bring criminal charges against Hartmann and the 106 others like him who have been located by the government since 1979. They can, however, revoke citizenship.

In a settlement agreement reached last month, Hartmann admitted to serving as an armed SS guard and personally assisting in Nazi-directed persecution. He agreed to leave the country and knew he would not be allowed to return, officials said.

Gasch is sure Hartmann knew he was a Holocaust survivor. His tattoo from Auschwitz is still visible on his left arm.

"They must have seen I had my number," he said.

Gasch said he was shocked when he heard Hartmann had been deported, but not sorry.

"He was one of them."

AP

SURVIVORS' CORNER

ONE FAMILY'S "SOPHIE'S CHOICE"

BY PERRY SCHEINOK

As we proceed with our daily lives in an orderly 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 toys on the floor of our living room 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 after *Kristallnacht*, and were on their way to England or South America, we ourselves were trapped by the events of May 10, 1940, when the *Blitzkrieg* hit us in Holland full blast. Though the Dutch fought most bravely, Holland surrendered on May 14th, after the bombardment of Rotterdam destroyed almost the entire city, and the Nazis had threatened to continue this form of destruction one Dutch city at a time.

The first year of the Nazi occupation was relatively quiet, and even though a few anti-Jewish laws were passed, it was nothing that we could not tolerate. Yes, Jews were not allowed on the beaches, nor were we allowed to go to the theater, nor were we permitted to meet publicly in large numbers, but still life went on reasonably quietly. When June 1941 came along, and my stay in fourth grade ended, we received a letter which told my parents that I was to enter a new public school that fall, a school where all the students and teachers would be Jewish. That was suspicious, but it, too, seemed bearable. We were even able to go on vacation that summer.

Yes, the German Army was everywhere, but at that point, they did not seem to bother anyone physically. We were literally lulled to sleep.

Chaim and Sarah Scheinok with their two-year-old son, Perry.

Two weeks after we returned to our home in The Hague, in early September, the sky fell in on us. One early afternoon our doorbell rang, and a Mynheer Schilder, who identified himself as a member of the Dutch Nazi Party, met with my father and told him that the German Government had rewarded him, Schilder, with our dress factory. All that my father had worked for fifteen years now belonged to him, and he immediately called my father's bank and told them that he was now in total charge of all of our 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 we did 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 father did not do as he was told, it would cost him his neck! It was not very long before my father got the idea, and this led to a grand family meeting in my grandmother's apartment in mid-October. The attendees were all the grownups in our immediate family; my grandmother Rosa, her daughters, Sara (my mother), Annie, Eva, and their spouses, as well as her son, Shmuel, and his wife, Manya. It became very clear that we had to escape from the Nazi yoke, as we were all in great danger. I don't believe that in October, 1941, my family knew what the exact ultimate danger was to be, but it was suspected that Jews might be imprisoned, sent to Poland for hard labor, starved and mistreated. No one had any inkling of the Holocaust to come, I believe, since at the time such an issue would simply have been beyond anyone's imagination.

Now my uncle Eddie, (Annie's husband) was somewhat of a shady 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 he 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, Rosa. To make such a trip required that my family would blend easily into the surrounding population. 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 and weeping, it was decided to leave her! My uncle Shmuel then volunteered to stay with her, and he and his wife and children would remain in Holland to do so. So the choice that was made that night did not just involve one life, it now involved six lives.

I was ten at the time, and did not learn of these events until many years later. On November 1st when I rose to go to school, I discovered that my father was gone. So were my Uncles 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 by that smile that somehow she heard 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 guided the three sisters and their children (two, counting me) through three weeks of incredible adventures from The Hague through Belgium through occupied France to Vichy France. I never saw my grandmother, nor my uncle, aunt, or cousins ever again.

The adventures of my family in trying to survive the war could fill several volumes, and in fact do fill several videotapes, as told by me to the Shoah Foundation. The ultimate results, however, were very simple. All eight of us in my family who escaped from Holland survived,

(Continued on page 12)

THE EXTRAORDINARY FAMILY WHO DEFIED HITLER – AND SURVIVED THE HOLOCAUST

BY SUE CORRIGAN, DAILY MAIL

When the Nazis invaded Poland in 1939, the Frydman family, like millions of Jews, were doomed.

Roman Frydman, a wealthy lawyer, disappeared not long after joining the Polish army.

His wife Lucja and their two young daughters were bundled into Warsaw's Jewish ghetto, where thousands were to die of disease and starvation even before mass deportations began to Treblinka concentration camp.

The chances of any member of the family surviving were tiny.

The chances of all four surviving, and then finding each other again, weren't even worth considering.

Yet over and over again, each of the Frydmans miraculously defied death, and in 1945, were just as miraculously reunited.

For more than 60 years, the family's extraordinary story has gone untold. In October, BBC aired a documentary called *The Family That Defied Hitler: Revealed*.

For London-based documentary-maker Michael Attwell, who first stumbled upon the story while visiting a friend in Sheffield 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 documentaries she said, 'Have I got a story for you," said Attwell.

"And she certainly did – a most amazing tale of sacrifice, heroism and courage.

"While it's rumored that one other family of Polish Jews did manage to survive, the Frydmans 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 surviving than Jews in other parts of Europe – apart from anything else, they lived under Nazi tyranny for the longest period of time."

The Frydman family shortly before the 1939 Nazi invasion of Poland.

Roman and Lucja Frydman died in the sixties, but their two daughters – Margaret, who was nine at the time of the invasion, and Irene, then three – are alive today.

Now grandmothers, Margaret, 77, lives in Paris, while Irene, 71, is a dentist in New York.

The two women tell how, within a few months of their father's departure, their mother was ordered to leave the family's home and move to Warsaw's infamous ghetto.

Along with hundreds of thousands of other Jews, Lucja and her daughters lived there, in a tiny room, for three years.

From the start, Lucja had an extremely strong survival instinct, Attwell said.

"She befriended a senior Jewish doctor who helped care for and protect the family, sold possessions for food and made her girls spend two hours every day removing typhus-carrying lice from their hair."

Initially, people were allowed to leave the ghetto each day to buy food and go to work or school, but in 1941 the Nazis sealed the area, resulting in 100,000 people dying from starvation and disease.

In June 1942, the Gestapo began deporting the ghetto's residents to Treblinka, removing 300,000 within just a few months.

"Lucja made the heart-rendingly 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 proposition," 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 outside the ghetto to do unpaid work for the Germans, so she dressed Margaret in high-heeled shoes and lipstick to make her look older.

Margaret got out and was taken to an

(Continued on page 13)

UNEARTHING MASS GRAVES UNVEILS HISTORY

BY MICHAEL J. JORDAN, JTA

In May, Ukrainian workers laying a gas pipe in a southern village dug into a buried chamber of thousands of Jews killed during the Holocaust.

That same month, a construction crew building a new office complex in western Ukraine burrowed into the corpses of several dozen more Jews.

Stumbling upon such mass graves is not particularly unusual in Eastern Europe.

Less well known is how many more "martyr sites" lie undiscovered and unmarked in fields and forests across the region – wherever mobile Nazi killing units scorched the earth in the so-called "Holocaust of bullets."

It seems momentum is growing in the search for such sites.

French Catholic priest Patrick Desbois has pinpointed 600 in Ukraine over the past seven years, and says he may find another 1,800 as he moves farther east.

The Killing Sites Project of the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem has identified from archives some 700 settlements in Ukraine and 200 in Belarus where Jews likely were massacred.

Even on Polish soil, where it seems every aspect of the six Nazi death camps has been dissected and detailed, the country's chief rabbi says evidence is mounting that a number of unmarked mass graves remain in the country's eastern woodlands.

"From time to time, we'd hear about them," Rabbi Michael Schudrich said. "But over the past two to three years, more have come forward to say, 'Rabbi, there's a mass grave over here' and 'Rabbi, there's a mass grave over there.' And one plus one plus one adds up. You begin to realize we may be talking about a much larger number than anyone was talking about previously."

Marking and memorializing these killing fields makes for far more than a macabre historical footnote.

The fieldwork presents a belated opportunity to perform Jewish burials and say a proper *Kaddish* for the victims, and the research paints a clearer picture of how many Jews died during the Holocaust and how many survived.

That research may one day alter the historic 6 million figure of Jewish victims of the Holocaust, as recently opened archives in Eastern Europe enable researchers to fill in the blanks of what had been a virtual black hole in Holocaust research: the genocide of Jews in the Soviet Union.

