

MARTYRDOM & RESISTANCE



Vol. 34-No.1

ISSN 0892-1571

September/October 2007-Tishri/Cheshvan 5768

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

דַּבֵּל תְּדַגְּהוּ

CECILE AND EDWARD MOSBERG

Yad Vashem Remembrance Award

I was born in Krakow, Poland. I had a set of parents, two sisters, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. When the war started, I was thirteen years old. We were thrown out of our house and sent to the Krakow Ghetto. Then we were sent to the *Plasow* Concentration Camp, *Mauthausen* Concentration Camp and *Linz*. I am the only survivor of my family. I lost my whole family. In 1944, my two sisters and one of my wife's sisters were transported from *Auschwitz* to *Stuthof*. In 1945, they were shot and thrown into the Baltic Sea. The next day was liberation.



My father had been killed in a round-up in 1941. My mother was sent to *Auschwitz* in 1944, and at the same time, my wife's younger brother was taken in the same transport. They were both killed in a gas chamber, and then were sent to the crematoriums. During the summer, people were transported in enclosed cattle cars, and during the winter, in open cattle cars, so that the weather could add to the already tragic and horrific conditions.

In the extermination camp *Belzec*, located in the eastern part of Poland, I lost sixteen members of my family. My grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins were murdered there by the Nazis.

Luck was the component which was how anyone survived. You consider yourself lucky if you had a job. I was a strong boy and not afraid to try anything. I worked in many jobs. I worked in *Mauthausen* Concentration Camp in the stone mines. There I had to climb 186 steps down and up, carrying a boulder. If you stopped for a moment, they either shot you or they pushed you off the cliff to your death.

On May 5, 1945 at the end of the war, the Nazi guards told us that they wanted to help us. They claimed that the Americans were coming, and the Nazi guards wanted to save us. They marched us to caves in the mountains, which were set up with dynamite. It never went off. That is how I survived, and am alive to testify to these atrocities, which were perpetrated on our families and the six million Jews of Europe.

After the war, when I found out that I was really the only survivor in my family, I decided to utilize the health care opportunities. I was physically very sick. I was sent to a hospital in Italy for eight months for treatment and rehabilitation. Upon returning to Krakow, where my girlfriend (soon to become my wife) and her father were, we decided to move to Belgium. We got married there.

(Continued on page 8)

MATTHEW BRONFMAN

Yad Vashem Young Leadership Remembrance Award

Matthew Bronfman learned of the horrors of the Holocaust at a young age. The deep impression this made upon him led to a commitment that the world must never forget nor repeat those darkest moments of history. Matthew has dedicated himself to instilling younger generations with an understanding of the lessons and legacy of the Holocaust.

Advocacy for humanitarian causes is part of the Bronfman family tradition.

Matthew's father, Edgar M. Bronfman, was the President of the World Jewish Congress for more than two decades and the 1997 honoree of the American & International Societies for Yad Vashem.

Following in the footsteps of his father, Matthew has become a key leader in the Jewish communal world. He was recently elected as Chairman of the Governing Board of the World Jewish Congress, where he chairs the Budget and Finance Commission and is a member of the Steering Committee. The World Jewish Congress is an international federation of Jewish communities and organizations. By building consensus between groups, it works to act as a diplomatic envoy for the worldwide Jewish community.



Matthew joined the Board of Directors of the 92nd Street Y in 1991; chaired the Capital Campaign from 1997-2002; served as President from 2000 to 2003; and as Chairman from 2003 to 2006. He currently serves as Chairman of the Program Committee and Chairman of the Bronfman Center for Jewish Life Committee. Endowed by the Bronfman Family, the programs of the Center for Jewish Life are designed for those beginning their exploration of Judaism, continuing their studies, and seeking a better understanding of Jewish values, texts, history and rituals.

Fredrick Mack, President of the 92nd Street Y, had this to offer on the occasion of Matthew Bronfman's being honored by the American & International Societies for Yad Vashem: "I can think of few people more deserving of this honor than Matthew Bronfman. As I know from being not only his longtime friend, but also his fellow 92nd Street Y board member for almost a decade and a half, Matthew is a person of great honor and integrity, who seeks to do his best in everything he undertakes. His dedication to the 92nd Street Y is well-known, as is his unwavering devotion to the Jewish people and to Israel. He is an example to us all."

With a B.A. from Williams College and an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School, Matthew became involved in numerous and diverse business inter-

(Continued on page 8)

IN THIS ISSUE

Yad Vashem Annual Tribute Dinner.....	1, 8-9, 16
"Japanese Schindler" is honored.....	3
Facing a grim reality in Austrian town.....	5
Saved by a saint in a tank.....	6
A nation's lost Holocaust history, now on display.....	7
Yad Vashem is the recipient of Prince of Asturias Award for Concord.....	10
Story of the Warsaw ghetto.....	11
French priest uncovers horrors of Holocaust in Ukraine.....	12
Jews of Ispas: Where the truth lies?.....	13
Holocaust diary of Polish Anne Frank.....	14
Holocaust center gets Kaczner's archive.....	15



CLAIMS CONFERENCE TO SPEND MORE ON WELFARE OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

BY ANSHEL PFEFFER, HAARETZ

The board of directors of the Claims Conference decided to make a major change in how they allocate funds intended for the welfare of Holocaust survivors and the education and commemoration of the Shoah.

Until this year, there was a clear division of funding, with 80 percent going to welfare and health purposes, and the remaining 20 percent for education and commemoration. Starting this year, it was decided by the conference that the amounts dedicated to education would be frozen, and the health and welfare allocations would increase significantly.

Most of the funding of the Claims Conference – officially known as The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany – is given directly to specific survivors who receive their stipends and compensation from Germany and other sources, such as the Swiss banks arrangements, via the conference. In addition, the conference allocates some \$90 million a year to organizations for improving the social welfare of sur-

vivors. These are considered unrestricted funds and the conference can allocate them as it sees fit. Most of the money for these organizations has come in recently from sales of formerly Jewish property, primarily in the former East Germany.

In 2005, \$44.5 million was given within Israel by the conference, most of which went to build and renovate geriatric wards in various Israeli hospitals.

Out of the 20 percent earmarked for education, the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial received \$1.5 million – 5 percent of its operating budget. In the past Yad Vashem has received large sums from the Claims Conference to finance the building of the new museum that opened a year-and-a-half ago.

There has been a lot of criticism in recent years that not enough of the money has been going to the actual survivors, and too much went to education and the chairman of the memorials. Reuven Merhav, chairman of the Executive Committee, said that they had not changed the manner of allocation, but only added an ad-hoc budget, due to special needs.

VOLUNTEER FROM FLORIDA RECEIVES YAD VASHEM AWARD

On July 18, Donald Hirschhorn, the Names Recovery Campaign Coordinator for the Jewish Genealogical Society of Palm Beach County and South Florida, was presented with a Certificate from Yad Vashem. "On behalf of Yad Vashem, I would like to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Donald Hirschhorn for his activism, dedication and outstanding volunteerism as coordinator for the Shoah Victims Names Recovery Project" – said Alexander Avraham (right), Director of the Hall of Names at Yad Vashem. The award was presented to Donald Hirschhorn (left) at the 27th Annual IAJGS Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.



SPECIAL SHOAH SEMINAR AT YAD VASHEM

More than 40 educators from across the United States participated in a special seminar at Yad Vashem in July.

The week-long Echoes and Reflections Summer Institute took place at the International School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem, and was held in partnership with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and the USC Shoah Foundation Institute.

Echoes and Reflections is a multimedia curriculum on the Holocaust developed by the Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education, and Yad Vashem.

The Summer Institute aims to enhance and supplement staff and educators' understanding of key content in Echoes and Reflections via the Yad Vashem

museum, historians and educators.

"The Echoes and Reflections project serves as a model of how three major international organizations can come together, create path-breaking educational materials, combining the best pedagogical tools, visual history and historical accuracy.

"This week's institute is an opportunity to explore the issues raised in Echoes and Reflections, together with world-renowned Holocaust researchers and educators.

"As misinformation about the Holocaust and anti-Semitism spread through the internet, it is vitally important that teachers have the tools to provide accurate information in the classroom and beyond," said Avner Shalev, chairman of Yad Vashem.

ROLL OF BUCHENWALD DEAD IS COMPLETED

In Weimar, a roll of 37,000 people murdered by the Nazis at Buchenwald concentration camp has been completed after 10 years of work.

The book of the dead lists inmates worked to death, killed by disease and starvation and those executed up to 1945 in the camp near the German city of Weimar.

It was presented July 15 to the International Committee of Buchenwald survivors "as a sort of symbolic grave-marker," said Knigge, the director of the Buchenwald and Mittelbau-Dora Memorial Foundation.

The roll will be far from complete. More than 56,000 inmates are believed to have

died between 1937 and 1945.

Knigge said in an interview that incompetent record-keeping as the Nazi system gradually collapsed was partly to blame, with names misspelled or vital data muddled.

He added that 10,000 were estimated to have vanished in the last days of the Second World War, when the Nazis forced the weakened prisoners to join them running away from the Allied armies. In these "Marches of Death," many fell dead at the roadside and could not be identified by Allied authorities who found the bodies.

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE RENAMES AUSCHWITZ DEATH CAMP

The Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland has been officially renamed by UNESCO to make clear it was established and run by occupying German Nazi forces.

The camp will now be known as "Auschwitz-Birkenau. German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp (1940-1945)," said Roni Amelan, a spokesman for UNESCO's World Heritage Committee.

The committee agreed to change the name from "Auschwitz Concentration Camp" at a meeting in New Zealand following a request from Poland, and the change is effective immediately, Amelan said.

Auschwitz, where the Nazis killed more than 1 million people, has become a sym-

bol of the Holocaust. Birkenau was the neighboring camp and the site of the main gas chambers and crematoriums.



Auschwitz crematorium.

Poland, which was subjected to a brutal occupation by Adolf Hitler's forces, sought the name change to ensure that future generations understand it had no role in establishing or running the camp, which was made a World Heritage site by the UN Educational, Scientific

and Cultural Organization in 1979.

The UNESCO committee considered a request to change the name last year, but postponed the decision to consult with historians and other interested parties after failing to agree.

MASS HOLOCAUST GRAVE FOUND IN UKRAINE

BY NATASHA LISOVA, AP

A mass grave, holding the remains of thousands of Jews killed by the Nazis, has been found in southern Ukraine near the site of what was once a concentration camp.

The grave was found by chance, when workers were preparing to lay gas pipelines in the village of Gvozdavka-1, near Odessa, said Roman Shvartsman, a spokesman for the regional Jewish community.

The Nazis established two ghettos during World War II near the village, and brought Jews there from what is now Moldova, as well as Ukrainian regions, Shvartsman said. In November 1941, they set up a concentration camp and killed about 5,000 Jews, he said.

"Several thousand Jews executed by the Nazis lie there," said Shvartsman. Efraim Zuroff, director of the Israel office of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said the finding was no surprise: "It underscores the enormous scope of the plans of annihilation of the Nazis and their collaborators in eastern Europe."

"The scope is enormous, the number of places where murders were carried out is very large, and that is why, even now at this point, so late after the events, graves are still being discovered," he added.

Yitzhak Arad, a Holocaust scholar and a former director of the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum, said his research indicated some 28,000 Jews were gathered in the area from surrounding towns. He said 10,000 of those died, at a rate of around 500 people a day.

Shvartsman said that Jewish community knew about the mass killing but did not know where the bodies were located. Anatoly Podolsky, director of the Ukrainian Center for Holocaust Studies, said there are believed to be some 250-350 mass grave sites from the Nazi occupation, during which some 1.5 million Ukrainian Jews are believed to have been killed, including those massacred near their homes and those deported to camps elsewhere. He said most of the site have been discovered.

"Ukraine was an enormous killing field, hundreds of thousands of Jews were murdered and the entire region is literally filled with hundreds of mass graves," Zuroff said.

Iliia Levitas, the head of Ukraine's Jewish Council, put the number of mass Jewish graves in the country at over 700 and said more than 100 are without monuments to the victims.

According to Shvartsman, the names of 93 Jews killed at the Gvozdavka-1 site have been established. He said Jewish community members plan to conduct studies at the site to identify more victims. Odessa's chief rabbi, Shlomo Baksht, hopes to fence the site off and erect a monument to the victims by the end of the year.

Ukraine's Jewish population was devastated during the Holocaust. Babi Yar, a ravine outside the capital Kiev where the Nazis slaughtered some 34,000 Jews over two days in September 1941, is a powerful symbol of the tragedy. About 240,000 Jews were killed by the Nazis in the Odessa region, according to Shvartsman. He said a mass grave with remains of about 3,500 Jews was found in the region last year.

REMEMBERING RUSSIA'S LARGEST HOLOCAUST MASSACRE

A memorial ceremony took place near Rostov-on-Don to commemorate nearly 30,000 Jews and thousands of other victims murdered here 65 years ago

in the biggest single atrocity of the Holocaust in Russia. The event occurred at the "Zmievskaia Balka" Memorial near the village of Zmievska. Busloads of people made their way here via the same route taken by those who met their death here – the crowd holding the same constituency as those who perished here – young and old, Jews and non-Jews, from all walks of life.

"The only thing we can do for those

buried here is remember this horrific tragedy, when tens of thousands were wiped out in one day, and to pass their memory on to our children – so that the

Holocaust may never again be repeated, not for any people," expressed Yuri Rubinov, the Chairman of the Jewish community of Rostov-on-Don.

The event wrapped up with an award ceremony. On behalf of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Russia, Rabbi Zeyev Wagner presented medals to two persons bestowed with the title "The Righteous of Nations" for risking their lives to save Jews during World War Two.



HOLOCAUST MUSEUM TO INCLUDE BERGSON

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum pledged to recognize the activities of the Bergson Group in its permanent exhibition.

The Bergson Group, also known as the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, used newspaper ads and public rallies to draw attention to the plight of European Jewry during the Holocaust. Their activities were considered too radical at the time by the Jewish establishment, which preferred to exert influence more quietly.

Steven Luckert, the museum's chief curator, said in a letter that an overhaul of the exhibition segment dealing with the



Hillel Kook, aka Peter Bergson

War Refugee Board would be completed by the spring of 2008. As part of that revision, the museum would "provide some visual materials and artifacts relating to the Bergson Group to better highlight its activities."

The change comes after a public campaign by the David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies to pressure the museum that included two petitions, statements from members of Congress and a public by appeal by Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel. The institute had privately raised the issue years ago with the museum staff, and the institute's director, Rafael Medoff, said the museum had promised as early as 2002 to make the adjustments.

POLISH CITY REMEMBERS HOLOCAUST VICTIMS ON 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF GHETTO LIQUIDATION

A menorah-shaped monument was unveiled in the end of August in Kielce to remember the Polish city's 20,000 Jews killed in the Holocaust, on the 65th anniversary of the liquidation of the Nazi-era ghetto.

Poland's chief rabbi, Michael Schudrich, led a prayer for the dead in the presence of the city mayor, residents and representatives of the German and Israel embassies during a

ceremony marking the unveiling of the steel monument.

The Nazis — who occupied Poland during World War II — sent Jews in three transports from Sept. 19-24, 1942, to the death camp of Treblinka for extermination.

The Nazis also killed between 1,200 and 1,500 Jews, including pregnant women and children, on the spot.

The memorial was designed by a survivor of the killings, Marek Cecula.

DUTCH AIRLINE LIKELY TO PROBE CLAIMS IT HELPED NAZI WAR CRIMINALS TO FLEE GERMANY

Dutch filmmakers working on a documentary found papers in Switzerland that appear to show at least one KLM representative asked the Swiss government in 1948 to allow German nationals cross the border without all the required papers, and then to fly to Buenos Aires, *The Times of London* reported.