With archival materials and witness testimonies casting a spotlight on what today is Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, eastern Romania and western Russia, scholars soon may be able to record a more accurate death toll from the Holocaust.

"The most conservative estimate of how many were killed overall – 5.2 million – can be documented," said Paul Shapiro, director of the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington.

"But then, you have the question mark, precisely in this region: How many Jews were able to flee east? Or were evacuated by the Soviet authorities to the East? Or were drafted into the Red Army?"

Those who still lie buried in unmarked pits may help elucidate.

Defying researchers, most remain undiscovered – for reasons entangled with politics, perception and funding priorities.

The primary problem is the nature of the killings themselves, which began well before the first gas chamber was operational in Poland in 1943.

When Nazi forces invaded the Soviet Union in July 1941, paramilitary units called *Einsatzgruppen*, or "special-duty groups," trailed behind the front, systematically cleansing the countryside of Hitler's "Jewish-Bolshevik" enemies.

The most notorious event occurred at *Babi Yar*, the city ravine in Kiev where nearly 34,000 Jews were shot over two days in September 1941.

In smaller towns and villages, the Germans often carried out the killing in plain view, pulling Jews from their homes

Ukrainian ballistics expert Misha Strutinsky, with metal detector and spade, searches for clues to a mass grave of Jews in a sunflower field.

and shooting them on the spot or in streets, in the Jewish cemetery or in the woods. Local collaborators sometimes lent a hand.

The *Einsatzgruppen's* own records claim responsibility for 1 million deaths; historian Raul Hilberg puts the figure at 1.4 million.

After the Holocaust, relatives who might have memorialized these killing sites were dead themselves or had fled elsewhere.

Then, as the Iron Curtain came down on Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union – which had lost 20 million of its own citizens during the war – ordered that no one ethnic or religious group be singled out for its victimization. Instead the carnage was portrayed as an ideological battle between communism and fascism.

This helps explain why the memorials the Soviets did build often were labeled generically for "Soviet victims of fascism."

After Stalin launched his anti-Zionist crusade in the early 1950s, the topic of Jewish victimhood became taboo and probing it ran the risk of imprisonment.

Nevertheless, members of the Extraordinary Soviet Commission to Investigate the Crimes of the Nazi Occupiers were quite meticulous in documenting the Nazis' vast crimes, Western researchers say, and their evidence was used in court to convict alleged collaborators.

Yet, while Germany became a treasure trove for Holocaust research, the Soviet Union remained closed.

Only in recent years have researchers begun to reveal the stories Soviet archives have to tell.

"Political developments in the past 20 years have enabled us to focus on an area of the Holocaust that may not have been prioritized enough," said Philip Carmel, international relations director for the Brussels-based Conference of European Rabbis, which is pursuing an ambitious project of its own to document the Jewish cemeteries of Europe.

"There was more to the Holocaust than the death camps," Carmel said.

In the late 1990s, the Association of Jewish Communities and Organizations in Ukraine, or Vaad, conducted its own limited search for unmarked sites of massacres. They discovered some 200, according to activist Igor Desner.

It's like "finding dimes in the Manhattan sewage system: We know they're there, but how many and how to find them is very difficult," Desner said.

For Jewish groups with the resources for such an undertaking, the task of reviving communal Jewish life and assisting needy survivors took precedence over searching for unmarked graves.

"The priority has been for living Holocaust survivors, who need home care and other assistance," said Gideon Taylor, executive vice president of the Claims Conference.

In 1998, the Claims Conference gave $40,000 to Vaad's grave-searching efforts. More recently, the organization contributed $100,000 to the work of the French priest Desbois.

One of the more critical breakthroughs in researching the unmarked graves came when the vast Soviet archives on the subject were copied and transferred to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. When cross-referenced with other sources for reliability, these once-sealed archives illuminate a trail for researchers to follow and unravel the mystery of missing bodies.

A windfall of material also came from the International Tracing Service's secret Holocaust archive at Bad Arolsen, Germany, which recently transferred its millions of images of concentration-camp survivors to the museum in Washington.

Buffered by this research, the mass-graves movement appears to be gathering speed.

Desbois soldiers on with his small but methodical project. Schudrich says the Polish Jewish community soon will be reaching out to non-Jewish Poles to help locate the last remaining mass graves.

The director of Yad Vashem's Killing Sites project, David Bankier, says he and his colleagues plan to start field research next year in Ukraine.

"Why is this important? It's important for the Jews who live in these countries," said Bankier, who heads Yad Vashem's International Institute of Holocaust Research. "They would like to have a gravestone on the site where their family members were assassinated. And these are the only cemeteries for them."

But even if these graves are discovered and marked, what next?

With few or no Jews remaining in these areas to preserve and protect them, these sites left untended may become targets of vandalism or looting.

Some marked sites already have been spotted with bits of bone lying about. Experts suspect looters went excavating for gold, jewels and other valuables.

Marking these sites "kind of identifies for them where to dig, so rather than be helpful, it does the reverse," said Rabbi Andrew Baker, director of international Jewish affairs for the American Jewish Committee.

"If you create a memorial, have a ceremony, then go back to Israel or the United States, the concern is what happens to that site. You haven't completed the task."

REPORT REVEALS BMW'S NAZI TIES

BY ELDAD BECK, YNETNEWS.COM

Over the years, *Bayerische Motoren Werke AG* (BMW), the German automobile manufacturer, has become a symbol of quality, prestige, and social status. As it turns out, the company has been hiding a dark secret for decades.

The Quandt family – Germany's richest– is a major shareholder of the leading German automobile manufacturer.

It made its fortune during the Second World War through the Nazi war machine, profiting from the forced labor of thousands at concentration camps.

According to an investigative report that premiered at the Hamburg Film Festival on Sunday, the family managed to escape punishment after the war, and continued building its empire – an empire that has left its members billionaires many times over.

The investigative report, which took five years in the making, reveals for the first time the close ties between members of the Quandt family and the Nazi regime's leadership.

Günther Quandt, the empire's founder, was the first husband of Magda Ritschel, who later married Joseph Goebbels, a German politician and one of Adolf Hitler's closest associates.

According to the report, Quandt's first son with Magda was raised by the Goebbels, and became one of the managers of his father's business after the war.

The report also revealed a series of incriminating documents found collecting dust in various archives throughout Germany, which prove the extent of cooperation between the Quandts and the Nazis.

Makers of the investigative report also located survivors of the camps used by the family during World War II, who testified to the horrible conditions they were forced to work under.

The family refused to cooperate with reporters who participated in the investigation.

The Quandts have previously denied allegations that they cooperated with the Nazis, and in fact, for years portrayed themselves as victims of the Third Reich.

When the German Forced Labor Compensation Program was established, the family made no contribution, claiming it had nothing to do with the issue.

WORKERS IN NAZI ERA GHETTOS TO BE PAID

The German government agreed to pay workers who labored in the countries Jewish ghettos during the Nazi era about $2,797 each in compensation.

Compensation for ghetto workers, who generally received a small but often negligible wage, was one of the last outstanding claims dating from the Third Reich. Chancellor Angela Merkel had been keen to settle the claims, and asked top officials to work together with Israel on the matter.

A government spokesman, Ulrich Wilhelm, said Mrs. Merkel's cabinet had approved a Finance Ministry proposal to give the money to all those who had yet to receive payment.

The payment is not compensation for being interned in ghettos, Mr. Wilhelm said at a news conference, its a humanitarian gesture.

The ministry said the government estimated that there were about 50,000 people still eligible to claim the payments. The aim is to get the payment to the elderly applicants as quickly and as unbureaucratically as possible, the ministry said.

AMERICAN & INTERNATIONAL SOCIETIES F

And You Shall Tell Your Children

Ed Mosberg, Recipient of the Yad Vashem Remembrance Award, Ambassador Sallai Meridor, Ambassador of Israel, Eli Zborowski, Chairman of the American & International Societies for Yad Vashem and Matthew Bronfman, Recipient of the Yad Vashem Young Leadership Remembrance Award.

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.

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

Dr. Miriam Adelson, Dinner Chairwoman.

A gathering of a thousand suppo

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

Avner Shalev, Chairman of the Yad Vashem.

Sheldon G. Adelson, Dr. Miriam Adelson, Dinner Chairwo

OR YAD VASHEM ANNUAL TRIBUTE DINNER

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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.

rters of the American and International Societies for Yad Vashem at the Annual Tribute Dinner.