Poland's chief rabbi, Michael Schudrich, led a prayer for the dead in the presence of the city mayor, residents and representatives of the German and Israel embassies during a

The KLM employee is identified only as Herr (Mr.) Frick.

KLM, acronym for Royal Dutch Airlines, has always denied that it had a policy of assisting Nazis to escape justice at the hands of the Allies after WWII, when hundreds escaped to Argentina.

KLM officials say some war criminals may have flown to Argentina on its planes but that does not mean the airline assisted them, or knew who they were. Argentina was, after the war, the refuge of senior Nazis such as Joseph Mengele, the doctor at Auschwitz nicknamed the Angel of Death, and Adolf Eichmann, who planned the extermination of the Jews. Marc Dierikx, of the Institute for

Netherlands History, said documents show that some Germans paid handsomely for assistance, and that KLM was "intensively involved. But some adopted false identities, and KLM acknowledges that some of its passengers were probably fleeing Nazis. It insists, however, that its role was not to police its passengers.

"The checks we have done in our archive so far have not delivered any specific information about this sort of transportation. But that does not mean that it has not been done," KLM spokesman Bart Koster said.

He said that he would advise the company's board to commission an independent inquiry.

He told the Dutch radio: "If we really want to be sure what happened, we have to have a thorough investigation, he said. An inquiry could reopen controversy about the role of the Dutch Royal Family as the late Prince Bernhard, father of Queen Beatrix, was on KLM's board in the postwar years.

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS WIN LANDMARK PENSION CASES

In July, a German social security court ruled in favor of two Jewish Holocaust survivors. The rulings will likely expand the number of Holocaust survivors eligible for benefits from Germany.

Two Jewish men appealed the rejection of their pension claims to the Federal Social Security Tribunal in Kassel. The tribunal overruled lower court decisions and said the men were entitled to claims. The ruling comes 62 years after the end of World War II.

The first case involved a man who contested when his persecution started. He said it began when Nazis forced him to wear a yellow Star of David on his sleeve. That occurred after German forces invaded his



hometown in Poland in September 1939.

The tribunal ruled the man should obtain a credit for this part of his ordeal. The man's lawyer said thousands of people would benefit from the ruling.

The second case involved an 82-year-old Israeli who was confined to the Jewish ghetto in Trans-Dniester, part of the Soviet Union. The area was controlled by pro-Nazi Romanian forces.

The man was a Soviet citizen for 70 years. He was told Holocaust pensions were not available to Soviets and were only given to people in places invaded by German troops. The tribunal overruled this decision, saying the man was entitled to a Holocaust pension.

NAZI HUNTERS CRITICIZE SLOW GERMAN JUSTICE SYSTEM

In Berlin, a prominent Jewish rights group gave Germany an "inadequate" rating for the first time for sluggish prosecution of suspected Nazi war criminals, after previously topping the annual rankings of 26 nations.

"In light of the high number of suspects and the political consensus behind prosecuting Nazi murderers, we expect better results from the German justice system," said Efraim Zuroff, head of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, which hunts former Nazis.

In its annual reports, the organization gives countries grades for efforts to prosecute Nazi criminals. This is the first time since the center began issuing its reports six years ago that Germany received an unsatisfactory grade.

The report criticizes the fact that Germany obtained no convictions and filed no indictments, despite 22 investigations being initiated in the last year and 20 ongoing investigations.

"It's not deliberate, it's a lack of zeal, a certain tiredness," Zuroff told Reuters. Germany doesn't have enough young, enthusiastic prosecutors. "

America was the only country to be awarded the top grade, the work of the U.S. Office of Special Investigations being singled out for particular praise.

During the last six years, Germany has convicted three former Nazi war criminals while the United States has convicted 34.

There are 1,019 investigations of possible Nazi war criminals underway worldwide, the report said.

"JAPANESE SCHINDLER" WHO SAVED LITHUANIAN JEWS IS HONORED

BY DAVID MCNEILL, THE INDEPENDENT

When Japan's Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko visited the monument of Chiune Sugihara in Lithuania, many television programs back in Japan had to run stories explaining who this obscure diplomat was.

For years, few Japanese knew the incredible story of how the man dubbed "Japan's Schindler" saved about 6,000 Jews from the Nazis during the Second World War, despite working for an ally of Germany. Unlike Oscar Schindler, the German industrialist who turned against the Nazis and rescued almost 1,100 Jews from the Holocaust, Sugihara had to wait until just seven years ago for his bravery to be officially recognized.

Sugihara was the acting consul in Lithuania's temporary wartime capital when he was ordered to abandon his post as the Germans advanced in 1940. A fourth of the city's population was Jewish, mostly prosperous and well integrated, and few were ready to believe the horror stories from nearby Poland until it was too late to flee. By an accident of history, the mild-mannered diplomat — one of just two left in the city — became their last hope for survival.

The crossroads in Sugihara's life came one night in July 1940, when he woke up to find a group of desperate refugees outside his window, demanding visas to the Soviet Union. He decided to help, but his repeated requests to Tokyo for permission to issue the visas were denied. Despite facing disgrace or worse for his family, Sugihara decided to follow his conscience and sign as many visas as he could, in defiance of his government.

Sugihara's courageous decision was all the more remarkable given his background. From solid middle-class stock, he graduated from Tokyo's elite Waseda University, and served under the Foreign Ministry in Japan's puppet state of Manchuria, one of the more brutal military occupations of the war. A gifted linguist, he was once tipped for an ambassador's post.

Yet this is the man who sat for almost a month from 31 July to 28 August 1940 painstakingly writing out 10-day transit visas by hand, even enlisting his wife, Yukiko, to help him. By the time they boarded a Berlin-bound train on 1 September 1940, still scribbling out the last visa, they had saved about 6,000 people, including hundreds of children. Sugihara's reward for his heroism was dismissal from the Foreign Ministry imme-

diately after the war. Disgraced in Japan, he was forced to eke out a living as a part-time translator, and ended his life working for a trading company with connections to Russia. He died in 1986, and his family had to wait until 14 years later for the then Foreign Minister Yohei Kono to formally apologize.

A year before he passed away, he was honored for his work in rescuing the Lithuanian refugees by the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in Israel.



Chiune Sugihara

Historians and journalists have searched through Sugihara's background to discover what made him take his momentous decision. There were hints in his past that the man who once planned to study medicine was plagued with a conscience. While stationed in Manchuria, for example, he resigned from his post after witnessing the brutality meted out by Japanese troops to the local Chinese.

But many suspect that the key to his change of heart may have been a Jewish refugee called Zalke Jenkins, whose family had fled to Lithuania from the Russian revolution. Sugihara met the 11-year-old in a shop and gave him some money, an act of kindness rewarded with an invitation to visit Jenkins' family. The diplomat spoke afterward at how moved he was by the strength of family bonds in Jewish life, which reminded him of home.

The Emperor's seal of approval is for many of his family the highest honour that Japan can bestow for Sugihara's bravery. "The visit by the imperial couple makes me feel as though his actions have again been rewarded," one of his surviving family members told the *Asahi* newspaper.



BOOK REVIEWS

A SON'S "REFUGE"

Refuge: Surviving the Nazi Occupation of Poland. By Kalman Horowitz. Fidlardoubleday, 2006. 272 pp. \$24.95.

REVIEWED BY DEBORAH SCHAPIRO, NJ JEWISH NEWS

According to Leo Horowitz, "The hostility worldwide toward the Jews has never really changed. The only difference now is that the Jews have the means to defend themselves." The source of his pessimism is clear; as the son of a Polish Holocaust survivor, he grew up hearing and absorbing his father's tales of Jewish suffering at the hands of both the Nazis and the Poles during World War II. Speaking in his father's voice and to preserve his father's memories and honor the victims and other survivors, he published Kalman Horowitz's memoir.

Refuge: Surviving the Nazi Occupation of Poland recounts in torturous detail the familiar — though none the less horrific — tales of suffering, from the excruciating forced labor, to the starvation- and disease-plagued ghettos, to the enormity of the packed cattle cars headed for the death camps. But *Refuge* also conveys the familiar but joyous pre-war lives of Europe's Jews, the large and loving families, the rhythms of religious life, and the festivity of holiday celebrations. And, ultimately, the book chronicles the miraculous events that resulted in Kalman Horowitz's survival — sadly, the only one in his immediate family. In 1945 Kalman met and married Celia, a fellow survivor, and began to create a new life.

Leo Horowitz was born in 1948 in Bamberg, Germany. After several years in the American sector of Germany, the Horowitz family — then with two children, a third would be born later — left Europe for the United States.

With the help of the Hebrew Immigrant

Aid Society, the family was settled in Stuyvesant Town in Manhattan. As a young child, Leo attended *yeshiva*. Later, the family moved to Queens, where he attended public schools. He graduated from Queens College and earned a doctorate in physics from the Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken. His achievements, and his father's building of a new life after the Holocaust notwithstanding, it was Kalman's tales of the Jews' suffering not only at the hands of the Nazis but of so many others that has colored Leo's outlook. He said that in all the schools he attended, he was taught "liberalism, brotherly love, and ecumenism...., but it didn't seem to me that the world worked that way." It was to bring some measure of gratification to his father that Leo decided to write the memoir. "My father used to tell his story to anyone who would listen, so by the time I started typing it, I knew basically everything. He would just fill in any blanks I left."

Kalman's story, as captured by his son in *Refuge*, includes chilling details about the complicity between the Nazis and the Poles in slaughtering the Jews. "Kalman" explains in the Prologue: "We understood that anti-Semitism among the deeply devout Polish Catholic people was primarily due to the teachings of the Catholic Church, which laid the blame for the death of their savior at the feet of the Jews...."

He relates how the Jewish world of pre-war Eastern Europe was obliterated, bit by bit, beginning with Germany's invasion of Poland in 1939. The loading of the Jews of the Sobolov ghetto onto the Treblinka-bound trains is described, as are the tortured thoughts of the desperate Jews: "I suppose, the human psyche attempts to shield itself from excruciating realities by rationalization, and thus, we

(Continued on page 15)



VICTORY OVER HITLER

Victory Over Hitler. By Avraham Burg. Tel-Aviv-Mishal, 2007. 382 pp.

REVIEWED BY RABBI ISRAEL ZOBERMAN

Avraham Burg's solid credentials as an establishment leader — former Knesset Speaker who served as chairman of both the Jewish Agency and the World Zionist Congress — only add credence to his critical critique of the Jewish state, so that no one can rightly claim that he does not deeply care about it. The son of the legendary Yosef Burg who represented the religious Zionists for many years and was among Israel's leading fathers, presents us with a soul-searching account of bitter disappointment with Israel's direction, as well as fervent hope for a changed course.

Victory over Hitler is indeed a lover's quarrel for a descendent of German Jewry who originally penned the rather depressing title of Hitler Won for a book that ought to be widely read and debated. The author's genuine pain and hurt and frustration ultimately stem

from the constraining realities in which Israel has found itself, not yet at full peace with its neighbors, while being perhaps the only state whose very legitimacy is being questioned. Burg wishes for his country to no longer live in the shadow of a menacing Hitler and be free of the threat that his spirit still represents. But what does one do if the president of the seventy-million-strong Iran would like to conclude what Hitler began? One would argue that given Israel's long standing security concerns and demanding needs of immigration absorption, it has surprisingly developed into a vibrant democracy and a very open society, embracing diversity and the world at-large that Burg is so

adamant that Israel ought to connect to.

Burg relates the Palestinian problem and the plight of the Palestinian refugees with the Holocaust refugees and Israel's creation that displaced the Palestinians, asking for the Palestinians' forgiveness and understanding. With this selective reasoning, he fails again to see the wider context of Palestinian culpability, then and now, in their own tragedy, and their cynical use and abuse by the Arab states.

The author regards the Eichmann trial of the '60s as the turning point from an Israel that denied the Holocaust to one obsessed with it to its detriment. He vigorously opposed the valued visit to Auschwitz by Israeli high-schoolers, which he claims taints their view of humanity, isolating them instead of drawing them closer. Yet again, another illustration of Burg's unbalanced, though sincere approach. Instead, he recommends for Jewish and Arab students to jointly visit Spain and learn about the Golden Age of Jewish-Muslim fruitful co-existence. It is a good idea but

ought not replace Holocaust education. From Spain he suggests that the students should continue to the Muslim centers in Europe, to witness "the new European Islam." Isn't Burg aware of the anti-Semitism it is generating? Another contemplated trip, a wise one, is to the United States, to learn of American Jewry, who he admirably describes as "the most influential minority in the civil society of the superpower of super-powers." Meanwhile, Burg unleashes a reckless charge concerning the American response to the attacks of September 11, 2001, "to satisfy the thirst for blood and the revenge instinct of the American way of life."

The author's utopian thrust and (Continued on page 15)



POSTCARD FROM TRUSKAWIEC SPA: STORY ABOUT LOVE AND BETRAYAL IN WAR-TIME POLAND

Postcard From Truskawiec Spa: Story About Love and Betrayal in War-Time Poland. By George Oscar Lee. Xlibris Corporation, U.S.A., 2006. 391 pp. \$22.99

REVIEWED BY DR. DIANE CYPKIN

"My name is Zbyszek, may I ask you to dance with me?"

It all started not unlike many other romances throughout time. A handsome young man sees a pretty girl, and approaches. What could be more charmingly delightful? What could be more "romantic"? But, the young man was Polish, the girl Jewish, and it was Poland, 1938.

From such simple lyric "threads," George Oscar Lee, the author of *Postcard From Truskawiec Spa: Story About Love and Betrayal in War-Time Poland*, a novel, weaves a fascinating tapestry of a story. It is absorbing and truly satisfying to the reader. It is a tale with intriguing twists and turns, with serendipitous meetings and partings, with admirable heroes and vicious, clever villains.

In sum, when Emilia Rubinstein, the daughter of well-to-do Polish Jews, first met Zbyszek Czartoryski, a non-Jewish Pole, that beautiful summer night at Truskawiec Spa, she could have no idea the part he would play in her life, or what lay ahead. While there was that pin on his jacket lapel signifying membership in an anti-Semitic organization, she though little of it. He was gracious. He was mannerly. He was such a wonderful dancer! And the war? That was far from everyone's mind. There was only beautiful music and dancing that night.

Then the Nazis came to Poland, and everything changed. As we all know, ghettos were created and Jews were forced into them. Luckily, Emilia's parents found refuge with a faithful non-Jewish employee of their elevator compa-

ny. In the meanwhile, Emilia, herself quite "Nordic" looking, took on the identity of a non-Jew, Jadwiga Slowikowska, and lived openly on the Aryan side of the Warsaw ghetto. Through interesting happenstances, Jadwiga found refuge with a non-Jewish woman, and got a clerical position at a hospital. In turn, that would lead to ties with the Underground, where she would become an excellent forger and an ardent courier.

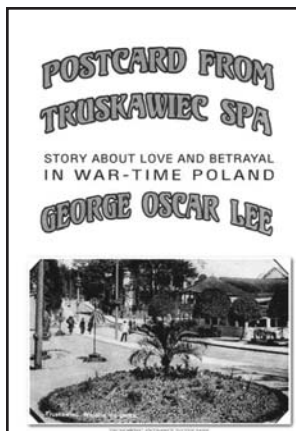
And Zbyszek? Oddly enough, he stayed in her life. After all, he was her boyfriend and cared about her, or so she thought, until he determinedly betrayed her. Indeed, he personally escorted her to the Gestapo. Jadwiga couldn't believe it, and didn't, till the very last moment when capture was inevitable.

Thus, we are taken to the terrible Umschlagplatz, where many, among them

Jadwiga, await trains taking them to Treblinka. This is a particularly well written segment. We meet many more good non-Jews, young and old, when fate allows Jadwiga to escape from that train and be helped by caring village Poles. We meet more exceptionally brave Jews when Jadwiga joins up with partisans once more, now as a fighter. (Early on Lee makes us aware of what a crack shot she is, foreshadowing the future). Finally, as to the villains in this story, we see many, including Zbyszek, punished for their evil actions, with Jadwiga primarily responsible. All in all, Lee allows us to experience the growth and development of a true Jewish heroine in Jadwiga, Emilia Rubinstein!

For students of the Holocaust, and for all those who enjoy a true-to-life novel, *Postcard From Truskawiec Spa* will not disappoint.

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



FACING A GRIM REALITY IN AUSTRIAN TOWN

BY TOM HUNDLEY, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Garden Street, Flower Street, Park Street — the bland names can be found in any Austrian village. The solid, two-story houses that line these streets, the BMWs in the driveways, the neatly trimmed hedges, potted geraniums and inevitable garden gnomes speak of contented middle-class normalcy.

A few residents always knew the truth, but they chose to ignore it, or at least not to dig too deeply into it. Occasionally, they did dig into their back yards to install swimming pools and were startled when they found human skeletons.

But even then, there was a reluctance to confront the fact that their comfortable suburban community was built on the remains of one of Nazi Germany's most dreadful concentration camps.

Few people outside academic circles have heard of Gusen. It is not nearly as well-known as the infamous Mauthausen camp four miles away, even though Gusen was larger, claimed more victims and, in the Nazi scheme of things, was far more important.

Christoph Mayer, a 32-year-old artist who spent a happy childhood in this community, believes it is time to confront the reality. His specialty is interactive art, and he has designed a remarkable audio tour during which visitors walking through Gusen can listen on headphones to the recollections of survivors, of townspeople who watched the terrible events unfold before their eyes, and most disturbingly, of camp guards who perpetrated the crimes.

UNSETTLING REALIZATIONS

As you walk through the quiet village, it is discomfiting to learn that the elegant mansion with the distinctive archway, now occupied by a wealthy local family, was once the SS headquarters and that political prisoners were tortured and murdered in the basement.

It is equally unsettling to discover that a comfortable one-story home with a fine stone porch once served as the camp brothel where female inmates were forced to work.

Male slave laborers whose diligence pleased their masters were rewarded with brothel privileges.

A busy pub now sits where the camp's main watchtower stood. Playground Street follows the path of the old rail line that once transported inmates to the camp.

By contrast, the nearby Mauthausen site has been preserved as a national memorial to the victims of Nazi crimes. It receives tens of thousands of visitors each year.

"In Mauthausen, you feel you are in a sacred place. You feel you shouldn't even eat an ice cream there. And then Gusen — everything is so normal, it is like nothing happened here," Mayer said. Not surprisingly, some local residents are unhappy with Mayer's project. Several have put up no-trespassing signs.

"People are worried about their property values," said Ferdinand Naderer, a former deputy mayor. "They are worried that if a lot of visitors are coming here to look at their houses, they will be made to feel guilty for living here."

But Naderer, a 57-year-old engineer

whose house is directly across from the sealed-up entrance of the camp's vast underground industrial complex, said he supports the project.

"I do. I'm even proud to live on this devastating field of horror where the grass has literally grown over our history. I think we can use this project to show that evil can be overcome by good things, like liberal democracy and hard work," he said. Unlike Auschwitz-Birkenau or Treblinka, Gusen was not an extermination camp, built for genocide. It was, instead, a camp where the slave laborers who supplied the Nazi war machine were worked to death. An estimated 37,000 died here.

Frau Traude, whose voice is heard on Mayer's audio walk, was 11 when the SS first arrived to establish the camp just a few yards from her little village. "We were quite smitten with the Germans because they were so nice and sweet," said Traude, who is now 80 and asked that her last name not be used because she still lives in the area. She was less smitten a few years later when she witnessed the massacre of children who were tied up in cloth sacks and heaved against a stone wall by camp guards.

SITE CLOSE TO QUARRIES

The Gusen site was originally chosen for its proximity to the granite quarries that supplied the stone for Third Reich architect Albert Speer's monumental building projects. Later, it became an important center for small-arms production. In its final phase, a 50,000-square-yard underground industrial space was built to house production facilities for a new Messerschmitt jet aircraft.

LESSONS FROM THE PAST?

BY TOBY AXELROD, JTA

The image of a horned Ariel Sharon with vampire-like teeth is one of several jarring displays that greet visitors these days to Germany's Foreign Ministry building in Berlin.

Among others is a depiction of President George Bush surrounded by bearded rabbis as his gurus and a description of Israel as the "Fourth Reich."

Unlike during the Third Reich, these images on public display are not official German propaganda but part of a German government exhibition on contemporary anti-Semitism that aims to show that anti-Jewish sentiment in the German Republic, and in Europe generally, is not just a relic of the past.

"Anti-Semitism? Anti-Zionism? Israeli Critique?" opened August 1 in the atrium of Germany's Foreign Ministry. In September it will begin an extensive tour of German cities, starting at Berlin's Technical University.

The exhibit, a collaborative effort between the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and the Berlin-based Center for Research on Anti-Semitism, takes on an issue of enduring controversy: Just when does criticism of Israel cross the border of legitimacy?

"There is a clear boundary in debates about solidarity with Israel," Gernot Erler, minister of state at Germany's Federal Foreign Office, said, introducing the exhibit to some 200 guests at the opening. "Israel's right to exist within clear and recognizable borders is a non-negotiable point."

Anti-Semitism "should be an illness of the past," Erler said. "Unfortunately, anti-Semitism is not in the closet. It is a part of European current events, it is in the middle of society."

The visually powerful exhibit, which was designed by Israel's Muli ben Sasson and is funded in part by the German Center for Political Education, is arranged on a series of panels that form linked rooms.

It presents both the reality of Jewish diversity and the power of stereotypes that propagate hate and, sometimes, violence. The exhibit includes the results of surveys showing strong anti-Semitic sentiment in Europe, such as the Anti-Defamation League's 2005 poll that found that 50% of Europeans think Jews talk too much about the Holocaust.

While the exhibit includes examples from many countries, it takes a close look at anti-Semitism in Germany whether from the far right, far left or Islamic extremists.

"We in Germany are in danger of seeing anti-Semitism as a problem of others, such as Poles, and to consider ourselves free of it," said Wolfgang Benz, director of the 25-year-old research center, which is part of the Technical University.

Benz cited German sociologist and philosopher Theodor Adorno, who once called anti-Semitism "a rumor about the

Jews." Benz said, "We have to counter that rumor with enlightenment."

The exhibition covers Christian anti-Jewish attitudes, racist anti-Semitism, post-Holocaust hatred of Jews, which is sometimes expressed as Holocaust denial or resentment against reparations, and anti-Zionism as anti-Semitism — namely, the denial of Israel's right to exist.

"In a time when two-thirds of the



German people promulgate that Israel is the biggest threat on earth, you can't have enough exhibits like that," the president of Berlin's Jewish community, Gideon Joffe, told JTA.

One panel of the exhibit cautions against the "Nazification of Israel," saying Israel's actions "are not in any way comparable with the Holocaust, neither in their intention nor in their dimension."

Comparisons between the Mideast conflict and the Holocaust make light of the genocide against the Jews and are a defensive reaction against historical responsibility."

"It was the second-biggest and most important underground plant for Nazi Germany, and the [Messerschmitt project] represented the last hope of Hitler and [SS commander Heinrich] Himmler for turning the tide of the war," said Rudolf Haunschmied, a local resident who as a boy in the 1970s played in the abandoned underground complex and later, as an amateur historian, unlocked many of Gusen's secrets. His work inspired Mayer's project.

Gusen was liberated by the U.S. Army on May 5, 1945. At that late point in the war, it had become an overcrowded transit camp for prisoners from Auschwitz and other camps that the Nazis were evacuating ahead of the advancing Soviet army.

The Americans were stunned by the mountains of corpses, the emaciated prisoners, the rampant disease. U.S. Army Lt. Col. Milton Keach took command of the area and immediately ordered residents of Gusen to be rounded up and brought into the camp to see the crimes committed in their name.

The men of Gusen were ordered to dig mass graves and place the corpses in them. The women were ordered to cover the bodies with dirt. Traude, 18 at the time, was among the women who performed this task.

"My mother and I had to shovel soil onto the bodies," she said last month. "We tried to look away, but the soldiers wouldn't let us. They grabbed our heads and forced us to look."

A few weeks later, the Americans handed command of the area to the Soviet army, and Gusen began its long slide toward comfortable oblivion.

Another exhibit item cites the newspaper of a radical Turkish group in Germany, which says Judaism is a religion "rooted in terror" that divides people into a class of "rulers-Zionists," and a class of "slaves to the sons of Israel."

Curators said they used only 10% of the raw material they had collected for the exhibit.

"It was hard to choose," said Yad Vashem's Doron Avraham, who curated the exhibit along with historian Juliane Wetzels of the Center for Research on Anti-Semitism.

"As an Israeli, I am very used to such expressions. But I was surprised by the volume."

The exhibit includes some Israeli examples of harsh self-criticism to underscore the point that the litmus test for anti-Semitism is not whether or not Israel is criticized, but how, exactly, Israel and Israelis are portrayed.

"I am always shocked by the Sharon caricatures, by the rawness and the evil in them," Benedikt Haller, the Foreign Ministry's liaison to Jewish organizations, said after viewing the exhibit. "Debate is good, but we are firm about the fact there are boundaries."

Barbara Witting, director of the Jewish high school in Berlin, said she hoped students would see the exhibition.

"It is important to recognize that the problem is still alive," she said. "In Germany they know what happens if you do not interfere right from the beginning."

Over the last year, several Jewish students transferred to Witting's school after enduring anti-Semitic taunts in other schools.

SURVIVORS' CORNER

THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE NAZI MASCOT

BY NICK BRYANT. BBC NEWS

Alex Kurzem came to Australia in 1949 carrying just a small brown briefcase, but weighed down by some harrowing psychological and emotional baggage.

Tucked away in his briefcase were the secrets of his past fragments of his life that he kept hidden for decades.

In 1997, after raising a family in Melbourne with his Australian bride, he finally revealed himself. He told how, at the age of five, he had been adopted by the SS and became a Nazi mascot.

His personal history, one of the most remarkable stories to emerge from World War II, was published recently in a book entitled *The Mascot*.

"They gave me a uniform, a little gun and little pistol," Alex told the BBC.

"They gave me little jobs to do to polish shoes, carry water or light a fire. But my main job was to entertain the soldiers. To make them feel a bit happier."

PAINFUL MEMORIES

In newsreels, he was paraded as "the Reich's youngest Nazi" and he witnessed some unspeakable atrocities.

But his SS masters never discovered the most essential detail about his life: their little Nazi mascot was Jewish.

"They didn't know that I was a Jewish boy who had escaped a Nazi death squad. They thought I was a Russian orphan."

His story starts where his childhood memories begin – in a village in Belarus on 20 October 1941, the day it was invaded by the German army.

"I remember the German army invading the village, lining up all the men in the city square and shooting them. My mother told me that my father had been killed, and that we would all be killed."

"I didn't want to die, so in the middle of the night I tried to escape. I went to kiss my mother goodbye, and ran up into the hill overlooking the village until the morning came."

That was the day his family was massacred – his mother, his brother, his sister.

"I was very traumatized. I remember bit-

ing my hand so I couldn't cry out loud, because if I did, they would have seen me hiding in the forest. I can't remember exactly what happened. I think I must have passed out a few times. It was terrible."

FALSE IDENTITY

"When the shooting stopped, I had no idea where to go, so I went to live in the forests, because I couldn't go back. I was the only one left. I must have been five or six."

"I went into the forest but no-one wanted me. I knocked on peoples' doors and they gave me bits of bread but they told me to move on. Nobody took me in."

He survived by scavenging clothes from the bodies of dead soldiers.

After about nine months in the forest, a local man handed him over to the Latvian police brigade, which later became incorporated in the Nazi SS.

That very day, people were being lined

up for execution, and Alex thought he, too, was about to die.

"There was a soldier near me, and I said, 'Before you kill me, can you give me a bit of bread?' He looked at me, and took me around the back of the school. He examined me and saw that I was Jewish. 'No good, no good,' he said. 'Look, I don't want to kill, but I can't leave you here because you will perish.'

"I'll take you with me, give you a new name and tell the other soldiers that you are a Russian orphan."

JOINING THE CIRCUS

To this day, Alex Kurzem has no idea why Sergeant Jekabs Kulis took pity on him. Whatever his motives, it certainly helped that Alex had Aryan looks. And together, they kept the secret.

"Every moment I had to remind myself not to let my guard down, because if ever anyone found out, I was dead. I was scared of the Russians shooting me and the Germans discovering I was Jewish. I had no-one to turn to."

Young Alex saw action on the Russian front, and was even used by the SS to lure Jewish people to their deaths.

Outside the cattle trains which carried
(Continued on page 13)



Alex was forced to keep his Jewish identity hidden

SAVED BY A SAINT IN A TANK

Sam Goetz long wondered about the larger-than-life soldier who liberated him from a Nazi camp. Decades later, they met again.

BY SANDY BANKS

On May 6, 1945, Goetz, then 16, was among 18,000 prisoners liberated from the Nazi concentration camp at Ebensee, Austria, by the U.S. Army's 3rd Cavalry. The squadron commander, a tall, young sergeant, climbed down from his tank and pronounced them free.

He "kissed his hands and touched his uniform, as if touching a saint," Goetz would recall years later in his memoir, *"I Never Saw My Face."*

"Each of us wanted to make sure the man was real ... that this was neither an illusion or a dream" ...

Goetz spent years combing through war archives in Washington, D.C., without ever learning the soldier's identity. "I was haunted by it," says Goetz, now an optometrist in West L.A. "Who was that man in the first tank? What is his name? Is he alive today?"

On Saturday, Bob Persinger – now a bespectacled, gray-haired veteran – strode through the lobby of a Century City hotel and reached out to shake Goetz's hand. The Holocaust survivor stared back, measured reality against his memories, then opened his arms for an embrace. And the soldier who had seemed so tall 60 years ago stood cheek to cheek with the man he had saved.

THE FINAL CHAPTER

The Holocaust is not the kind of experience you put behind you. For most survivors, there's no making peace with memories from concentration camps where millions were humiliated, tortured and forced to witness unspeakable brutality.

How do you write the final chapter of the story, now that both generations – victims and liberators – are passing?

About 120,000 Holocaust survivors live in the United States – about 10,000 of them in Los Angeles and Orange counties. Los Angeles is home to one of the largest and most active survivor's groups in the world, The 1939 Club, which takes its name from the year Adolf Hitler invaded Poland. Goetz served as the club's president in 1965-66. Some survivors emerged warped by anger and bitterness. Others spent years locked in silence and shame. Most, like Goetz, healed through hard work – avenging, through their eventual success, the evil done to them.

"For years, many didn't even talk about it with their children," Goetz said. "They didn't want to impart guilt to the kids. And the kids wanted to know, but didn't know how to ask."

It wasn't until the 1970s, "when these Holocaust deniers began to surface, with all their talk about the 'lies of the 6 million' [Jews killed], that I couldn't keep quiet. I said education is the only way we can leave our legacy."

So Goetz proposed to UCLA a chair on Holocaust studies. The chair was created in 1979, the first at a U.S. public university.