Ambassador Sallai Meridor, Ambassador of Israel, Ed Mosberg, Recipient of the Yad Vashem Remembrance Award, Dr. Miriam Adelson, Dinner Chairwoman, and Sheldon G. Adelson.

man, Joseph and Elizabeth Wilf.

Ambassador Sallai Meridor, Ambassador of Israel.

Avner Shalev, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate, Ira and Gale Drukier, Eli Zborowski, Chairman of the American & International Societies for Yad Vashem, Elizabeth Zborowski, and Matthew Bronfman, Recipient of Yad Vashem Young Leadership Remembrance Award, Stacey Bronfman, Barry Rubenstein and Marilyn Rubenstein, 2007 Dinner Journal Chairwoman.

REPORT FROM YAD VASHEM

FRANCE GIVES DIRECTOR OF YAD VASHEM HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL LEGION OF HONOR

France's president honored Avner Shalev, director of the Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial, with a Legion of Honor award on October 25.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy presented Shalev with the award at the Elysee Palace, naming Shalev a knight in the prestigious legion.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy (right) awards Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev (left) with the Legion of Honor at the Elysee Palace.

"The Legion of Honor I present today is for you and for Yad Vashem, whose international reputation and importance is a result of your determined activity, one that is suffused with passion and inspiration," said President Sarkozy.

France's letter informing Shalev of the award called him "a man of peace, tolerance and sincerity, the person who has turned Yad Vashem into a place of renown, of mutual exchange for younger generations of all backgrounds and cultures."

"I accept this decoration with both humility and pride," said Shalev. "It strengthens me and all the dedicated staff at Yad Vashem in our efforts to meaningfully impart the universal legacy of the Holocaust, especially to the younger generations."

Shalev was named chairman of Yad Vashem in 1993. The memorial and museum is Israel's tribute to the 6 million Jews who perished under the Nazis in World War II. It has become the word's leading archive for information about the Holocaust, featuring films, more than 200,000 photographs and 62 million documents, books and articles. It receives 2 million visitors a year.

YAD VASHEM TO SHOWCASE MUSLIMS WHO SAVED JEWS FROM NAZIS

BY ETGAR LEFKOVITS, THE JP

For the first time, Yad Vashem inaugurated an exhibition on Muslims who saved Jews during the Holocaust.

The exhibition, which opened at the end of October, focuses on more than a dozen of the scores of Muslim Albanians previously recognized as "Righteous Among the Nations" – the Holocaust center's highest honor – for risking their lives to save 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 of the Albanian Righteous and their families, accompanied by short texts.

Enver Alia Sheqer with statue of Albania's national hero, Skanderbeg.

Before World War II, only about 200 Jews lived in Albania. After Hitler's rise to power in 1933, hundreds of Jews fleeing the Nazis crossed the border from Yugoslavia, Germany, Greece, Austria and Serbia.

When the Germans occupied Albania in 1943, the Albanian population refused to comply with the Nazis' orders to turn over lists of Jews residing in the country.

The lifesaving assistance the Jews received in the predominantly Muslim country was based on *Besa*, a code of honor, which literally means "to keep the promise." Nearly all the Jews living within Albanian borders during the German occupation were saved; in fact, there were more Jews in Albania at the end of the war than before it started, Yad Vashem said.

"The extraordinary story of Albania, where an entire nation, both the government and the population, acted to rescue Jews, is truly remarkable," said exhibition curator Yehudit Shendar. "Many, if not all, were heavily influenced in their choice by Islam... This very human story, told through these sensitive portraits, combine to highlight a little-known but remarkable aspect of the Holocaust."

"This is a story that has rarely been publicized," said Holocaust survivor Ya'acov Altarat, 74, from Tel Aviv, who escaped to Albania with his parents as a boy of eight in 1941 and found refuge there for the duration of the war.

"It is a story of a nation saving all of its Jews because of a code of behavior," he said.

"Why did my father save a stranger at the risk of his life and the entire village?" asked Enver Alia Sheqer, son of Righteous Among the Nations Ali Sheqer Pashkaj, who is featured in the exhibition. "My father was a devout Muslim. He believed that to save one life is to enter paradise."

The exhibit will be on display at Yad Vashem for two months and will then travel to New York, where it will be displayed at the United Nations headquarters on January 27 for International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

About 22,000 non-Jews have been recognized by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations since 1963, including 63 – predominantly Muslim honorees – from Albania.

To date, more than 70 Muslims have received the award, Yad Vashem spokeswoman Estee Yaari said.

No Arabs have received the honor, although one candidate, Khaled Abdelwahhab of Tunisia, in January became the first Arab to be nominated for the award.

DUTCH FAMILY HONORED BY HOLOCAUST CENTER AS "RIGHTEOUS AMONG THE NATIONS"

A Dutch couple posthumously received the highest honor for non-Jews from Israel's Holocaust memorial authority Thursday for their bravery in sheltering a Jewish family from the Nazis during World War II.

Hendrikus (Hein) and Martha Snapper were named "Righteous Among the Nations" at the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial authority in Jerusalem.

They were in their early forties with six children when the war reached the Netherlands in 1940. Hein Snapper, as a labor official in *Naaldwijk*, a town in the western part of the Netherlands, was confronted early on with the registration of Jews, the appropriation of Jewish property and the expulsion of Jewish children from public schools, Yad Vashem officials said.

In the summer of 1942, he became active in a local underground group and was put in contact with a Jewish family, Rosa and Levy (Leen) de Hartog. The de Hartogs had received a deportation notice and were frantically searching for a hiding place. The Snappers decided to open their home to Rosa de Hartog, whom they presented as their housekeeper. The Snappers also found hiding places for Leen and their five children, according to officials at Yad Vashem.

"It's hard to imagine the terrible panic, and the courage it took to respond to such a cry," said Irena Steinefeldt, spokeswoman for Yad Vashem.

"Most houses (in the Netherlands) were too small for hiding spaces. People had to take in strangers in clear view and concoct a reason for their presence," said Johan Snapper, the Snappers' son, now a professor of German and Dutch studies at the University of California, Berkeley, speaking at the ceremony.

The penalty for hiding Jews was a concentration camp or death, Snapper said. "Our parents understood that."

In May 1943, a massive recruitment of Dutch men for forced labor in Germany began. Snapper used his position at the labor exchange to forge documents and falsify information for the de Hartogs.

The couple faced a stern test in 1944, when six German S.S. soldiers were billeted in the Snapper home.

"The daily stress put on Hein and Martha can only be imagined," Steinefeldt said.

The entire de Hartog family survived the war and was reunited afterward. A photograph of the two families together after liberation was on display during the ceremony.

Hein Snapper died in 1979 and Martha Snapper in 1980. Their names were unveiled on the wall of Righteous Among the Nations at the ceremony Thursday.

More than 30 members of the Snapper extended family traveled to Israel for the ceremony. Surviving children of the de Hartogs who were saved by the Snappers — Truus de Hartog of the Netherlands, and Salomon de Hartog of Israel — were also present.

"Nothing has ever made a bigger impact on me, as young as I was," Johan Snapper said of witnessing his parents' heroism. "It's not because they were Jews — they would have done it for anybody."

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.

Jakob Silberstein, 83, was born in Poland, but fled to Czechoslovakia after World War II broke out, finding refuge with a local woman. Many of his relatives perished in the Holocaust.

To escape an especially intensive search by the Gestapo, the small-boned Silberstein spent long hours hiding in the hollowed-out trunk of a birch tree.

The trunk, which Silberstein obtained in 2005 after it was cut down for lumber, was unveiled in a forest near Yad Vashem.

"It saved my life," he said at the ceremony.

Silberstein now lives in Israel. Jana Sudova, the woman who sheltered him in Czechoslovakia, died in 1993 and was recognized last year by Yad Vashem as a Righteous Among the Nations.

U.S. NUN WHO STARTED HOLOCAUST SEMINARS GETS AWARD FROM YAD VASHEM

A Catholic nun from Pennsylvania is the first non-Jew and non-Israeli to receive Yad Vashem's Award for Excellence in Holocaust Education.

Sister Gemma del Duca

Sister Gemma del Duca, a Sister of Charity and former chair of the history department at Seton Hill University in Greensburg, Pa., has been leading seminars for Holocaust education with the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial for two decades.