Twenty years ago, Goetz organized a project to videotape the testimonies of Holocaust survivors. "I realized the survivors are dying at a fast rate," he said. "There's a great danger of losing their stories, of not knowing. 'But it was difficult getting people to participate. We had 600 members. Only 30 responded. It's too painful.'"

Ultimately, 56 survivors agreed to share their stories. "And once they got started, they couldn't stop," Goetz said. "We had to go to two-hour tapes."

Still, many couldn't confront some memories, like "the moment of separation from their parents. They would go round and round it... To see your parents taken away, without even a kiss, a goodbye. Those moments stay with you the rest of your life. There is no healing, no closure."

DEATH COMES TO TARNOW

For Goetz, that moment came the week after his 14th birthday, in June 1942. The schools in Tarnow, Poland, had already been closed to Jewish children. Parks, skating rinks, movie theaters, even city streets were off-limits. Gestapo agents began roaming the city's Jewish quarter, randomly shooting Jews.

Sam's parents were herded at gunpoint with thousands of their neighbors onto trains bound for Belzec, a death camp in Poland where German officials were pioneering the use of gas chambers for mass killings.

In one week, 8,000 of Tarnow's Jews – one-third of the population – would be exe-

cuted or imprisoned at Belzec. During its 10 months of operation in 1942, historians say, 434,508 Jews died in Belzec's three gas chambers. Only a handful survived.

In September 1943, Sam, too, was deported from the Tarnow ghetto, and moved to a series of concentration camps in Eastern Europe, where inmates were beaten, starved, forced to endure biting winters without shoes and dressed only in flimsy cotton pajamas. They were worked to the point of collapse and death.

For inmates, the sight of smoke and the smell of bodies burning in the camps' crematoriums were a grim and constant torment.

ANSWERING THE CALL

Bob Persinger knew nothing about concentration camps or the tragedy unfolding for Europe's Jews when he was drafted at 19. Pearl Harbor had been bombed seven months after his high school graduation, and the Iowa farm boy
(Continued on page 14)

The Institute for International Affairs of B'nai Brith Canada
is urgently seeking

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS
FROM THE TRAWNIKI OR PONIATOWA CONCENTRATION CAMPS
Between April 1943 - January 1944

If you, a family member or anyone you know were detained at one of these camps during the time period indicated above, we ask you to contact us immediately.

Full confidentiality will be respected.

Contact Karen Lazar: 416-633-6224 X 140 or 1-800-892-2624

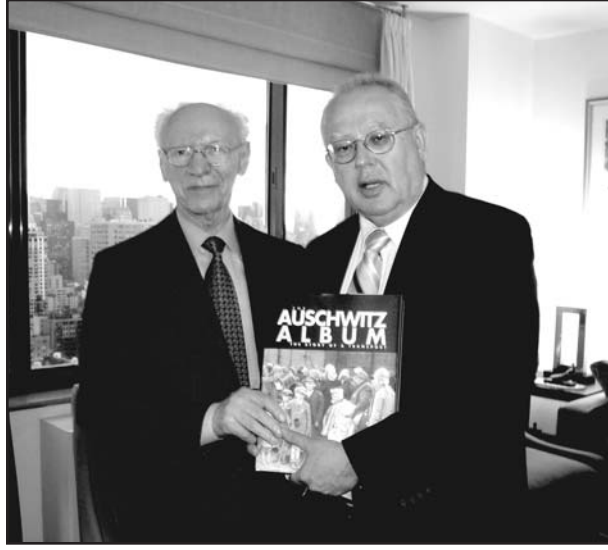
AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR YAD VASHEM BIDS FAREWELL TO AMBASSADOR MEKEL

The American Society for Yad Vashem's Leadership held a reception at the home of Ambassador Arye Mekel, outgoing Consul General in New York and his wife, Ruth. This was a farewell event with Ambassador Mekel, who is returning to Israel.

American Society Chairman Eli Zborowski and Vice Chair of the Board Leonard Wilf thanked Mekel for his support of the Society during his five years in New York.

Mekel, a son of Holocaust survivors who spent the first three years of his life in a Displacement Camp in Germany is a big supporter of the American Society for Yad Vashem and Yad Vashem in Jerusalem.

In his previous position as Deputy Head of Israel's Mission to the UN, Mekel fought for the decision to display an exhibition from Yad Vashem at the UN building, an unprecedented accomplishment. The exhibition "Auschwitz Album," brought to the U.S. by the American Society for Yad Vashem, was displayed at the UN on January 25,



American Society for Yad Vashem Chairman Eli Zborowski presents the Yad Vashem "Auschwitz Album" book to Ambassador Arye Mekel.

2005, and later toured the country.

However, Mekel's most remarkable achievement as Deputy Head of Israel

Mission to the UN was when he urged the UN to declare the International Day of Holocaust Remembrance on January 27th, the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

Ambassador Mekel worked hard to convince the representatives of the "undecided" countries to support the decision.

One of the "unknown heroes" who helped Ambassador Mekel get the votes was businessman, Eugene Zuriff, whose company owns the Smith & Wollensky restaurant. He met Mekel in his restaurant and offered his help. Zuriff happened to be close with the representative of Ecuador and he made a few phone calls. The

result – Ecuador voted for the decision. The rest is history.

A NATION'S LOST HOLOCAUST HISTORY, NOW ON DISPLAY

When *Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien*, or Jewish Community Vienna, decided to sell a vacant building in the summer of 2000, two employees were sent to look for any archival material that might have been left behind.

What they found exceeded any historians dream: Stacked floor to ceiling in two rooms of one apartment sat some 800 dusty boxes containing, among other things, about half a million pages of detailed records of the community during the Holocaust – archives not known to have survived.

"Opening each box was extremely exciting," said Lothar Hlbling, the chief archivist and one of the discoverers. "Eight hundred excitements."

Now, after seven years of quiet work reordering, preserving and microfilming the archives, a joint project of Jewish Community Vienna and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, the documents are officially unveiled at the museum.

When combined with community records stretching back to the 17th century that had been shipped to Israel in the 1950s, the Vienna cache makes up one of the largest Holocaust archives of any Jewish community, some two million pages. With it, historians will be better able to understand how the Holocaust unfolded and provide a window into the daily life of Vienna's Jews. The archives of Jewish Community Vienna, the representative body of the city's Jews, will also be of great help to families in uncovering exactly what happened to their relatives.

"For most of the last six decades, people believed that one could not study the action of Jews in the Holocaust period because the Nazis systematically destroyed the records of Jewish communities and organizations," said Paul Shapiro, director of the Holocaust museums Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies. "Most Holocaust scholarship has been written based on the documentary record created by the perpetrators of the Holocaust."

The Vienna archives, in their entirety, are believed to be the largest collection of material about a Jewish community in the

German-speaking world, Ingo Zechner, director of the Vienna group's Holocaust Victims Information and Support Center, said. Indeed, Vienna once had the third-largest Jewish population in Europe. Some of Vienna's Holocaust-era files can already be viewed on microfilm at the Holocaust museum in Washington and at the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People in Israel. And, according to plans arranged with Simon Wiesenthal before his death, a proposed Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies will unite under one roof Mr. Wiesenthal's Nazi-hunting files with the Jewish Community files and will serve as a research institute for visiting scholars and a showcase for the exhibitions.

After the Nazis annexed Austria in 1938, they began disbanding virtually all Jewish groups. Two months later, the Nazis reinstated Jewish Community Vienna, Mr. Zechner said, enlisting it to help carry out their initial plan, which was for Jews to depart Austria after paying fees and leaving behind most of their property.

Discovered within the Vienna apartment were card indexes, produced by the community's emigration office, with the names of 118,000 Jews from families that had sought its assistance to emigrate in 1938 and 1939. These indexes were the key to sorting through thousands of emigration questionnaires already stored in Jerusalem.

The questionnaire, filled out by the head of a household, solicited four pages of detail about family and economic status, references and contacts abroad, pertinent information for those seeking visas. A Jewish community official would make a

house visit and describe the living conditions, Anatol Steck of the Holocaust museum said. In many cases it is now possible to trace every administrative step, from someone's first contact at the emigration office to when the family boarded a train or a ship, Mr. Zechner said.

For Jews who perished, Mr. Steck said, the questionnaires are like the last testament of the victims. Ultimately, two-thirds of Vienna's Jewish community survived the Holocaust, but more than 65,000 Austrian Jews were murdered.



This photograph taken from the exhibition shows Jewish children on vacation.

Walter Feiden, 79, of New York City, is the only survivor of his Viennese family. His father, Moses, went to the community organizations offices to research names and addresses in phone books before securing affidavits of support from two American strangers: a Jewish manufacturer and a district attorney named Feiden. Yet, the United States consulate rejected Moses Feiden's visa request after learning he was born in Poland, not Austria. On Oct. 15, 1941, the Feidens were deported to the Lodz ghetto, where Moses died; Emilie, Walter's stepmother, was transported to Chelmno and gassed. Just recently, Mr. Feiden learned of a letter found in the archives indicating that right before the family's deportation, the Dominican Republic had approved visas, and that a Jewish community official had asked the Gestapo to strike the Feidens
(Continued on page 13)

ANTI-SEMITISM WEIGHS ON BRITISH JEWS

With anti-Semitism in Britain at record levels, life is changing in subtle and not-so-subtle ways for the country's Jews.

Armed guards escort Orthodox Jews in Manchester walking to synagogue. Vendors sell Arabic-language editions of "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion" outside train stations. Academic and labor unions routinely issue calls to boycott the Jewish state.

Jews in Britain say they feel a growing sense of unease and insecurity.

Last year saw the highest number of reported anti-Semitic incidents in Britain since record-keeping began in 1984 — a 33 percent increase over the previous year. Anti-Semitic incidents in Britain have doubled in the last decade.

Jews are violently assaulted and subjected to threats. Schoolchildren face abuse. Communal property and synagogues are damaged and desecrated. And Britain is home to a growing cottage industry of mass-produced, anti-Semitic literature.

The sharp rise in anti-Semitism has not gone unnoticed in Parliament, which in 2005 formed an investigative committee to address the Jewish community's concerns.

In its first report in September 2006, the All Party Inquiry into Anti-Semitism recommended investigating the reason for the low number of prosecutions of anti-Semitic crimes and developing strategies to combat rising anti-Semitism. The report found that only a minority of police forces in the country were even equipped to record hate crimes as anti-Semitic incidents.

As in other places in Europe, anti-Semitism in Britain isn't limited to the extreme right. On the far left, in unions and other forums, where liberal-leaning Jews once felt politically at home, activists now leading the charge against Israel are driving Jews away.

British Jews are choosing to move to Israel in record numbers. British aliyah last year set a new record with 738 new immigrants, a two-thirds increase over the year before, according to the Jewish Agency for Israel.

CLAIMS CONFERENCE WINS INCREASE IN SURVIVOR PENSIONS

Germany agreed to a cost-of-living pension hike for at least 50,000 Holocaust survivors in Europe.

The decision was announced after annual negotiations with Germany led by the Conference for Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

According to an announcement, negotiators also secured an additional 1,500 pensions for survivors who are or were citizens of certain Western European countries.

"These are very important breakthroughs, which will benefit Holocaust survivors in many countries," said Claims Conference Executive Vice President Gideon Taylor. "We are continuing to negotiate with the German government over a range of other critical issues."

The cost-of-living increase will take effect Oct. 1, 2007. Under the new plan, the German Ministry of Finance will increase monthly payments from \$235 to \$268 for eligible Holocaust survivors living in the European Union. About 14,500 survivors in non-E.U. former Eastern bloc countries, including Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus, will see their payments increase from \$168 to \$221.

And You Shall Tell Your Children

CECILE AND EDWARD MOSBERG

Yad Vashem Remembrance Award

(Continued from page 1)

After a few years, we came to the United States and settled in New York. Six years later, we moved to Elizabeth, New Jersey, and five years after that, we moved to Union, our present residence.

I met Harry Wilf in Europe after the war. We re-established contact while I was still living in New York. He took me into his construction business in 1959. He helped me with everything. He is no longer alive, yet I thank him every day for having helped to shape my life with such great success. You can never forget someone like Harry Wilf. My family and I never will.

I am blessed with a wonderful wife, three daughters, two sons-in-law, who are like sons to me, and six grandchildren. I have been honored as a Holocaust survivor by Ben-Gurion University, The Rabbinical College of America, and Israel Bonds. My wife and I have rescued eleven Torahs, which were hidden in Europe during the Shoah.

Each one has been donated for use to different facilities, such as; Yad Vashem, Jerusalem in honor of Eli Zborowski, to Temple Israel, Union, New Jersey, to the Mount Freedom Jewish Center, Mount Freedom, New Jersey, Adath Shalom, Parsippany, New Jersey, to Park East Synagogue, New York, New York, to Solomon Schechter Day School of Essex and Union County, New Jersey, and to the Joseph Kushner Hebrew Academy, New Jersey.

Cecile Mosberg, nee Storch, was born in Krakow, Poland. She had a family in which there were two parents, two older sisters and one younger brother. She and her father were the only survivors. When the war began, they were thrown out of their home and were transient for a period of time. First, they went to Weilczka, then to Mielecz, next to Dubienka, and back to Wieliczka. They gained entry into the Krakow Ghetto and remained until its liquidation.

Then they were transferred to the Plaszow Concentration Camp, from where her oldest sister was sent to Belcz Extermination Camp and murdered. Her other sister was transported to Auschwitz Concentration Camp and then to Stuthof Concentration Camp. There she was taken on a death march, at which point she was murdered by a bullet, and thrown into the Baltic Sea. The next day was liberation. Her little brother was transported to Auschwitz, where he was murdered. Her mother was murdered with a benzene injection and then thrown into a pile of burning bodies in Plaszow, some even half alive. My wife was sent to Bergen Belsen, Gelsenau and liberated in the stone mines of Mauthausen Concentration Camp.

After liberation, my wife found her father, Leib Storch, in Krakow, where they lived for a short period of time. From there they moved to Belgium, and were joined by her boyfriend, Edward Mosberg. They got married in Brussels, Belgium and lived there for four years. Finally, the small family moved to Manhattan, New York, in 1951 and then to New Jersey in 1959. They are blessed with three daughters, two sons-in-law and six grandchildren.

MATTHEW BRONFMAN

Yad Vashem Young Leadership Remembrance Award

(Continued from page 1)

-ests. He is the Chairman of BHB Holdings, an investment company and the managing director at ACI Capital, a New York-based private investment firm. He currently serves on the boards of Bronfman Fisher Real Estate Holdings, James River Group, Earnest Partners and Palace Candles Inc.

A deep and abiding interest in the financial growth of the State of Israel has led Matthew to invest in the financial growth of the State. He is one of the controlling shareholders of Israel Discount Bank (IDB) and of Supersol, Israel's largest supermarket chain. In addition, he controls the IKEA franchise in Israel, where he has numerous real estate holdings.

Matthew's past business ventures include: Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Candle Acquisitions Company, a private-label specialty candle manufacturer; Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Sterling Cellular Holdings, LP, a privately held cellular telephone company. He has also held positions with Goldman Sachs & Co. and Cadillac Fairview Corporation Limited.

Matthew and his wife Stacey make their home in Manhattan.

Through his work for Yad Vashem, with the 92nd Street Y and with the World Jewish Congress, Matthew provides an ardent voice for the continuity and growth of the Jewish people. The American & International Societies for Yad Vashem are privileged to honor Matthew Bronfman with this year's Young Leadership Remembrance Award for his commitment to the noble Cause of Remembrance.