The seminars, started on her initiative, are intended for groups of Catholic educators and clergy, primarily from the United States. According to Yad Vashem, hundreds of educators have taken part in the seminars.

A native of Greensburg, Pa., Sister Gemma has been living in Israel since 1975, and she approached Yad Vashem with her idea in 1987 in response to Pope John Paul II's call to recognize the significance of the Holocaust.

Sister Gemma received the award July 1. Among those who attended the ceremony were Yuli Tamir, Israeli minister of education; Avner Shalev, chairman of Yad Vashem; Dorit Novak, director of the International School for Holocaust Studies; and JoAnne Boyle, president of Seton Hill University.

AFTER FLEEING WARTIMES SLAVE LABOR, HIS CRUSADE BECAME HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

At 80 years old, Leonid Saharovici is gray and weathered, yet "old" does not describe him.

Each day, he returns from a three-mile walk around his East Memphis neighborhood, dripping sweat.

Only when he pulls out an aged photo of emaciated corpses piled high like discarded rag dolls do his hands tremble. The photo was given to him by a liberator of the Dachau concentration camp and is one of many items Saharovici has collected from the Holocaust.

Looking at it, he quotes his favorite author, Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel: "Remembering can instill caution, fortify restraint and protect against evil and indifference."

"That's the message I carry to anyone who will listen," he said.

Saharovici has been a crusader for Holocaust education since coming to Memphis 35 years ago.

In 1982, during one of the largest gatherings of Jewish survivors in Washington, D.C., Saharovici engaged Al Gore and Don Sundquist, both congressman at the time, in the idea of a Tennessee Holocaust Commission.

His ability to win people over resulted in the commission's creation two years later.

"I wanted to have a large organization who could influence Holocaust education," he said.

It was the third commission of its type in the country, and one of the first in the state, to create a Holocaust curriculum for high school students.

He and his wife, Fridericka, also a survivor, came to America with two children, no money and speaking little English.

When they fled communist Romania to live with Fridericka's cousin in Memphis, they were restricted to one suitcase and had to leave all valuables behind.

Saharovici was trained as a lawyer, but lacking the funds to get certified in America, the highly educated immigrant sold encyclopedias door to door. Eventually, he landed a job with National Mortgage, which he retired from several years ago.

In Memphis, Saharovici has told his story many times.

"As soon as I had confidence people could understand my message, I went to schools and colleges," he said. But he is more interested in encouraging other survivors to speak of their experiences.

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

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

Because he was Jewish, at 13 years old he was kicked out of school and 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, including bits of body parts.

Leonid Saharovici's identity card was issued at age 15 for the forced labor camp in Bucharest, Romania, where he worked during the war. "I used to come home terrified," he recalled.

Used as slave labor to take the place of workers fighting the war, he was ordered to do various jobs for two years. In August 1944, he was working in a field when a Russian soldier on horseback rode up, recalled Saharovici. "He said 'Jews, you are free.'"

When the Russians took over, however, life under communism became less like freedom each year.

In fear of being sent to jail, he would listen to the world news quietly under the sheets.

"We had to leave," said Saharovici, who packed up his wife and children for Memphis.

Since arriving, he has not only founded the Tennessee Holocaust Commission, but the Jewish Historical Society of Memphis and the Mid-South. He is chairman of the Belz Museum of Asian & Judaic Art, director of the Center For Southern Folklore and Chairman of the Belz/Parker Artists Ascending Concert Series.

But after years of keeping a spotlight on the atrocities of the Holocaust, he sees history repeating itself around the world.

In Africa, Hutus and Tutsis are killing each other "brother against brother," he said. "I ask, did we learn the lessons of the Holocaust? Obviously not."

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

"Our testimonies, our movies, the books we write, the friends we make, these are going to carry on our message."

POLAND STARTS BUILDING JEWISH MUSEUM

Polish authorities will today broke the ground for a new museum dedicated to centuries of Jewish heritage in a 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 showcase 800 years 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 stand opposite 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 overwhelmingly 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.

Museum officials, however, say they want to look not only at the Holocaust but also at centuries of Polish-Jewish tradition.

"The Holocaust will be one of the eight thematic exhibition areas," said Marian Turski, president of Poland's Jewish Historical Institute.

IN THE SHADOW OF HORROR, SS GUARDIANS FROLIC

BY NEIL. A. LEWIS, THE NEW YORK TIMES

Last December, Rebecca Erbelding, a young archivist at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, opened a letter from a former United States Army intelligence officer who said he wanted to donate photographs of Auschwitz he had found more than 60 years ago in Germany.

Ms. Erbelding was intrigued: Although Auschwitz may be the most notorious of the Nazi death camps, there are only a small number of known photos of the place before its liberation in 1945. Some time the next month, the museum received a package containing 16 cardboard pages, with photos pasted on both sides, and their significance quickly became apparent.

Karl Höcker, adjutant to the commandant of Auschwitz, and SS auxiliaries relaxing at a recreation lodge near the camp.

As Ms. Erbelding and other archivists reviewed the album, they realized they had a scrapbook of sorts of the lives of Auschwitz's senior SS officers that was maintained by Karl Höcker, the adjutant to the camp commandant. Rather than showing the men performing their death camp duties, the photos depicted, among other things, a horde of SS men singing cheerily to the accompaniment of an accordionist, Höcker lighting the camp's Christmas tree, a cadre of young SS women frolicking and officers relaxing, some with tunics shed, for a smoking break.

In all there are 116 pictures, beginning with a photo from June 21, 1944, of Höcker and the commandant of the camp, Richard Baer, both in full SS regalia. The album also contains eight photos of Josef Mengele, the camp doctor notorious for participating in the selections of arriving prisoners and bizarre and cruel medical experiments. These are the first authenticated pictures of Mengele at Auschwitz, officials at the Holocaust museum said.

The photos provide a stunning counterpoint to what up until now has been the only major source of pre-liberation Auschwitz photos, the so-called Auschwitz Album, a compilation of pictures taken by SS photographers in the spring of 1944 and discovered by a survivor in another camp. Those photos depict the arrival at the camp of a transport of Hungarian Jews, who at the time made up the last remaining sizable Jewish community in Europe. The Auschwitz Album, owned by Yad Vashem, the Israeli Holocaust museum, depicts the rail side selection process at Birkenau, the area where trains arrived at the camp, as SS men herded new prisoners into lines.

The comparisons between the albums are both poignant and obvious, as they juxtapose the comfortable daily lives of the guards with the horrific reality within the camp, where thousands were starving and 1.1 million died.

For example, one of the Höcker pictures, shot on July 22, 1944, 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 mock 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.

Those 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 open pits. A separate but small group of known pre-liberation photos were taken clandestinely of those burnings.

From left to right: Richard Baer (Commandant of Auschwitz), Dr. Josef Mengele and Rudolf Hoess (the former Auschwitz Commandant).

Auschwitz was abandoned and evacuated on Jan. 18, 1945, and liberated by Soviet forces on Jan. 27. Many of the Höcker photos were taken at Solahütte, an Alpine-style recreation lodge the SS used on the far reaches of the camp complex alongside the Sola River.

Though they as yet have no plans to exhibit the Höcker album photos, curators at the Holocaust Memorial Museum have

(Continued on page 15)

SCHOLAR UNEARTHS PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN PRIMO LEVI TEXT AT YAD VASHEM

BY MERON RAPOPORT, HAARETZ

"A declaration by Doctor Primo Levi, living in Torino, *Corso Vittorio 67*..." Thus, with characteristic dryness and equally typical humility, begins a document that lay for more than 45 years in the archive of the Yad Vashem Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, until it was discovered a year ago by Dr. Margalit Shlain, a Holocaust scholar and director of the *Beit Theresienstadt* Museum at *Kibbutz Givat Haim Ichud*. Shlain was looking for materials for an article she was writing about how Holocaust writer Primo Levi came to be accepted in Israel. The anonymity with which this text waited for discovery reveals something about the subject of Shlain's research. Israel was very late in discovering Levi, an Auschwitz survivor considered one of the greatest Holocaust writers, if not the greatest.