The American & International Societies for Yad Vashem
cordially invite you to attend their

Annual Tribute Dinner

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

Honoring

Cecile & Edward Mosberg • Matthew Bronfman

Dinner Chairs

Eli Zborowski • Dr. Miriam Adelson

Guest Speaker

Ambassador Dan Gillerman

Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations

Sunday, November 18, 2007

Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers • 811 Seventh Avenue at 52nd Street, New York City

Reception 4:30

Dinner 6:00

Dietary Laws Observed

BlackTie Optional

ELI ZBOROWSKI AND DR. MIRIAM ADELSON ARE DINNER CHAIRS

Eli Zborowski and Dr. Miriam Adelson, both 2006 Tribute Dinner honorees have been named Dinner Chairs of the 2007 American & International Societies for Yad Vashem Tribute Dinner.

Eli Zborowski is the Founder and Chairman of the American & International Societies for Yad Vashem. On the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Societies, Mr. Zborowski received a Lifetime Achievement Award for his distinguished service and enduring commitment to commemoration. He is a survivor who emerged from the devastation of the Holocaust and became an international leader in the Cause of Remembrance.

His determination and dynamic stewardship have inspired philanthropists throughout the world to support projects which have rendered Yad Vashem the Global Guardian of Holocaust Remembrance.

Beit Hakehilot, an education and research center housed at Yad Vashem was sponsored through the generosity of Eli Zborowski and his late wife, Diana. In addition, they are Benefactors of Yad Vashem's Project 2001. With the establishment of the Young Leadership Associates, Eli was in the forefront of enlisting future generations in Holocaust remembrance.

Dr. Miriam Adelson is a member of the Executive Committee of the American Society for Yad Vashem. She was born and raised in Israel in the shadow of the Holocaust, which is ever-present in her life. Her parents, Menucha and Simcha Farbstein, left Poland before the Shoah, but significant portions of their families missed the opportunity to leave and consequently perished.

After earning her Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology and Genetics from Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Dr. Adelson worked in the area of biological research throughout her two-year service in the Israeli Defense Forces. Following her military service, she continued her medical studies. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from the Aviv University Sackler Medical School. Clinics that she established, along with her husband Sheldon G. Adelson, have successfully treated thousands of heroin and cocaine drug addicts in this country and in Israel.

Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson are Patrons of the Mount of Remembrance, longstanding benefactors of Yad Vashem. The building of the new Museum of Holocaust Art at Yad Vashem was enabled by their generous support. It was given in memory of Dr. Adelson's parents, Menucha and Simcha Farbstein and members of their families who perished in the Holocaust.



Eli Zborowski



Dr. Miriam Adelson

דָּנָבֵל תְּדַגְהוּ
(Exodus 13:8)

GUEST SPEAKER AMBASSADOR DAN GILLERMAN



Ambassador Dan Gillerman was appointed Israel's 13th representative to the United Nations in July 2002, and assumed his post on January 1, 2003.

Prior to his appointment, Ambassador Gillerman had been the CEO of Nagum Ltd. and Agrotechnology Ltd. Since 1985, he has served as Chairman of the Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce. He has also served as a member of the board of the First International Bank of Israel, a Director of Bank Leumi and the Central Bank of Israel, as well as numerous other boards of private and public entities.

Ambassador Gillerman has played a prominent role in helping to steer Israel towards economic liberalization and a free-market economy. He has also been deeply involved in the economic aspects of the peace process and has been

intensively engaged in talks with Palestinian and Arab leaders, trying to further economic cooperation within the region.

Among the councils Ambassador Gillerman serves are: The Prime Minister's National Economic and Social Council; the President's Committee of the Coordinating Council of Israel's Economic Organizations; and Chairman of the Israel-British Business Council. In addition he is a member of the executive board of the ICC (The International Chamber of Commerce – The World Business Organization).

Ambassador Gillerman was born in Israel in 1944 and was educated at Tel Aviv University and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He and his wife Janice have two children, Keren and David, and three grandchildren: Lia, Ron, and Jonathan.

AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DINNER JOURNAL

Each year in conjunction with the Tribute Dinner, the American & International Societies for Yad Vashem publish a Commemorative Journal. Through vintage photographs, this publication is an opportunity to pay tribute to honorees, to memorialize a loved-one or to express appreciation for Yad Vashem.

Marilyn Rubenstein, a 2005 Tribute Dinner Honoree and a Yad Vashem Benefactor, is this year's Journal Chair. Rita Levy and Professor Rochelle Cherry are the Co-Chairs. Rita Levy, who was a 2007 Luncheon Honoree is the daughter of Nathan



Marilyn Rubenstein, Journal Chair



Rita Levy, Journal Co-Chair



Professor Rochelle Cherry, Journal Co-Chair

Katz z"l, a Society Board Member. Rochelle Cherry was a 2007 Luncheon Presenter and is the daughter of Sol Silberzweig, z"l, a Yad Vashem Benefactor.

The theme of this year's Journal is *And you shall tell your children, (Exodus 13)*. The story of the Shoah will be portrayed in four sections. Each section will begin with the cover of a Yad Vashem Educational Unit symbolizing the subject of the section. A world-renowned Holocaust scholar will provide an introductory essay to each section.

I Wanted To Fly Like A Butterfly

The vitality and vibrancy of Jewish life in pre-war Europe will be portrayed in this section. We welcome personal photographs of life before the war. Essay by Dr. Yehuda Bauer.

How Was it Humanly Possible?

This section will examine how human beings willingly participated in the mass murder of millions of Jewish men, women, and children. Survivors and their families are encouraged to share photos from the war years. Essay by Dr. Israel Gutman.

Resistance

The many forms of resistance, including spiritual resistance, revolt, partisans and the uprising in the death camps, will be presented in this section. Photos of resistance experiences will be welcome. Essay by Dr. Yitzhack Arad.

Return To Life

This section will feature photos of families as they rose from the ashes of the Holocaust, including liberation. Pictures may feature survivors and family members as they took their places in the post-Holocaust era following the war.

Essay by novelist professor Hana Yablonka.

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



REPORT FROM YAD VASHEM

YAD VASHEM GRANTED UN NGO STATUS

Continuing its relationship with the United Nations, Yad Vashem has received NGO status at the UN's Department of Public Information (UN/DPI). Affiliation with the Department of Information at the United Nations will help enable Yad Vashem to continue its efforts to disseminate accurate and comprehensive information about the Holocaust around the world.

Over the past several years, Yad Vashem has been working with UN/DPI on Holocaust education and information projects, including building a website for UN centers around the world as part of last year's International Holocaust Remembrance Day events, done in conjunction with the USC Shoah Foundation, and the CDJC in Paris. A special forum for UN staff members from Europe and Asia is planned for October at Yad Vashem. The forum aims to deepen UN personnel's knowledge of the Holocaust, as well as to provide material, ideas and information for preparing projects and activities that will enable implementation of the UN resolution to annually commemorate the memory of the victims of the Holocaust (on January 27). The resolution was passed by the UN General Assembly in November 2005.

Yad Vashem has also presented temporary exhibits at UN headquarters in New York. In January 2005, marking the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, Yad Vashem created a special traveling exhibit, "Auschwitz: The Depth of the Abyss." In 2006, Yad Vashem's "No Child's Play" exhibit was displayed in the Visitor's Lobby of the UN.

HOLOCAUST MUSEUM HONORS ROMANIAN

Israel's Holocaust museum posthumously honored a Romanian reserves officer who blocked the deportation of Romanian Jews to Nazi death camps.

Theodor Criveanu was inducted into Yad Vashem's "Righteous Among the Nations" group of non-Jews who rescued Jews from the Nazis. His son, Willie Criveanu, accepted the award on his behalf.

The 20,000 Jews of Czernowitz, Romania, were interned during the war and slated for deportation to death camps.

As a reserves officer in the Romanian army, Criveanu was assigned the task of presenting authorities a list of Jews who were required to work in the ghetto, and were thus spared deportation. According to testimonies given to Yad Vashem, Criveanu risked his own life by handing out permits beyond the allowed limit, including to Jews who were not essential to the work force. Yad Vashem said it could not estimate how many Jews he saved.

Criveanu married the daughter of one of the Jews he saved. He died in Romania in 1988.

"My father's life was based on justness, correctness. He was a great humanitarian, that was his nature," his son said at the ceremony. "He was a gift from God for my mother's family and to so many more."

More than 21,000 non-Jews have been honored by Yad Vashem, of these, 53 Romanians have been honored.

FIRST TRANSFER OF MATERIAL FROM ITS/AROLSEN ARCHIVE ARRIVES AT YAD VASHEM

The first transfer of material from the International Tracing Service archives at Bad Arolsen, Germany arrived at Yad Vashem in August. The transfer took place following a decision by the ITS International Commission to permit the transfer, on embargo, of material to archives in the member states, to allow them to prepare the groundwork for making the material available to the public. The embargo will be lifted only when all 11-member states have completed the ratification process. The material—12 million documents, comprising 1.4 terabytes were handed over by Michael Hoffmann, IT System Administrator of the ITS, to Michael Lieber, CIO of Yad Vashem.

The 12 million scanned documents received last night primarily include material describing concentration camp prison-

ers: personal records of various prisoners in the Nazi camps, as well as lists pre-

tain information on some 17.5 million individuals. Copies of some 20 million pages of documentation from Bad Arolsen have been contained in Yad Vashem's Archives since the 1950's.

"Over the years, Yad Vashem has amassed a great deal of experience and knowledge in digitizing archival information and making it user-friendly," said Avner Shalev, Chairman of Yad Vashem. "However, the material received last night is complex and vast, taken from a number of camps, which is organized in complicated and varying ways. We expect it will take a lot of resources to sift through the material and catalogue it. We are, as a first step, checking whether the material we have just received contains new documentation or whether it compliments the material Yad Vashem brought from Bad Arolsen in the 1950s."

Digital copies of more material from Bad Arolsen are expected to arrive at Yad Vashem towards the end of this year, as well as in 2008 and 2009.



Yad Vashem CIO Michael Lieber (right) receives millions of pages of documentation from ITS IT System Administrator Michael Hoffmann at Yad Vashem.

pared within the camps themselves, including transfer records, personal prisoner accounts, and details of the sick and the dead. In total, the ITS archives con-

YAD VASHEM IS THE RECIPIENT OF PRINCE OF ASTURIAS AWARD FOR CONCORD

Dear Friends,

On behalf of everyone at Yad Vashem, it is our pleasure to let you know of the extraordinary honor that will be bestowed upon Yad Vashem as this year's recipient of the prestigious Prince of Asturias Award for Concord. The jury announced its decision just a few hours before we ushered in Rosh Hashanah, and the official presentation of the Award will be made on October 26, 2007 in Oviedo, Spain, in the presence of the Spanish royal family.

The Prince of Asturias Award for Concord is an internationally coveted prize that is bestowed upon a person or institution "whose work has made an exemplary and outstanding contribution to mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence amongst men, to the struggle against injustice or ignorance, to the defense of freedom, or whose work has widened the horizons of knowledge or has been outstanding in protecting and preserving mankind's heritage." Previous winners of the Award include UNICEF, Médecins sans Frontières, H.M. King Hussein I of Jordan, and Stephen Hawking. Prince of Asturias Award winners in other categories include The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Simone Veil, Václav Havel, and Nelson Mandela.

In its candidacy for the award, Yad Vashem was supported by a veritable "Who's Who" of leading world figures and men of letters. Their recommendations were truly inspiring, and we are deeply honored by their support. To quote just a few:

"I can think of no more appropriate a recipient of an award for exemplary and outstanding contributions to the mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence amongst men and to the struggle against injustice and ignorance

than Yad Vashem. The work of Yad Vashem truly widens the horizons of knowledge and reminds us all that each of us is responsible for the defence of freedom and human rights."

Hillary Rodham Clinton, senator of the United States of America

"Yad Vashem is a unique place; a memorial and place for commemorating, a cultural and education center... It is a place against oblivion that returns to the victims of the crime against humanity, the Shoah, their names. Yad Vashem is also a place for hope. The hope for reconciling and understanding, for tolerance and humanity, for peace and good coexistence."

Angela Merkel, Chancellor of the German Federal Republic

"In the 21st century, the legacy of the Holocaust will be very much determined by education. Through its wide variety of teacher-training programs, international research conferences, and seminars Yad Vashem is creating the human infrastructure necessary to combat Holocaust denial and ensure that we stand up against injustice whenever it raises its head. As the generation of survivors dwindles, Yad Vashem continues to transform their shards of memory into building blocks for a better world – one characterized by tolerance and mutual respect among all peoples. We must all join their mission."

Shimon Peres, President of the State of Israel

"For over fifty years, Yad Vashem has continually issued a clarion call for our obligation to protect and preserve basic human values and freedoms while combating racism, anti-Semitism

and injustice. Yad Vashem has launched a comprehensive initiative to advance Holocaust education in Europe, and currently cooperates with museums, research and educational institutions and organizations in numerous European countries. It is actively involved in international bodies such as the United Nations, OSCE and the Task Force International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research that was established in 1999 by the Prime Minister of Sweden."

Koffi A. Annan, former Secretary-General of the UN.

"I hereby respectfully recommend Yad Vashem for the Prince of Asturias Award for Concord. I am able to say more about Yad Vashem's invaluable work on memory and hope at a later date, but trust you may accept the above statement in support for this award."

Elie Wiesel, 1986 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and Holocaust survivor

We are all humbled by this achievement, and we are honored to share it with our friends and partners and our Friends Societies from around the world, without whom we could never have come this far. Our achievements are your achievements, and you should all take deep pride in our shared success.

On this note, we would like to wish you all a wonderful New Year, and a *g'mar chatimah tovah*. May this auspicious beginning to the year continue, and may all our successes in imparting Holocaust remembrance translate into a better future for our children, grandchildren, and all the generations to come.

Avner Shalev, Chairman of the Directorate Shaya Ben Yehuda, Managing Director

LITHUANIAN NATIONALISTS TARGET FORMER YAD VASHEM CHIEF

BY ANSHEL PFEFFER, HAARETZ

The Lithuanian-born historian Yitzhak Arad, a retired Israel Defense Forces brigadier general and former director of Yad Vashem, has been invited to go to Vilnius to attend the discussions of the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania. According to a request received recently at Israel's Justice Ministry, if Arad goes, he could find himself being interrogated on the suspicion that he took part in the murder of Lithuanian civilians during the Holocaust. Lithuania's chief prosecutor is investigating Arad at the behest of right-wing extremists in the country, following affidavits Arad gave as an expert witness during trials of Lithuanian war criminals.

After the German army conquered Lithuania in 1941, the 15-year-old Arad fled his hometown ghetto and joined a unit of Soviet partisans until the Red Army took over the region. After the war he boarded an illegal immigrant ship to Israel, joined the Palmach (a pre-state elite strike force), and later served as an officer in the IDF, retiring in 1972 as head of the Education Corps. In civilian life, Arad became a scholar and lecturer on Jewish history, specializing in the Holocaust. He was director of Yad Vashem from 1972 to 1993.

As a world-class expert on Lithuanian Jewry in the Holocaust, Arad was summoned as an expert witness for the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, which hunts down Nazi war criminals and collaborators who managed to obtain American citizenship.



Former director of Yad Vashem Yitzhak Arad.

The affidavits Arad gave in the trials of Lithuanian Gestapo officials Aleksandras Lileikis and Algimantas Dailide, who were subsequently deported from the U.S., angered political elements in Vilnius.

The Lithuanian Holocaust is unique in that it was largely carried out by locals, especially members of the Order Police, who began butchering Jews the moment the Soviets left in 1941, even before the German army arrived. Only a few thousand of Lithuania's 220,000 Jews survived the Holocaust. Lithuanian nationalists object to the Holocaust's commemoration, claiming the people who should be memorialized are the victims of 46 years of Soviet occupation. A large share of the Lithuanians persecuted by the Soviets had been Nazi collaborators.