The text was first published by the Italian weekly *L'Espresso* about two weeks ago. Marco Belpoliti, the editor of all Levi's works in Italian, wrote in *L'Espresso* that the document expands our knowledge about Levi, shedding light in particular on the identity of the people who handed his group of partisans over to the Germans. The style of the testimony, Belpoliti wrote, is the same "tranquil, precise and elegant" style that characterizes Levi's other writings about the Holocaust. Of the betrayal, Levi wrote: "We were joined by a certain man who had called himself Moelli, and – being a spy – he wasted no time in denouncing us. With the exception of Cesare Vita, who managed to escape, we were all arrested on September 13, 1943 and transferred to *Aosa*, to the camp of the Fascist militia. There we encountered the centurion Ferro, who, upon learning that we were university graduates, treated us benignly. He was later killed by partisans, in 1945." When "the centurion" found out that they were Jews rather than "true partisans," Levi wrote, he pledged that no harm would come to them and that he would send them to *Fossoli* camp, near *Modena*. "We were given, on a regular basis, a food ration destined for the soldiers," Levi's testimony continued, "and at the end of January 1944, we were taken to *Fossoli* on a passenger train. Our conditions in the camp were quite good. There was no talk of executions and the atmosphere was quite calm. We were allowed to keep the money we had brought with us and to receive money from the outside. We worked in the kitchen in turn and performed other services in the camp. We even prepared a dining room, a rather sparse one, I must admit."

Primo Levi

Levi's testimony also sheds light on those people who belonged to the "gray area" about which he wrote with such pain in the last book he published before his death, "*The Drowned and the Saved*" – the Jewish doctors who treated the prisoners in Auschwitz, and the *kapo* in charge of the barracks. "I remember Dr. Coenka from Athens, Dr. Weiss from Strasbourg, [and] Dr. Orensztejn, a Pole, who behaved rather well. I cannot say the same about Dr. Samuelidis from Saloniki, who did not pay attention to the patients who came to seek his help and denounced the sick ones to the German SS. A French doctor by the name of Levy turned out to be rather humane. The head of our barracks was a Dutch Jew, Josef Lessing, a musician by profession. He had 20 to 60 men under his supervision, and in his role as the head of the 98th barracks, he showed himself to be not only tough, but also wicked," Levi wrote. The only thing Yad Vashem can currently say about the text is that it reached the institution at the end of 1960, together with a group of documents from Italy. The archivists could not say why Levi wrote the document in Rome (he was living in Torino) or what its purpose was.

However, based on interviews that Shlain conducted, she believes Levi wrote the text in the context of Israel's efforts to gather testimony for the trial of Adolf Eichmann, who had been captured in Argentina a few months earlier. The prosecution was collecting evidence at the time from survivors all over the world. It is not known what happened subsequently to his testimony, but it is known that Primo Levi was not called to the witness stand facing Eichmann's glass booth.

In June 1960, by the time Levi was writing the testimony that appears here, he was quite well-known in Italy. His book "*If This Is a Man,*" about the year he spent in Auschwitz, had been reissued with marked success two years earlier by one of the most respected publishing houses in Italy. Three years later, Levi brought out "The Truce," about his journey from Auschwitz to Italy after the death camp's liberation; the book was widely publicized, became a commercial success and was translated into several languages. Levi, with his exceptionally human voice, became of the best-known Holocaust speakers in Europe.

But not in Israel. Dr. Itzhak Garti met Levi on his one and only visit to Israel in 1968. Garti wanted to translate "*If This Is a Man*" into Hebrew, and Levi, Garti said, "wanted to meet me because he was very strict in matters of translation." Garti added: "Levi told me that he had gone to publishing houses in Israel and proposed that they translate '*If This Is a Man*,'" but "they told him: 'Holocaust? We are up to our ears in it. No one will buy it.'"

Shlain says that today, Levi is part of the Israeli consensus. He appears in textbooks and Israel Defense Forces officers quote him on trips to Auschwitz. But for Levi, the discovery came too late. He did not live to see the publication of "*If This Is a Man*," in Hebrew, which came out in Garti's translation in 1987. That was a year after Levi was found dead at the bottom of the stairs of *Corso Vittorio 67* in Torino, the same address that appears on his testimony.

ONE FAMILY'S "SOPHIE'S CHOICE"

(Continued from page 6)

and everyone in the family who remained behind was murdered in either Auschwitz or Sobibor. My parents and I ended up in the United States on November 1, 1942.

During my teenage years, we never talked about my grandmother, and never reminisced about the people we had left behind. It was an irreparable hole in my life, and I surmised later that we were just too busy trying to make a new life for ourselves in America.

In 1968, I was invited to give a talk at a scientific meeting in Warsaw. I decided to build a three-week vacation around it, and as part of it, visited my uncle Eddie in Brussels. At that point, he told me the story of that evening, and suddenly, so much of what happened to my family after the war became crystal-clear to me. For example, my father (then deceased) had been unable to make a decent living in New York after the war, and he periodically tried to return to Holland, where he truly understood the milieu, in order to earn a living as a manufacturer of women's clothing. My mother would go with him, but after about three months, sometimes less, she would run back to New York, leaving him there alone to manage the business. Being lonely there, he would come back to New York to persuade my mother to return with him. The cycle would then repeat itself, as it did several times. As an adolescent, I was very angry with her, as I felt that she did not support my father sufficiently, but now, suddenly I understood. No matter how hard my mother tried, she could not walk the streets of The Hague feeling that she had had a part in condemning her own mother and brother and family to death. I now also understood why there had never been any conversations in our house after our escape about the family left behind. The guilt must have been impossible to bear! As a consequence, I never did discover how and where the family we left behind died until I visited Yad Vashem in 1981, and accidentally wandered into the record room.

In 1994 when my own daughter got married, my cousin Pepita from Israel came to the wedding. I had felt for a long time that we needed to commemorate those members of the family who had died in the Holocaust. I raised the issue with her, and we ultimately got all the surviving cousins to contribute and purchase a memorial plaque which was placed at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. At least twenty family friends joined the forty members of our family (survivors and descendants) at the dedication. Both Annie and Eva were there, now both almost 80 years old.

We finished the afternoon with a grand family dinner at a Kurdish restaurant in downtown Jerusalem. We sat at long tables in an atrium, renewing our family bonds and having a great deal of happy chit-chat. Suddenly, there was an ebb to the sound level of the conversation. My aunt Eva was speaking to her sister, and I heard her say in Dutch, "I was the youngest one there, and I had nothing to do with that decision!" The sound level of the conversation rose again, and I looked around to see what effect her statement had made. No one seemed to have paid any attention to her remark, and I believe that I was the only one of my generation who understood the import of what she had said.

RUSSIAN SCIENTIST PUBLISHES HISTORY OF POGROMS

A scientist from the Russian Academy of Sciences has completed a 1,000-page history of anti-Semitic violence.

"The Book of Pogroms" by Lidia Milyakova details the bloody massacres that were widespread in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus during the three-year Civil War that followed the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, and continued during the early years of the new Soviet state.

Milyakova spent six years working on the book. The only funding she received was a $500 grant from a publishing house.

She pored through official and unofficial documents, including more than 360 reports made between 1918 to 1923 by the so-called "Central Committee for Assisting Victims of the Pogroms," which she located in the State Archive of the Russian Federation. The documents report that 200,000 Jews suffered during the Civil War and its aftermath.

The book proves that nearly all the forces fighting in Russia's Civil War held anti-Semitic attitudes, from the pro-Monarchy White Guards to the Bolsheviks, and a wide assortment of local paramilitary and separatist groups.

"Common people in hard times often look unconsciously for a scapegoat," she says. "Jews are the perfect target because of their visible distinction and absolute vulnerability."

Milyakova was thanked for her book by Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in Jerusalem.

Five hundred copies were printed.

UNEXPLORED HOLOCAUST STORIES

(Continued from page 4)

despair to elation. Few political stories come as complex as this one, and few stir up as much passion.

Jewish writers, of course, are not the only writers to embrace irony and ambiguity. But Jewish writers in America have perfected the art of irony and ambiguity. Like a Talmudic scholar, or like one of our own Jewish novelists, say, Saul Bellow, Satloff looks at moral and social dilemmas from one point of view, and then from the opposing perspective. Irony and ambiguity rarely vanish from these pages. More than once, I wanted the author to come down on one side, squarely, but he does not let anyone off the hook, and at times I squirmed. No doubt that's his intention.

Satloff does not want to encourage a state of denial about the Holocaust, and the failures of the French and the American governments to stop the extermination of the Jews during World War II. "Among the Righteous" is bound to stir up Jews and Arabs, Christians and Muslims. It's hard to criticize the book, in part, because the author describes its weakness. As he acknowledges, "Among the Righteous" scratches the surface of the subject. Hopefully, other scholars will be inspired to pursue his anecdotal account.