Despite opposition from nationalists, the international commission was established as part of Lithuania's efforts to gain European Union membership. The commission invited historians from Lithuania, Germany and the U.S. Arad was invited to represent Yad Vashem.

Arad does not intend to go, and Yad Vashem's director, Avner Shalev, informed the chair of the commission that in view of the proceedings against Arad, Yad Vashem has decided to suspend its participation in the international commission. The partisans' organization in Israel also sent a protest letter to Lithuanian President Vldas Adamkus. The Justice Ministry declined to comment officially, but government sources confirmed the receipt of the Lithuanian request, adding that Israel views it as "nothing short of scandalous."

ISRAEL MUSEUM LAUNCHES SITE FOR WORKS STOLEN IN WWII

The Israel Museum has launched an on-line catalogue of works of art and Judaica looted during World War II and given to the museum after the war.

The Jerusalem museum houses several hundred works stolen during the Holocaust that either have no record of prior ownership or came from institutions that did not survive the war.

The property was originally given to the Bezalel National Museum, the Israel Museum's predecessor, by the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization, which was charged with reclaiming stolen Jewish property and which transferred many works of art and Judaica to Jewish institutions in Israel and around the world.

The works were subsequently moved to the Israel Museum in 1965, when the museum was founded.

The on-line catalogue – accessible on the Israel Museum's Web site, www.imj.org.il – provides information on paintings, drawings and Judaica objects, and includes images, titles of works,



An anonymous tempera painting from the 19th century, of a girl in profile, somewhat reminiscent of Botticelli's style, from a collection of paintings stolen by the Nazis. The piece is part of the Israel Museum's collection today.

names of artists (if known), countries of origin (if known), dimensions and other identifying characteristics.

The Web site, which is entitled World War II Provenance Research Online, was launched in cooperation with the newly-established Company for Location and Restitution of Holocaust Victims' Assets in Israel, which had pressured the museum and other public institutions in Israel to publicize the information in accordance with the law.

Avraham Roet, head of the restitution organization, praised the museum for fully acceding to the request to list the information, after initially balking at the move.

"This is a major moral accomplishment for the state of Israel," said Roet, a Holocaust survivor.

Roet said that this was the first time that a Jewish museum was searching for heirs for artwork stolen in the Holocaust and given to Jewish organizations after the war.

The new Web site provides instructions for requesting property restitution.

STORY OF THE WARSAW GHETTO

BY REBECCA ASSOUN, EJP

An exhibition in Paris featuring unique archive material from the Warsaw ghetto, documents the development of the resistance movement in the ghetto during the first years of WWII.

The exhibition is entitled "The Clandestine Archives of the Warsaw Ghetto."

In November 1940, all of Warsaw's Jews, some 360,000 people in all, were crammed into a quarter surrounded by walls and guarded by a triple police cordon: German, Polish and Jewish. The Warsaw ghetto was cut off from the outside world, besieged by hunger, cold, sickness and terror.

It contained close to 450,000 inhabitants in 1941, because of the constant inflow of refugees, in spite of the terrifying mortality rate. But at the heart of this hell on earth and under such dire conditions, the Resistance began to organize itself.

A group of men and women gave themselves the Yiddish name "Oyneg Shabbes" ("Joy of the Sabbath") and joined the historian Emmanuel Ringelblum in the patient and perilous task of studying and collecting information on the fate of the Jewish community within the ghetto and more generally in the Nazi-occupied territories.

The Jewish Mutual Aid (ZSS) organized soup kitchens. Ghetto dwellers set up committees and came together to set up public kitchens, collect clothing and supply medical aid.

There were more and more underground newspapers in print until the deportations began in the summer of 1942. The articles dealt with life in the ghetto, criticizing the Jewish Council and the police.

As of October 1941, information on the massacres behind the Russian front, and later the testimony of an escaped deportee from the Chelmno camp, describing the killings, reached Warsaw.

The members of Oyneg Shabbes became aware of Hitler's determination to exterminate European Jews and henceforth devoted their efforts to gathering information on the process of extermination.

To try and alert the world of the ongoing genocide, Emmanuel Ringelblum, Eliahu Gutkowski and Hersz Wasser created an information agency which circulated bulletins through the underground press. The first report, intended for the Polish government in exile, was sent to its clandestine delegation in Warsaw and reached London in April 1942. The members of Oyneg Shabbes were well aware of the future importance of the testimony they were collecting as evidence for the prosecution to be used in court when the time came to formulate an

indictment against Nazism.

Carefully concealed and later partially retrieved in the ruins of the ghetto after the war, this unique testimony has been passed down to posterity under the name of "The Ringelblum Archives". In 1999, UNESCO's International Advisory Committee recognized the universal significance of the Emmanuel Ringelblum Archives and recommended them for inclusion in the Memory of the World International Register.

An expert on Warsaw's Jews, historian Emmanuel Ringelblum, in 1930 befriended Itzhak Giterman who was in charge of the Polish section of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

He participated in efforts to help Jews expelled from Germany in 1938.

At the time of the German invasion in September 1939, he joined in the civil defense of Warsaw as secretary of the Jewish Social Services Coordination Committee which later gave rise to the Jewish Mutual Aid (ZSS) which played an



German soldiers direct artillery against a pocket of resistance during the Warsaw ghetto uprising, Warsaw, Poland, April 19–May 16, 1943.

essential role for survival within the Warsaw Ghetto.

From the very first weeks of occupation, faithful to his task as a historian, Emmanuel Ringelblum set out to collect documents relating to the Jewish community.

On 22 November 1940, one week after the Ghetto was closed off, he invited a dozen people to his home to join in the self-appointed task of elaborating a history of Polish Jews during the war. The group adopted the Yiddish name of *Oyneg Shabbes*, since generally they met on Saturdays.

The exhibition "The Secret Archives of the Warsaw Ghetto" was conceived by the Shoah Memorial, in partnership with the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw (Zydowski Instytut Historyczny) and The International Contemporary Documentation Library – the Museum of Contemporary History (BDIC in French).

The Shoah Memorial has organized a cycle of events, with films, lectures and debates on the ghettos of Central Europe, Jewish life in pre-war Poland, and the various forms of resistance which have come to be symbolized by the Warsaw ghetto uprising.

ARCHBISHOP OF PARIS PAYS TRIBUTE TO HOLOCAUST VICTIMS

Paris' top Roman Catholic leader and over 600 French pilgrims squeezed through the hallways at Israel's Holocaust memorial as they paid tribute to the victims of the Nazi genocide.

Almost 10 years after the Catholic Church in France officially apologized for its silence during the Holocaust, the Archbishop of Paris, Andre Vingt-Trois, placed an orange and green wreath at a large stone memorial for the 6 million Jews who were killed during the Holocaust.

During meetings at the Yad Vashem Holocaust museum, he spoke about the importance of remaining hopeful while remembering the tragedy.

"Without hope, the remembrance of crime is the despair of man," Vingt-Trois said. "Keeping the memory with hope, this is faith."

Vingt-Trois' visit to Jerusalem sent an important message that Christians, Jews and Muslims all need to come together in remembering the genocide, Iris Rosenberg, a Yad Vashem spokeswoman said.

FRENCH PRIEST UNCOVERS LONG-BURIED HORRORS OF HOLOCAUST IN UKRAINE

Children, stomachs empty and knees quivering, saw and heard Nazis massacre Jews across the killing fields of Ukraine. Teenagers were forced to bury the victims, shoveling dirt over neighbors and playmates.

Today, these witnesses — now aged men and women — are unburdening themselves of wartime memories, many for the first time, in testimonies to a French priest. Their words may change history, as they shed light on this poorly known chapter of the Holocaust.

The project is central to a broader reassessment of the Nazi horrors in Ukraine that followed the June 1941 invasion of the Soviet Union. Recently, a team of rabbis visited a newly found gravesite in the Ukrainian village of *Gvozdavka-1* where thousands of Jews were killed during the Nazi occupation.

That was just one site among many: Father Patrick Desbois and his mixed-faith team have been crisscrossing Ukraine for six years and have located more than 500 mass graves, many never before recorded.

At least 1.5 million Jews were killed on hills and in ravines across Nazi-occupied Ukraine, most slaughtered by sub-machine guns before the gas chambers became machines of mass death. Researchers are only now peeling back layers of Soviet-era silence about what they call the "Holocaust by bullets."

Part of Desbois' work so far — video interviews with Ukrainian villagers, photos of newly discovered mass graves, archival documents, and shell casings — is on public display for the first time in a haunting exhibit at Paris' Holocaust Memorial through Nov. 30.

"I'm not here to judge," Desbois, whose Catholic grandfather survived a Nazi

camp, said in an interview with The Associated Press. The people whose stories Desbois records, he stresses, were "children, adolescents. They were poor. They were afraid."



At least 1.5 million Jews were killed in Nazi-occupied Ukraine.

And they stayed afraid for decades after World War II.

Soviet leaders gloried in victory over Hitler but focused on their nation's overall war losses, numbering as many as 27 million — barely mentioning the systematic slayings of Jews. Witnesses to the Holocaust and even survivors were con-

sidered suspect, with many accused of collaboration and sent to Soviet labor camps. Fear of speaking out about the Nazi occupation lingered even after the U.S.S.R. collapsed in 1991.

The destruction of Ukrainian Jewry is symbolized by *Babi Yar*, a ravine outside the capital, Kiev, where the Nazis killed about 34,000 Jews during just two days in September 1941.

For decades, the Soviets maintained silence about what happened in Babi Yar. Only after Russian poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko drew international attention to the massacre with his 1961 poem "*Babi Yar*" did the Soviets put up a monument.

But there were many other killing fields. Desbois' group has covered about a third of Ukraine so far, and the 500 mass graves it has uncovered is quickly approaching previous estimates that put the number in all of Ukraine at 726.

Paul Shapiro, director of the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, predicts Desbois' team will reach a higher total. He calls their work "critical" to humanity's understanding of the Holocaust.

It fulfills a "memorial purpose, a scholarly research purpose, and a public education purpose," he said. The Paris exhibit, the first time Desbois' painstaking, behind-the-scenes work has been made public, serves the third goal.

Desbois "discovered that elderly eyewitnesses who had never been asked about this, when speaking with a priest, opened up. If you are ever going to bare your thoughts, if you are a Christian, you will bare them to a priest," Shapiro said.

Given Ukraine's history of anti-Semitism, from czarist-era pogroms to modern-day vandalism of Jewish sites,

some are reluctant to absolve these Ukrainian witnesses and participants of responsibility in the Holocaust.

Shapiro, however, said: "It is too late to be in a blame game. Our obligation is to understand."

Healing wounds between Jews and Christians has been central to Desbois' career. He heads a group called *Yahad-In Unum* (which combines the Hebrew and Latin words for "together") founded in 2004 by Paris' influential Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger, whose Jewish mother died at Auschwitz, and Rabbi Israel Singer.

Troubled by his grandfather's stories of the *Rava Ruska* camp in western Ukraine, Desbois visited in the 1990s and asked the mayor where the Jews were buried. The mayor said he didn't know.

One year, Desbois returned to find a new mayor — and 110 farmers waiting to lead him to the grassy knoll.

"I was shocked. It was miserable. To see this place, and these old, weary faces," Desbois said.

Since then, Desbois has been on a mission to fill out historical records. Some of his interview subjects have looked out on grave sites from their kitchen windows for decades.

Some even helped dig those pits, or fill them in.

Samuel Arabski, in a video testimony at the Paris exhibit, described a massacre in his village near *Zhytomyr* in central Ukraine in 1941, when he was 14:

"A policeman gave me a shovel. ... When I saw people still moving in the grave, I fell sick. A neighbor pushed me away so I wouldn't fall in the pit. ... Then my mother came, and asked me questions I wasn't able to answer."

(Continued on page 15)

"CHIVALROUS" ROMMEL WANTED TO BRING HOLOCAUST TO MIDDLE EAST

BY TONY PATERSON, THE INDEPENDENT

Erwin Rommel's reputation as one of Nazi Germany's few chivalrous generals has been blackened by a new documentary film which depicts the legendary "*Desert Fox*" as an unscrupulous commander who spearheaded Hitler's attempts to take the Holocaust to the Middle East.

Rommel, the head of the German Afrika Korps, who won fame for his initial successes against the British in North Africa in 1942, was widely respected during and after the Second World War. Churchill once referred to him in parliament as a "great general."

Defeated by General Bernard Montgomery's "*Desert Rats*" at the battle of El Alamein in Egypt the same year, Field Marshal Rommel once claimed that his military campaign against the British was a chivalrous affair and the nearest thing to "war without hate."

However, a new two-part documentary series broadcasted on Germany's ZDF television channel provides evidence that Rommel played a key role in the Nazis' drive to invade Palestine and exterminate the Jews of the Middle East.

The historian Jörg Müllner, who made the film, *Rommel's War*, with co-author Jean-Christoph Caron, dismissed as a

"myth" the notion that Rommel fought a clean war in the desert. "With his victories, he was simply preparing the way for the Nazi extermination machine," he added.

Müllner and Caron's film relies on the work of recent findings by German historians to explain how in the run-up to the Second World War, the Nazis, as part of their long-term aim to export the Holocaust to the Middle East, actively courted Arab nationalists who were determined to drive the Jews from the region.

They reveal how, before embarking on their campaign in the desert, Rommel's Afrika Korps soldiers were schooled with the idea that: "Anyone who fights Jewry can count on the sympathy of the Arab population" and how the greeting "Heil Rommel" became popular in Arab nationalist circles in the Middle East after the general's initial victories.

The documentary shows how, a month after Rommel's defeat of the British at Tobruk in June 1942, the Nazi SS followed Hitler's order to "destroy Jewry in the Arab World" by setting up a special "*Sonderkommando*" extermination unit to follow in the Afrika Korps' wake.

The unit was headed by Walther Rauff, an SS commander notorious for his role in inventing mobile gas chambers. Rauff and his SS men were empowered to carry out "executive measures on the civilian population" — the Nazi euphemism for mass murder and enslavement.

The Nazi attempt to capture the oil fields of the Middle East and exterminate the region's Jewish population were brought



Rommel in action in North Africa where his early victories earned him the nickname, "Desert Fox."

to an abrupt halt by the British 8th Army's defeat of Rommel's Afrika Korps at El Alamein in October 1942.

Rommel was forced to withdraw the remnants of his army to Tunisia, where it sustained a bridgehead until May 1943, enabling Rauff's SS to conduct a well-organized persecution campaign against

the country's Jews.

More than 2,500 Tunisian Jews died in a network of SS slave labor camps before the Germans withdrew. Rauff's men also stole silver, jewels and religious artifacts from the Tunisian Jews. Forty-three kilograms of gold were taken from the Jewish community on the island of Djerba alone.

The gold and jewels were taken by the Germans as they withdrew and were later thrown into the sea off Corsica. Divers are still searching for "Rommel's Treasure."

The documentary makers argue that the role Rommel played in supporting the Nazis' plans to export the Holocaust to the Middle East was largely forgotten after the war because of the field marshal's later alleged involvement in the July 1944 plot to assassinate Hitler. The Nazis responded by arresting Rommel and leaving him the choice of facing trial and certain execution or committing suicide. He chose the latter.

Post-war Germany capitalized on the notion of Rommel as a chivalrous Nazi commander. However, records show that he ordered his non-white prisoners to be fed less than whites, and that he ordered unarmed black prisoners to be needlessly shot during the making of a Nazi propaganda film in 1940. In 1970, the German navy named a destroyer after him.

JEWES OF ISPAS: WHERE THE TRUTH LIES?