THE EXTRAORDINARY FAMILY WHO DEFIED HITLER – AND SURVIVED THE HOLOCAUST

(Continued from page 6)

empty flat by a friend of Lucja, where she sat alone and terrified for 14 days, not knowing if anyone was ever going to collect her.

Eventually, both girls were taken to nuns from a Catholic order called the Sisters of the Family of Mary, known to be willing to shelter Jewish children within their network of orphanages.

"The Nazis knew the nuns were hiding Jewish children, despite the risks they ran of immediate execution if caught, and soldiers repeatedly searched the building," Attwell said.

Irene (left) and Margaret

"Meanwhile, Lucja kept evading the mass-deportation round-ups, which ceased only when the few thousand remaining inhabitants of the ghetto staged a doomed uprising.

"The Germans called in dive bombers, flame-throwers and tanks, and in just a few days, the uprising was crushed.

"Lucja escaped just before this final cataclysm. She joined the Polish Resistance and, a year later, took part in the equally doomed Warsaw uprising."

Yet again, though, Lucja survived – only to be rounded up and sent to Ravensbrück concentration camp in Germany.

Although a labor camp and not a death camp, Ravensbrück was a haven for sadists, one of whom was Hermine Braunsteiner, known as the Stamping Mare because she liked kicking women and children to death.

"My mother was within days of starving to death when the camp was liberated by the Russians," Irene recalled.

Lucja made her way back to Warsaw on foot, not knowing if her daughters were still alive and certain her husband was dead.

But Roman Frydman had also survived – saved, incredibly, by a game of chess.

"Soon after the Nazi invasion, he crossed the border into neighboring Hungary with his regiment," Attwell said.

"But in 1944, the Nazis invaded Hungary and began deporting Jews. Roman was taken to a Gestapo officer for interrogation, but when he arrived, he noticed the officer had a chess set in his room and asked him if he played.

"Roman's brother had been a Polish chess champion before the war, and the German had once played in a competition against his brother.

"The officer asked Roman if he played too, and when the Pole said he did, but not particularly well, the German replied, 'OK, let's have a game. And if you win, I will save your life.'"

Roman played – and won. From then on, the SS officer kept him imprisoned in Gestapo headquarters, having him released from noon to 2:00 pm. every day to play chess with him.

"They actually became great friends," Margaret said.

As the German retreat began, Roman too, made his way back to Warsaw and the family home, which was in ruins.

But 14-year-old Margaret had left a message on the wall saying where she and Irene were.

First Roman and then Lucja saw the message, and went to the convent, where they were all reunited.

"For the next ten months, we just ate and ate and ate," Irene laughed.

Reflecting on the reasons for her family's survival, she said: "There were a lot of really wonderful people who risked their lives to save us – like the nuns. But you always have to fight not to be a victim. If you can keep your head up, you can accomplish a great deal."

THE GREAT ESCAPE, REVISITED

(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 cafes, music, theater, 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 throughout the book, tying the men together and disbanding them, eerily, perhaps unconsciously, mimicking the fragmented futures they would face as exiles forced to run for their lives.

Marton's book forces the reader to consider the long-term effects of longing and loss. All of the men she writes about seem to suffer from a pervasive sense of gloom for a world forever lost. It somehow seems fitting that most of them found solace in creative acts of silent contemplation; behind a camera or a movie projector, or alone writing.

Shortly before Curtiz's death, he wrote to an old friend about his longing for Budapest, admitting, "A few days ago I was walking the streets of Hollywood, when all of a sudden it seemed as if the palm tree-lined pavement slid from under my feet and I was walking around the deck of a huge ship gliding toward Hungary. I wonder why it is that after so many years in America I still long for home? Is it hopeless for me to be buried there?

"I know that death is the same everywhere and the grave is the destination of all philosophies. The only difference may be that while in Hollywood palm trees watch over graves, in Budapest, a weeping willow would greet the new arrival. If I could leave the palm trees, alive or dead, I would choose the humble willow."

First published in the Jerusalem Post

A HOLOCAUST MYSTERY FINDS SOME ANSWERS

FLORIDA WOMAN PURSUES MYSTERY OF DACHAU ALBUM THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AFTER FATHER'S SUICIDE

BY ARTHUR MAX, AP

Deep in Shari Klages' memory is an image of herself as a girl in New Jersey, going into her parents' bedroom, pulling a thick leather-bound album from the top shelf of a closet and sitting down on the bed to leaf through it.

What she saw was page after page of ink-and-watercolor drawings that convey, with simple lines yet telling detail, the brutality of Dachau, the Nazi concentration camp where her father spent the last weeks of World War II.

Arrival, enslavement, torture, death the 30 pictures expose the worsening nightmare through the artist's eye for the essential, and add graphic texture to the body of testimony by Holocaust survivors.

Michael Porulski

"I have a sense of being quite horrified, of feeling my stomach in my throat," Klages says. Just by looking at the book, she felt she was doing something wrong and was afraid of being caught.

Now, she finally wants to make the album public. Scholars who have seen it call it historically unique and an artistic treasure.

But who drew the pictures? Only Klages' father could know. It was he who brought the album back from Dachau when he immigrated to America on a ship with more than 60 Holocaust orphans, and he had committed suicide in 1972 in his garage in Parsippany, N.J.

The sole clue was a signature at the bottom of several drawings: Porulski.

Klages, 47, has begun a quest to discover who Porulski was, and how her family came to be the custodian of his remarkable artistic legacy. The Associated Press has helped to fill in some of the blanks.

What unfolds is a story of Holocaust survival compressed into two tragic lives, a tale with threads stretching from Warsaw to Auschwitz and Dachau, from Australia to suburban England, and finally to a bedroom in New Jersey, where a fatherless girl makes a traumatic discovery.

It shows how today, as the survivors dwindle in number, their children and grandchildren struggle to comprehend the Nazi genocide that indelibly scarred their families, and in the process, run into mysteries that may never be solved.

This is Shari Klages' mystery: How did Arnold Unger, her Polish Jewish father, a 15-year-old newcomer to Dachau, end up in possession of the artwork of a Polish Catholic more than twice his age, who had been in the concentration camps through most of World War II?

None of the records Klages found confirm that the two men knew each other, though they lived in adjacent blocks in Dachau. All that is certain is that Unger overlapped with Porulski during the three weeks the boy spent among nearly 30,000 inmates of Dachau's main camp.

"He never talked about his experiences in the war," said Klages. "I don't recall specifically ever being told about the album, or actually learning that I was the child of a Holocaust survivor. It was just something I always knew."

As adults, she and her three siblings took turns keeping the album and Unger's other wartime memorabilia.

The album begins with an image of four prisoners in winter coats carrying suitcases and marching toward Dachau's watchtower under the rifles of SS guards. It is followed by a scene of two inmates being stripped for a humiliating examination by a kapo, a prisoner working for the Nazis.

One image portrays two prisoners pausing in their work to doff their caps to a soldier escorting a prostitute intimated by the seam on her stocking. Another shows a

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FIRST SPANISH SHOAH CONFERENCE PROMOTES JEWISH HISTORY LESSONS

BY ANSHEL PFEFFER, HAARETZ

The first international conference on the Holocaust was held in Spain in September. The conference on the Holocaust and its significance today was organized by Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research (IIHR) and was held at the High Council for Scientific Investigations in Madrid. Experts and teachers from Israel and from across Europe attended the gathering. Spanish schools are set to introduce the Holocaust into their national history curriculum in the near future.

Prof. David Bankier, head of IIHR, said the idea for the conference grew out of "Spain's desire to be part of what is happening in Europe." He cited the country's decision to join the European Union's task force for Holocaust education. Bankier said that although Spain's involvement in the Holocaust was limited – on the one hand, Spain refused to shelter Jews who had escaped via the Pyrenees Mountains, while on the other hand, Spanish diplomats assisted in efforts in Budapest to save Jews – the country wants to be part of the growing European interest in the issue.

Spain's involvement in the Holocaust may have been limited, but two specific subjects connect Spain and the Jews. The first concerns the Fascist regime of Francisco Franco, which enjoyed the active support of Nazi Germany during its Civil War and continued to support Hitler during World War II. Franco made use of anti-Semitic motifs in his propaganda, but in mid-1943, when he sensed the way the wind was blowing, he opened Spain's gates to Jewish refugees, on the assumption that the action would help him after the war.

The second concerns the 1492 expulsion of the country's Jews. "The new desire to learn about the Holocaust is connected to the total ignorance about Jews and Jewish history" in Spain, Bankier says.

In attendance at the conference were a large number of Spanish government officials, including the director general of the Education Ministry, who declared that the Holocaust would become a mandatory part of Spain's high school curriculum.

SON ACCEPTS THE AWARD FOR HIS MOTHER

Masha Spivak decided to go into hiding when her parents and two siblings were killed in the town of Kherson, Ukraine, during the Holocaust.

When two of Spivak's teachers heard about her family, they took her in, helped change her Jewish identity and took great risk to save a life.

In September one of those teachers, Yevgenia Zamoroko-Lysenko, was honored 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 lacking," said Fred S. Zeidman, chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial council. "Happily today, we honor one of those rare heroes."

Nikolay Zamoroko accepted the award for his mother. She died in 2001, shortly after the Israeli memorial began reviewing 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 Washington area 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 1963. A tree is planted for each person 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 lost contact with her rescuers until 2000 when she learned of Zamoroko-Lysenko's deteriorating health. Spivak died in 2004.

GERMANS ASKED TO FUND STIPENDS FOR HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

Israel has asked the German government to fund an annual NIS 150 million 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 be entitled to a monthly NIS 1,000 stipend and service vouchers worth an annual NIS 2,400. The total value of this package is slated to rise to NIS 1,600 a month by 2010. Compensation for this group, an estimated 8,000 people, will be funded by the German government.

The parties agreed that next year, Israel will provide NIS 100 million for medical and nursing services for Holocaust survivors, a sum that will double to NIS 200 million in 2009. Most of the money will be distributed through the Holocaust Survivors Welfare Fund.

A HOLOCAUST MYSTERY FINDS SOME ANSWERS

(Continued from page 13)

leashed dog lunging at a terrified inmate.

The drawings grow more and more debasing. Three prisoners hang by their arms tied behind their backs; a captured escapee is paraded wearing a sign, "Hurray, I am back again"; an inmate is hanged from a scaffold; and, in the final image, a man lies on the ground, shot dead next to the barbed-wire fence under the looming watchtower.

The album also has 258 photographs. Some are copies of well-known, haunting images of piles of victims' bodies taken by

the U.S. army that liberated the camp. Others are photographs, apparently taken for Nazi propaganda, portraying Dachau as an idyllic summer camp. Still others are personal snapshots of Unger with Polish refugees or with American soldiers who befriended him.

Barbara Distel, the director of the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site, said Porulski probably drew the pictures shortly after the camp's liberation in April 1945. He used identical sheets of paper, ink and watercolors for all 30 pictures, she said, and he "would never have dared" to draw such horrors while he was still under Nazi gaze.

Holocaust artwork has turned up before, but Distel and Holocaust scholar Michael Berenbaum say they are unaware of any sequential narrative of camp life comparable to Porulski's.

"I've seen two or three or four, but never 30," said Berenbaum.

In Coral Springs, Fla., where she now lives, Klages showed the book in 2005 to a neighbor, Avi Hoffman, executive director of the National Center for Jewish Cultural Arts. Hoffman immediately saw its quality and significance. The two became determined to uncover its background and find out if the artist had created an undiscovered body of work.

In August, Klages, Hoffman and Berenbaum went to Germany to begin their hunt. They hired a crew to document it, hoping a film would help finance a foundation to exhibit the book.

They began chipping away at the album's secrets at the Dachau memorial, outside Munich, where they found an arrival record for Michal Porulski, which listed his profession as artist, in 1941.

They learned that Unger hid the fact that he was Jewish when he reached Dachau three weeks before the war ended. "That probably saved his life," Hoffman said. They also discovered a strong likelihood that the album's binding was fashioned from the recycled leather of an SS officer's uniform.

Unger, an engaging youngster, became an office boy and translator for U.S. occupation authorities at Dachau, which was turned into a displaced persons camp, and obtained a U.S. visa in 1947.

Research by Klages' group and the AP has begun to pull together the scattered threads of Porulski's life from long forgotten records at the Warsaw Academy of Fine Arts, a tiny museum in Warsaw, Auschwitz and Dachau, the International Tracing Service of the Red Cross, the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial archives in Jerusalem, Australian immigration records and data from England.

Porulski enrolled in the Warsaw arts academy in 1934 after completing two years of army service. Attached to his neatly written application is a photograph of a good-looking young man with light hair and dreamy eyes.

It says he was a farmer's son, born June 20, 1910, in the central town of *Rychwal*, although in later records, Porulski said he was born five years later.

Chronically poor, he left the academy after failing to secure a loan for his tuition, but was later reinstated. After Germany invaded in 1939, he made some money painting watercolor postcards of Nazi-occupied Poland, two of which have survived and are now in the Warsaw Museum of Caricature.

In June 1940, he was arrested in a Nazi roundup "without any reason," he wrote many years later in an appeal for help from the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

Two months later, he and 1,500 others were the first Poles to be shipped from Warsaw to Auschwitz. He spent eight months there, then was sent to the *Neuengamme* camp and finally to Dachau, near Munich, in May 1941.

In Dachau, according to a brief reference in a Polish book on wartime art, he painted portraits, flowers, folk dance scenes and decoration for a clandestine theater.

In 1949 he sailed to Australia and tried to work as a painter and decorator but mostly lived off friends. He returned to Europe in 1963 and lived in England and France. He visited Poland in the early 1970s for several months, and stayed with his sister, Janina Krol, in *Gdynia* on the Baltic coast, and another relative outside Warsaw, Wanda Wojcikowska.

He brought his sister paintings of Dachau, his niece, Danuta Ostrowska, now 75, recalls. But her mother threw them away, saying "I can't look at them." The family still owns 10 of his mostly prewar paintings.

He was robbed of his money and passport, and Poland's communist authorities wanted Porulski out of the country, Wojcikowska's daughter, Malgorzata Stozek, recalls. "My mother even found a woman willing to marry him, to help him stay in Poland," she said. But he already had borrowed money from his sister and left.

In 1978 he sent a request for war compensation to the International Tracing Service in the central German town of Bad Arolsen, which houses the world's largest archive of concentration camp records and lists of Holocaust victims.

"I have no occupation of any sort. I was unable to resume my studies after all those years in the camps," he wrote. "I am just by myself, and I live from day to day."

The ITS replied that it had no authority to give grants, but was sending confirmation of his incarceration to the U.N. refugee agency to support his earlier reparations claim.

Unger also shows up in the Tracing Service, in a 1955 two-page letter he wrote recounting his ordeal that began when he was 9.

Unger's father had a prosperous furniture business near Krakow. "Then the infamous horde of Nazis overran our town, disrupted our life, murdered my parents and little sister, and robbed us of all we had." He was the only survivor of 50 members of the Unger family.

Christian friends hid him for a while, but he ended up imprisoned inside the Krakow ghetto, then was moved to a series of concentration camps.

His daughter says that after he immigrated to America, he told a cousin with whom he lived in New Jersey that his job at Dachau had been to tend the ovens. The Nazis commonly used inmates for such purposes it was one of the few ways of surviving.

Newly arrived in America, Unger spoke to Newark newspapers of his years of torment, saying he escaped three times during marches between camps but was always recaptured.

At one point, he told the Newark Evening News, he was herded into a gas chamber at Natzweiler camp with 50 other prisoners, but they were spared at the last minute because some of them were electricians whom the Nazis needed for their war effort.

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, Porulski 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)."

Shari Klages was 12 when her father died.

He had just been laid off from his 18-year job in the aeronautics industry, and his wife had been diagnosed with brain cancer. His suicide is given added poignancy by the image of the hanged inmate in the album, and Klages believes it was his Holocaust experience that weighed most heavily on him.

"I have no doubt it was the most significant contributor to his death," she said.

The photographs above show drawings by Polish artist Michael Porulski.

HEIRS MAKE HUGE CLAIM OVER DUTCH WORKS OF ART

BY MARLISE SIMONS, THE NEW YORK TIMES

Just as the Dutch government was moving to discourage new claims for restitution of art looted during World War II, the heirs of a Dutch 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* in The Hague and the Frans Hals Museum in Haarlem.

"Horsefair at Valkenburg," a 1633 painting by Salomon van Ruysdael, currently on display at the Stedelijk Museum in Leiden, The Netherlands.