BY NATASHA LISOVA, AP

It is a story of courage and kindness during the first tragic days of the Holocaust in Ukraine – the tale of how a village rose up against an anti-Semitic gang of killers to save its Jewish neighbors.

A researcher stumbled on the inspiring story this year. Now, some of Ukraine's Jewish leaders plan to raise a monument, host a delegation of students from Israel, and stage a ceremony honoring this small farming community in western Ukraine.

But 66 years later, there are conflicting accounts of what happened in Ispas during that terrible summer of 1941, when the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union triggered an outbreak of anti-Semitic violence.

Residents and one survivor say the 2,000 villagers risked their lives for the sake of about 100 Jews, an account supported by some leaders of Ukraine's Jewish community and the scholar who uncovered the tale.

But another survivor says there were no heroes in Ispas. And a leading Holocaust expert says that most of the Jews of Ispas were killed by fellow villagers.

At the start of World War II, Ukraine had a history of anti-Semitism, from the pogroms of the czarist era to the silent discrimination of Soviet times. As Nazi troops and their Romanian allies began occupying western territories under Soviet rule, the ancient bigotry boiled over into cases of local residents robbing and killing their Jewish neighbors.

It was an early outburst of the savagery that became the Holocaust.

More than 2,100 Ukrainians have been cited by Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial for rescuing Jews during the Holocaust, but these were mostly individual acts of heroism. The Ispas story – if it could be confirmed – would be a unique case of an entire community in Ukraine defending its Jews.

A leader of Ukraine's Jewish community has led a drive to honor the village,

including celebrations in which Israeli students are expected to participate.

"We are very proud that our village didn't allow bloodshed, didn't allow Jews to be killed," Vasylyna Kulyuk, a frail 80-year-old from Ispas, said in an interview. She described two of her former Jewish classmates – Geyntsya Rozenberg and Rifka Gerstel – with tears in her eyes.

"We were at the same class and we shared bread," she said. "I would like so much at least to exchange letters with those girls. Only let them be alive."

Rozenberg apparently perished during the war. But Rifka Gerstel survived. And she does not recall Ispas fondly.

Gerstel, now 79 and living outside Tel Aviv, told the AP that her neighbors did stop a gang of anti-Semites from killing the village's Jews – but then some villagers turned around and robbed the Jews and drove them out of their homes.

"They came into the house and took everything," Gerstel said in a telephone interview. "We had such a beautiful house. We had a cow. We didn't say anything, because we were afraid for our lives. We knew that the Ukrainians slaughtered all the Jews in one of the villages nearby."

The next day, she said, the villagers marched the Jews away. Gerstel said she spent the rest of the war in a ghetto in central Ukraine. Her father, brother, grandfather and a baby nephew all died. "I suffered, I suffered very much," she said, her voice choking.

Told that Ispas was being honored for the treatment of its Jews, she said: "They don't deserve any monuments or any prizes."

There is no dispute over what happened in most of that area – now western Ukraine – that summer. Thousands of Jews were murdered and their houses looted.

Those still alive were rounded up by Romanian troops and deported eastward to camps and ghettos. Some of them survived the war, but many were executed or died of starvation and disease,

according to Radu Ioanid, director for International Archival Programs at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Israel Minster, another member of Ispas' long lost Jewish community, has a different recollection.

Minster, now 86 and living near Haifa, was staying in a neighboring village at the time of the attack, but other survivors later told him that the ethnic Ukrainians had rallied to the defense of the village Jews.

"In the neighboring village ... they cut everybody into pieces, they killed everyone," Minster said by telephone. "I was told that when they (the thugs) came to Ispas, our village, the elder – I know him, he is a decent (man) – he didn't allow it."

Minster said he was unaware of looting in Ispas, but heard through friends and neighbors that some residents of nearby areas had pillaged Jewish homes. "Not everybody helped: some helped and some looted," he said.

Mykhailo Andryuk, head of the Ispas village council, said residents of his small community did not loot their neighbors' homes. Gerstel's house, he speculated, might have been on the outskirts of the village and attacked by the retreating anti-Semitic gang.

Several Ukrainian villagers who were children in 1941 said they vividly recollect that day.

Tanas Shtefyuk was 15 when he heard that the killers were approaching and hurried home to spread the news. Shtefyuk recalled that his crippled father, Ivan, summoned the village elders.

They made a difficult and dangerous choice, Shtefyuk said, to stand together against the marauders and protect the Jews who lived among them.

Nadiya Vinnytska's father, Volodymyr, was the village priest. He ran from his house to confront the attackers barefoot, Vinnytska said, because he didn't have time to put on his shoes.

"Calm down. I will not allow you to kill Jews," the priest said, according to Vinnytska, now 83. "They are the same

people as us."

Alexei Shtrai, the independent Israeli scholar who uncovered the story, regards Ispas as an inspirational tale. "I believe the fact of saving Jews took place; we just have to prove it," Shtrai said.

The database of victims' names at Israel's Yad Vashem, based mainly on testimony given by survivors and relatives, often years after the event, lists four people as having died in Ispas. Between 17 and 46 villagers perished elsewhere, the records show, suggesting – perhaps – that some Ispas Jews survived the initial pogroms.

Yad Vashem's encyclopedia of Jewish communities of that area, says most of Ispas' Jews were killed by the local population, while the rest were deported eastward.

"The fact that the priest tried (to save the Jews) – I can believe it," says Jean Ancel, a leading scholar on Holocaust in the area who co-edited the encyclopedia.

"But the main question is – were the Jews of Ispas saved or not? The answer is clear and without any doubt: they were murdered by their neighbors, by the local population," he said in an interview.

Scholars say some 1.4 million of Soviet Ukraine's 2.4 million Jews died in Holocaust. Today about 400,000 live in Ukraine. No Jews remain in Ispas, residents say.

Oleksandr Feldman, head of the Kiev-based International Center for Tolerance, has urged President Viktor Yushchenko to honor Ispas for its actions during the Holocaust. The center plans to lay a stone in Ispas to commemorate the event.

Estee Yaari, spokeswoman for Yad Vashem said the story of Ispas needs to be investigated further.

"These are complex issues and events that took place and in the absence of conclusive documentary evidence or conclusive testimonies it is difficult to know exactly what happened," she said.

A NATION'S LOST HOLOCAUST HISTORY...

(Continued from page 7)
from the deportation list.

"This is a shocker to me," Mr. Feiden said. "There's no way to get back what I lost," he said, adding that he was glad to know the new information to "the extent that it proves to me that my father tried even harder."

Also found in Vienna: the lists for 45 deportations, each naming about 1,000 Jews scheduled for transport in 1941 and 1942 to destinations like Auschwitz, Theresienstadt, Lodz and Minsk. Some of these locations were known then as Jewish ghettos. Not as widely known, however, was the fact that after a certain time, they became transfer points to death camps.

Raul Hilberg, author of *The Destruction of the European Jews*, viewed the deportation lists in the archives last year. "The most troublesome question which occurred to me is, who prepared the list?" he asked. "Who picked these names to

begin with? Whenever I asked anyone at all, I got the same answer. The community did not prepare the list. On the other hand, the Gestapo people after the war insisted that they prepared no lists. But someone had to choose the people and look up the addresses."

Vienna's Jewish community numbered as many as 200,000 people before World War II and was at the time the second largest in Europe after Warsaw's. Today, a mere 7,500 Jews live here. A small number went to school here as children; others arrived from Hungary and Czechoslovakia

during the 1950s. Uzbeks and Georgians "trickled" into the country after the fall of the Iron Curtain.

There are Jewish kindergartens, three full-time schools and a home for the elderly. In the Leopoldstadt district, within view of St. Stephen's Cathedral, there are kosher butchers, kosher bakeries and

kosher restaurants. There are also orthodox Jews here: When their children ride their bicycles in the Prater park, their side-locks blow in the wind.

More than 60 years after the Holocaust, Vienna's Jewish community has started to thrive again. Now a new exhibition comprised of the documents found seven years ago in the city's Jewish Museum shows what the community has suffered over the last three centuries.

On display are old documents, photographs, identification papers, visa applications, petitions and public announcements – things that give a flavor of everyday Jewish life in the Austrian capital. The show, which has already attracted considerable attention, may be the best-preserved collection of materials pertaining to Jewish life before the Holocaust.

"Ordnung Muss Sein" ("There Must Be Order") is the show's ambiguous title. The collection features 500,000 pages of documents from the period between 1938 and 1945 alone. That makes the Vienna archive the world's largest Jewish collection of data from the era of National Socialism.

First published in *The New York Times* and *Spiegel Online*

THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE NAZI MASCOT

(Continued from page 6)

victims to the concentration camps, he handed out chocolate bars to tempt them in.

Then, in 1944, with the Nazis facing almost certain defeat, the commander of the SS unit sent him to live with a Latvian family.

Five years later, he managed to reach Australia. For a time, he worked in a circus and eventually became a television repair man in Melbourne.

All the time, he kept his past life to himself, not even telling his Australian wife, Patricia.

"When I left Europe I said 'forget about your past. You are going to a new country and a new life. Switch off and don't even think about it.'"

"I managed to do it. I told people I lost my parents in the war, but I didn't go into detail. I kept the secret and never told anyone."

It was not until 1997 that he finally told his family, and along with his son, Mark, set about discovering more about his past life.

After visiting the village where he was born, they found out his real name was Ilya Galperin, and even uncovered a film in a Latvian archive of Alex in full SS regalia.



The documents presented in the exhibition include identity documents, visa applications, petitions and photographs.

HOLOCAUST TRAUMA "AFFECTS DESCENDANTS"

Descendants of Holocaust survivors have higher than average rates of depression, anxiety and trust problems for three generations on, Australian research shows.

A new study from the Queensland University of Technology has highlighted the profound influence the Holocaust had, both on its direct survivors and their relatives, more than 60 years after the World II atrocity.

Through extensive interviews, PhD student Janine Beck, herself a grand-daughter of a survivor, found clear flow on of traumatic experience to later generations.

The children and grandchildren of survivors experienced depression and anxiety at a higher rate than the general population, Ms Beck said.

They also had more difficulty trusting others, which leads to difficulties in relationships.

The researcher said the traumatic after-effects of the Holocaust flowed to subsequent generations through the way survivors interacted with their children.

"Survivors were either over-protective or clingy because they were fearful that something would happen to their children or they were dismissive and pushed their children away in an attempt to prevent any future hurt," Ms Beck said.

The study showed that the most affected survivors – those who spent time in concentration camps or were the sole survivor in their family – had children who were the most affected.

"In addition, survivors from Hungary and Eastern European countries appear to have suffered from higher symptom levels than those from Western European countries," Ms Beck said.

She concluded that three factors – the loss of family, type of Holocaust experience and country of origin – were the best predictors of the psychological health of the survivor and the generations to follow.

The research has implications for many war-torn countries around the world, such as Iraq, where large groups of civilians were being traumatized, Ms Beck said.

"Undoubtedly, survivors and their descendants have been unable to reach their full potential in life," the researcher said.

HOLOCAUST DIARY OF POLISH TEENAGER UNVEILED SIXTY YEARS LATER

BY ARON HELLER, AP

The diary of a 14-year-old Jewish girl, dubbed the "Polish Anne Frank," was unveiled in June by Israel's Holocaust museum more than 60 years after the teenager vividly described the world crumbling around her as she came of age in a Jewish ghetto.

"The rope around us is getting tighter and tighter," Rutka Laskier wrote in 1943, shortly before she was deported to Auschwitz. "I'm turning into an animal waiting to die."

Within a few months, Rutka was dead and, it seemed, her diary lost. But last year, a Polish friend who had saved the notebook finally came forth, exposing a riveting historical document.

"Rutka's Notebook" is both a daily account of the horrors of the Holocaust in Bedzin, Poland, and a scrapbook detailing the life of a teenager in extraordinary circumstances. The 60-page memoir includes innocent adolescent banter, concerns and first loves — combined with a cold analysis of the fate of European Jewry.

"I simply can't believe that one day I will be allowed to leave this house without the yellow star. Or even that this war will end one day. If this happens, I will probably lose my mind from joy," she wrote on Feb. 5, 1943. "The little faith I used to have has been completely shattered. If God existed, He would have certainly not permitted that human beings be thrown alive into furnaces, and the heads of little toddlers be smashed with gun butts or shoved into sacks and gassed to death."

Reports of the gassing of Jews, which were not common knowledge in the West by then, apparently had filtered into the Bedzin ghetto, which was near Auschwitz, Yad Vashem experts said.

The following day, she opened her entry with a heated description of her hatred toward her Nazi tormentors. But then, in an effortless transition, she described her crush on a boy named Janek and the anticipation of a first kiss.

"I think my womanhood has awoken in me. That means, yesterday when I was taking a bath and the water stroked my body, I longed for someone's hands to stroke me," she wrote. "I didn't know what it was, I have never had such sensations until now."

Later that day, she shifted back to her harsh reality, describing how she watched as a Nazi soldier tore a Jewish baby away from his mother and killed him with his bare hands.

The diary chronicles Rutka's life from January to April 1943. She shared it with her friend Stanislaw Sapinska, who she met after Rutka's family moved into a home owned by Sapinska's family, which had been confiscated by the Nazis to be included in the Bedzin ghetto. Sapinska came to inspect the house and the girls — one Jewish, one Christian — formed a deep bond.

When Rutka feared she would not survive, she told her friend about the diary. Sapinska offered to hide it in the basement under the floorboards. After the war, she returned to reclaim it.

"She wanted me to save the diary," Sapinska, now in her 80s, recalls. "She said 'I don't know if I will survive, but I want the diary to live on, so that everyone will know what happened to the Jews.'"

Sapinska stashed the diary in her home library for more than 60 years. She said it was a precious memento and thought it to be too private to share with others. Only at the behest of her young nephew did she agree to hand it over last year.

"He convinced me that it was an important historical artifact," she said in Polish.

In 1943, Rutka was the same age as Anne Frank, the Dutch teenager whose Holocaust diary has become one of the most widely read books in the world. Yad Vashem said Rutka's newly discovered diary was authenticated by experts and Holocaust survivors.

Rutka's father, Yaakov, was the family's only survivor. He died in 1986. But unlike Anne Frank's father, he kept his painful past inside. After the war, he moved to Israel, where he started a new family. His Israeli daughter, Zahava Sherz, said her father never spoke of his other children, and the diary introduced her to the long-lost family she never knew.

"I was struck by this deep connection to Rutka," said Sherz, 57. "I was an only child, and now I suddenly have an older sister. This black hole was suddenly filled, and I immediately fell in love with her."

"I have a feeling that I am writing for the last time," Rutka wrote on Feb. 20, 1943, as Nazi soldiers began gathering Jews outside her home for deportation.

"I wish it would end already! This torment; this is hell. I try to escape from these thoughts of the next day, but they keep haunting me like nagging flies. If only I could say, it's over, you only die once ... but I can't, because despite all these atrocities, I want to live, and wait for the following day."

However, Rutka would write again. Her last entry was dated April 24, 1943, and her last written words were: "I'm very bored. The entire day I'm walking around the room. I have nothing to do."

In August, she and her family were sent to Auschwitz, where she is believed to have been killed upon arrival.



Rutka Laskier, far right, with her family in 1939.

SAVED BY A SAINT IN A TANK

(Continued from page 6)

was proud to be called upon to defend his country.

In March 1943 he left for a year of training in Georgia, then boarded a British ship for Europe. He saw comrades fall to German attacks as they pushed through France and Germany. But nothing had prepared him for Ebensee, the brutal sub-camp of Mauthausen.