The application filed by the Katz heirs is larger than the claim for 202 paintings made by the heirs of Jacques Goudstikker and finally resolved in favor of the heirs in 2006. 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. Talarchyk, 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 enabled 65 relatives to leave the country to eventual safety. One poignant detail, she said, was that the dealers' mother was released from Westerbork, a Dutch concentration camp, in exchange for a Rembrandt painting through the intervention of Miedl.

Nathan Katz left in February 1942, after he obtained German permission to take his family to Switzerland via Frankfurt. They had to leave behind their home and many of their possessions.

Although the Dutch government in exile had decreed that citizens could not trade with the enemy, many Dutch art dealers, both Jews and non-Jews, sold works to eager German collectors, who circulated wish lists in the first few years of the war. Dutch traditional painting was sought after, because the Nazis did not consider it "degenerate" art.

After the war, the Dutch government returned 28 paintings that the Katz brothers had claimed. Among them was Rembrandt's "Portrait of a Man," believed to have been used to buy their mother's freedom.

Evelien Campfens, a member of the Restitution Commission in The Hague, said the claim of the Katz heirs would "be a complex case, with many different aspects to it: it will take time." She said that the Katz brothers were important dealers involved in many transactions, and that many important paintings had passed through their hands.

The commission was notified of the claim in June, she said, and still has a large backlog of other applications.

YAD VASHEM CONSIDERED HONORING IRANIAN DIPLOMAT

Yad Vashem has been considering bestowing its highest honor on a diplomat known as the "Schindler of Iran" for saving Jews during the Holocaust, but tentatively decided not to, due to "inconclusive documentation" on the risk he took, the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority said in its September statement.

Deliberation over whether to confer upon Abdol Hossain Sardari the title of "Righteous Among the Nations," which was last taken up by Yad Vashem in 2005, would be reopened should new information arrive, a Yad Vashem spokesperson said.

Sardari, who headed the Iranian consular office in Nazi-occupied Paris in 1941, saved many Jews during the Holocaust by issuing them blank Iranian passports.

His story is the subject of an Iranian state-run TV series on the Holocaust. It is seen as a government attempt to differentiate between Israel and the Jewish people, and to moderate its anti-Semitic image after Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad dismissed the Holocaust as a "myth" and repeatedly said Israel should be "wiped off the map."

The issue over whether to posthumously bestow the title on Sardari, who died in 1981, has been taken up twice by Yad Vashem, most recently two years ago. But it has been tentatively turned down, due to a lack of evidence that the Iranian diplomat acted at personal risk to himself, a key criteria for the award.

Yad Vashem said it was clear that Sardari had helped Jews living in Paris during the Holocaust who held Iranian citizenship, but it was not clear if he did so at any risk.

"This is admirable conduct, but it appears he acted in compliance with his [government] instruction", the spokesperson said.

Due to the involvement of a diplomat, it appears that Iranian Foreign Ministry archives would offer historians the clearest picture on the case.

Sardari sent a letter to Yad Vashem in April 1978, setting the process in motion.

"As you may know," he wrote, "I had the pleasure of being the Iranian consul in Paris during the German occupation of France, and as such it was my duty to save all Iranians, including Iranian Jews." In 2004 the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center posthumously awarded Sardari for his actions during the Holocaust. The award ceremony was attended by Ibrahim Moradi, an Iranian-born Jew who Sardari saved.

Moradi, who has since passed away, noted at the ceremony that Sardari acted without getting any money in exchange. That contradicts the Iranian TV series, which depicts the diplomat giving out the passports for cash.

According to Efraim Zuroff, the Wiesenthal Center's Israel director, the Iranian TV show indicated that the situation in Iran was not as monolithic as some might think.

"On the one hand, we have the president of Iran who denies the very existence of the Holocaust, and on the other hand, we have a flagship project of Iranian TV which presents the Holocaust as historical fact," he said.

The Wiesenthal Center's criteria for honoring Holocaust heroes is less rigorous than that of Yad Vashem. It has also honored Khaled Abdelwahhab, a wealthy Tunisian landowner, for his actions during the Holocaust. Yad Vashem is considering the case.

NAZI PROSECUTORS STILL HUNT DEATH HEAD DOCTOR

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

Tall and athletic, Aribert 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 release.

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 of Heim's, who timed patients' deaths with a stopwatch.

Sometimes, out of boredom, he carried out operations without anesthetic, removing organs from conscious victims.

Heim was arrested after World War Two but he was later released and was soon practicing 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 fear of death in his patients' eyes. Police were sent to re-arrest Heim. The night before they were due to call, he disappeared.

Now German prosecutors are on Heim's trail again. They believe he is still alive because his wife and children have yet to claim money he left in a Berlin bank account.

Their search is the last gasp of the post-war hunt for Nazi war criminals. Prosecutors in Germany and the Austrian government have contributed to a reward of 310,000 euros ($448,000) for information leading to Heim's capture.

"We will pursue Heim even if our search ends up at a gravestone," said one German police investigator, who asked not to be named.

IN THE SHADOW OF HORROR...

(Continued from page 11)

created an online display of them on the museum's Web site. In many cases, they have contrasted the Höcker images with those from the Auschwitz Album. In one, SS women alight from a bus at Solahütte for a day of recreation; meanwhile, in a picture from the Auschwitz Album taken at about the same time, haggard and travel-weary women and children get off a cattle car at the camp.

Museum curators have avoided describing the album as something like "monsters at play" or "killers at their leisure." Ms. Cohen said the photos were instructive in that they showed the murderers were, in some sense, people who 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 undiscovered caches of photos or documents concerning the Holocaust existed in attics and might soon be lost to history.

SS officers and German nurses gather during the dedication ceremony of the new SS hospital in Auschwitz.

The donor, who had asked to remain anonymous, was in his 90s when he contacted the museum, and he died this summer. He told the museum's curators that he found the photo album in a Frankfurt apartment where he lived in 1946.

The photos of the Auschwitz Album were discovered by Lili Jacob, a Hungarian Jew who was deported in May 1944 to Auschwitz, near Krakow in Poland. She was transferred to another camp, *Dora-Mittelbau* in Germany, where she 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 discovered had been gassed immediately after arrival.

Höcker fled Auschwitz before the camp's liberation. When he was captured by the British, he was carrying false documents identifying him as a combat soldier. After the 1961 trial of Adolf Eichmann in Israel, West German authorities tracked down Höcker in *Engershausen*, his hometown, where he was working as a bank official.

He was convicted of war crimes and served seven years before his release in 1970, after which he was rehired by the bank. Höcker died in 2000 at 89.

AMERICAN & INTERNATIONAL SOCIETIES FOR YAD VASHEM ANNUAL TRIBUTE DINNER

And You Shall Tell Your Children (Exodus 13:8) והגדת לבנך

"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.

"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.

"THE HOLOCAUST WILL FOREVER REMIND OF THE POWER OF EVIL"

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

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 25, 2007

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 ambitions and aggression wherever we find them.

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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OUR DUTY TO LEARN FROM SURVIVORS

Orin Wilf is reading Israli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's letter at the Yad Vashem Annual Tribute Dinner.

ראש הממשלה
Prime Minister

September 20, 2007
ח' תשרי, תשסיח

Dear Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to send warm greetings from Jerusalem, the eternal and undivided capital of the Jewish people and the State of Israel, on the occasion of the American & International Societies for Yad Vashem Annual Tribute Dinner.

The theme of this year's Dinner, "And You Shall Teach Your Children", must serve as a commandment to the younger generations to remember the horrors of the Holocaust and to ensure that the world never again has to face such unforgivable acts of inhumanity.

Sadly, each year sees fewer survivors who can tell their stories. Therefore it is our duty to learn from them; to share their stories; to celebrate the courage of those who not only lived through such unspeakable acts of cruelty, who went through hell and came back dedicated to life – working, raising families – building not only lives, but nations and legacies.

Yad Vashem is crucial in this regard, filling a vital role in safeguarding the history of those who came before us, and in teaching the lessons of tolerance, human dignity and freedom, so that we may live in harmony and understanding with our fellow-men.

We honor the survivors and take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the American & International Societies for Yad Vashem for their dedication and support for this vital enterprise.

Wishing you an enjoyable evening,

Sincerely,

Ehud Olmert

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Ehud Olmert

Martyrdom & Resistance

Eli Zborowski, Editor-in-Chief
Yefim Krasnyanskiy, M.A., Editor

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