"We had never even heard about the concentration camps until a few weeks before the war ended, when I read in the *Stars and Stripes* [the U.S. military newspaper] about one of the camps, maybe Bergen-Belsen, and how the American [soldiers] were running into this."

His reconnaissance unit was patrolling "a beautiful little town" in the Austrian Alps, with roads flanked by forests and lakes. Another unit had spotted the camp, two miles from town up a mountain road. Persinger was dispatched to check it out and report back.

He rolled his tank up to the compound's barbed-wire gates. Inside, thousands of people — dressed in rags, looking more dead than alive — were "milling around like bees," he said.

"We stopped and peered down in

amazement. We couldn't believe what we were seeing." There were "dead bodies scattered here and there, all over the ground." Thousands of inmates surged forward, as thin as skeletons, shivering in filthy, striped pajamas. "Some just wore the tops, some the pants, some had no clothes at all, standing ankle-deep in mud," he recalled.

The German camp commanders had deserted and left elderly Austrian civilians in charge. Persinger emerged from his tank, snatched a rifle from one of the guards, broke it over the turret of his tank and hung it over a lamppost beside the gate.

"It was a spur-of-the-moment kind of thing," he said. "It brought on such a roar; it was pandemonium.... The prisoners surrounded us, dirty, open sores all over them, loaded with lice."

"I'd seen death before, but nothing like that. I remember thinking: If everybody could see this, there wouldn't be nothing like wars anymore. To treat human beings like that ... I couldn't have imagined."

In the crematorium — which had operated around the clock, turning hundreds of corpses each day to ash — they found bodies stacked along a wall, 400 or more,

waiting to be burned.

EXPLAINING THE YEARNING

For Goetz, the reunion with Persinger — arranged through a combination of persistence and luck — was an important step toward closing the circle.

"By finding that person, you construct some element of goodness in that landscape of evil," said Saul Friedlander, chairman of Holocaust studies at UCLA. "So this soldier, he was not the army of liberation, of course. But he symbolizes the good side for those who have experienced the worst. It helps them psychologically to remember the idealized goodness of the liberators. That explains the yearning."

Goetz mentioned to a patient, a World War II veteran, his attempt to track down the mystery soldier. The patient was heading to Austria for a commemoration marking the 60th anniversary of Ebensee's liberation. The speaker was supposed to be a GI who had been present at the liberation. He agreed to pass along Goetz's business card. A few weeks later, the phone rang and Persinger was on the line.

More than 300 people — survivors, most of them now in their 70s, 80s and 90s,

and their children, grandchildren and friends — gathered at the Beverly Hills Hotel to honor the man who, in Goetz's words, "liberated 18,000 people on May 6, 1945."

Persinger insisted that he was "just a soldier, one little peon." The real heroes, he said, were the men and women who persevered, without succumbing to self-pity and rancor, to "get their education, raise their kids, make something out of themselves after coming out with nothing. I have nothing but respect for these people. They're head and shoulders smarter than I ever was."

Still, they rose for a standing ovation when Persinger walked to the lectern, then again at his speech's end.

When the cheering stopped, the dancing began. Dozens of gray-haired men and women crowded the floor, offspring in tow, linking arms and circling around the room in a rousing version of the hora.

The man who "freed our people in their darkest hour" rose above the crowd on the shoulders of the sons and daughters of Holocaust survivors. He was, at that moment, as tall as Sam Goetz had remembered him.

HOLOCAUST CENTER GETS KASZTNER'S ARCHIVE

BY ARON HELLER, AP

Israel's official Holocaust memorial and museum has unveiled the private archives of one of the most contentious Jewish figures from the Holocaust era in an attempt to exonerate the man's tarnished legacy.

Yad Vashem officials said the material released in July should finally put an end to what it said was an unjustified smear campaign against Rudolf (Israel) Kasztner.

Kasztner was hailed by admirers as a Holocaust hero for saving thousands of Jews. But critics reviled him as a collaborator who "sold his soul." In 1957, after a campaign of vilification, he was assassinated by Jewish extremists.

Kasztner, a Zionist leader in Hungary during World War II, headed the Relief and Rescue Committee, a small Jewish group that negotiated with Nazi officials to rescue Hungarian Jews in exchange for money, goods and military equipment.

In June 1944, the "Kasztner Train," with 1,684 Jews on board, departed Budapest for the safety of neutral Switzerland. Kasztner's negotiations also saved 20,000 Hungarian Jews by diverting them to an Austrian labor camp instead of a planned transfer to extermination camps, according to Yad Vashem.

"There was no man in the history of the Holocaust who saved more Jews, and was subjected to more injustice than Israel Kasztner," said Joseph Lapid, chairman of Yad Vashem's board of directors, himself a Holocaust survivor from Hungary.

"This is an opportunity to do justice to a man who was misrepresented and was a victim on a vicious attack that led to his death," he said, calling Kasztner "one of the great heroes of the Holocaust."

But Kasztner's detractors accused him of colluding with the Nazis to spare a col-

lection of his well-connected and wealthy Jewish friends, while hundreds of thousands of others were being shipped to death camps.

Kasztner moved to Israel after the war and became a top official in the ruling Labor Party. In 1954, local writer Malkiel Grunwald issued a self-published pamphlet that accused Kasztner of being a Nazi collaborator.

The Israeli government sued Grunwald for libel on Kasztner's behalf, resulting in a trial that lasted two years and riveted the nation. In its verdict, the court acquitted Grunwald of libel and concluded that Kasztner "sold his soul to the German Satan."

Kasztner insisted all along that his dealings with top Nazi officials, including Kurt Becher, an envoy of SS commander Heinrich Himmler, and Adolf Eichmann, the Gestapo officer who organized the extermination of the Jews, were necessary to save lives.

Kasztner was demonized in the Israeli public. A year after he was killed, Israel's Supreme Court overturned the lower court's ruling in the libel case, clearing his name.

Kasztner's private archives, which were held for research purposes after his death, include three boxes of letters documenting his correspondence with family, Jewish organizations and Nazi officials.

Robert Rozett, director of the Yad Vashem library, said that while Kasztner's public legacy has remained in question, it has long been established among historians that he acted in good faith.

Kasztner himself didn't board his famous train to freedom, instead staying behind and negotiating the further release of Jews, risking his own life.

Rozett said the findings in the archives "support the idea that he was dealing in rescue and not behind-the-scenes deals to sell off Hungarian Jews."

VICTORY OVER HITLER

(Continued from page 4)

euphoric spirit wants Israel's foreign policy to be an entirely ethical one, one that, for example, recognizes the Armenian genocide, in spite of the special relations with Muslim Turkey. He envisions a universal Third Jerusalem Temple to address the suffering of all. The Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial will be connected physically and thematically to an International Court of Justice for crimes against humanity, with judges from all nations. He also adds in Jerusalem, in an internationally sovereign location, a universal Organization Of Religions to promote humanistic values that will exclude all fanatics who fight an enlightened agenda. He would also like to free Judaism

from all that separates it from fully embracing the other. With the lessons of the Holocaust in mind and the many halachic Russian immigrants, he rejects a "Genetic Judaism" for one based on common values and shared destiny. Quite a perspective for an Orthodox Jew!

If Burg's goal was to shock or shake us, he surely succeeds on both accounts, giving us much food for thought from this once *kippah-wearing* paratrooper officer who is deeply concerned for the Jewish state, which is no doubt at the crossroads from within and without.

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

A SON'S "REFUGE"

(Continued from page 4)

are led to delude ourselves to the truth. However, in the deepest recesses of our minds, it was not possible to escape the ultimate tragic truth."

Kalman and some other Jews managed to tear out the iron bars on the windows and jump out while the train was moving — an act that almost certainly saved his life. He and a friend landed in a bed of snow; miraculously they made it to a Polish farmer's house. The farmer fed and clothed the two desperate Jews, asking nothing in return. This was the only kindness Kalman would encounter for a long time. He spent the next two years hiding

in forests, fields, and barns, encountering treacherous Poles and growing ever more hungry, tired, and ill. Near death, he was found lying in a field by another Polish farmer and turned over to the Russians, who had finally defeated the Germans. As his son toiled to write the memoir in his father's voice, Kalman closely monitored the progress of the project. "My father saw the entire manuscript but didn't live long enough to see it in book form," said Leo.

"He would say 'That's exactly the way it happened.' It made him feel good that I was recording — I guess preserving — his life story." *Refuge* was published in 2006; Kalman died in 2001, his wife four years later.

DEATH CAMPS CALL FOR RIGHT TO CHARGE FOR ENTRY TICKET

ROGER BOYES, TIMES ONLINE

Some of the most notorious Nazi concentration camps, now run as museums, could soon demand an entrance fee from visitors to help to finance educational facilities.

The prospect of paying to enter *Dachau*, where SS guards used to issue threats to inmates that they would leave only through the chimneys of the crematorium, has created controversy in Germany as the country considers how best to acknowledge its past.

Pieter Dietz de Loos, president of the International *Dachau Committee*, believes that there is no choice but to charge visitors. He says that the museum cannot meet its obligation to educate the young about the horrors of the Holocaust.

Dachau, in a northern suburb of Munich, is visited by 800,000 people each year but the camp museum can only afford to pay one full-time educational assistant. Money is also running out to support *Dachau* survivors. "In five years, we will be completely broke," Mr Dietz de Loos said.

The idea of an entry ticket to the camps — museum officials at *Buchenwald* and *Ravensbrück* have also given warning of cash shortages — has outraged the Central Board of Jews in Germany. "These are graveyards," a spokesman said. "You do not pay to mourn the dead."

What appears to be the violation of a taboo is actually an argument about historical memory. There is no point, many camp museum directors argue, in preserving the sites of the Holocaust if staff are not present to explain how and why people were killed there.

"Between a third and a half of all requests for guided tours and educational support are having to be turned down," said Günter Morsch, who supervises the memorial sites in *Sachsenhausen*, *Ravensbrück* and *Brandenburg*.

Former concentration camps in Germany are funded by both the federal and regional governments, but the money, directors insisted, just about covered operating costs.

Auschwitz, the biggest Nazi concentration camp, in southern Poland, receives more generous subsidies and has gained the support of Ron Lauder, the American philanthropist, to help to restore the splintering wooden barrack rooms of *Auschwitz-Birkenau*.

Of all the camps in Germany, *Dachau* usually stirs the deepest emotions among visitors. It was the first to be opened by the Nazis, in 1933, and was one of the last to be liberated. Most of the living quarters have been razed but one barrack room has row upon row of tiny beds.

The crematorium building, with stone ovens, stands outside the main museum building. *Dachau* was the scene of grisly medical experiments — inmates were forced to drink gallons of saltwater infected with malaria, or were dipped into frozen water tanks.

The issue is complicated by the competition among the former Nazi camps for funding against East German sites that commemorate the victims of Stalinism. Christian Democrats, including Bernd Neumann, who is in charge of cultural affairs in Angela Merkel's Chancellery, are arguing that Nazi and Communist sites should be managed along the same principles because all involved were "victims of political dictatorship."

The Central Board of Jews said that this terminology was blurring the historical record, equating Stalinist crimes with those of the Nazis and diminishing the Holocaust. Only free access to the old Nazi camps could keep the German memory straight, they argued, and money for teaching would have to be found elsewhere, not by the sale of tickets.

FRENCH PRIEST UNCOVERS LONG-BURIED HORRORS OF HOLOCAUST IN UKRAINE

(Continued from page 12)

A few of those bodies stirring beneath the dirt managed to survive. Executioners were generally allowed one bullet per victim, but sometimes only managed to wound, not kill, Desbois said. Witnesses to numerous massacres told him of "stirring" graves and of victims who escaped only to be executed in a later massacre.

Nina Lisitsina was one of the survivors. At 5 years old, in 1944, she was rounded up near Simferopol in Crimea and forced along with other victims to strip off all her clothes to get ready for an execution.

"I remember a woman next to me, a child in her arms. I lost consciousness, and couldn't hear the shots. Apparently, they weren't bothering to finish everyone off.

"When I regained consciousness, it was nighttime. I grabbed on to roots of a tree to get out of the ravine. I don't know how I managed."

Her story, too, is part of the Paris exhibit. Desbois cross-checks every statement with Soviet archives at the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington and German records. He registers an event or

site only after obtaining three independent witness accounts.

Many executions were never recorded, including those of Jewish women who acted as servants and sex slaves for Nazi officers, and those of children who were shot after failed attempts to gas them to death in trucks — an experimental precursor to the gas chambers, Desbois said.

Holocaust scholars say at least 1.5 million of Soviet Ukraine's 2.7 million Jews were killed during World War II, and in later years Soviet anti-Semitism drove more away. Today, Ukraine officially has

about 100,000 Jews, though the real number is believed to be about 500,000 of its 52 million people.

Yahad in-Unum's researchers rely heavily on family members of victims or survivors. At the Paris exhibit, which is displayed entirely in English and French, a sign near the exit asks anyone with information about someone killed by Nazis in Ukraine to leave a note in an adjacent box or to send an e-mail.

"I want to return dignity to the families," he said. "Every story helps us."

First published in the *International Herald Tribune*.



Bullets found in Khativ, Ukraine, are on display at Paris' Holocaust Memorial.

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

דָּבַר תְּדַגְּלוּ

TRIBUTE CHAIRMEN

Adam Bronfman

**Elinor & Norman Belfer
Irma & Norman Braman
Cindy Bronfman
Rhoda & David T. Chase
Jean & Eugen Gluck**

Shelly-Faye Adelson
Zachary Adelson
Renata & Murray Alon
Dr. Yitzhak Arad
Etta & Ulo Barad
Dorothy Berman
Halina Bitensky
Dr. & Mrs. Mark Blum
Al Bukiet
Rose Bukiet
Sandi & Andrew Farkas

Dahlia Aronson
Eric Aronson
Harriet Becker
Renée & Robert Belfer
Nancy Beren & Dr. Larry Jefferson
Rosalie & Tobias Berman
Abe Besser
Susan E. Best
Judy & Phillip Bloom
Judith & Dr. Kenneth Burnstein
Jane & Alan Cornell
Jeffrey M. Diamond
Batsheva & Joseph Eden
Rena & Lewis Fagen
Lynn & Erwin Fisch
Shirley Gitenstein
Angie & Moritz Goldfeier

Eli Zborowski

**Dr. Daniel S. Berman
Jill Goodman & Melvin Bukiet
Barbara & Dr. Bruce Dobkin
Rella & Dr. Charles Feldman**

Debbie & Richard Born
Fred Distenfeld
Susan & Ed Falk
Chaya & Howard Friedman
Doree & Charles Greenberg
Cheryl & Mark Grunwald

Elly Krakowski

Esther Born
Rita Distenfeld
Anna Erlich
Doris Gross

Gail & Larry Altman
Barbara & Harvey Arfa
Chaya & Jimmy Aviram
Elaine & Robert Baum
Lauren Belfer
Michelle & Benjamin Belfer
Jill & Bill Benjamin
Dr. Debbie & Sheldon Bootin
Nanette & Dr. Arthur Brenner
Gail & Bruce Bukiet
Karen & Michael Bukiet
Adina & Lawrence Burian
Judi & Kenneth Burnstein

**Gladys & Sam Halpern
Caroline & Darren Karger
Irit & Jonathan Kohlber
Ronald Lauder
Luise & Stuart Levine**

Hannah & Bruce Goldman
Fanya Gottesfeld Heller
Adina & Marcos D. Katz
Eleanor & Herbert Katz
Danielle & Harry Karten
Jocelyn & Gregory Klar
Israel Krakowski
Connie & Harvey Krueger
Barry Levine
Yasmin & Oren Lukatzlris
Iris & Shalom Maidenbaum

TRIBUTE COMMITTEE

Betty & Isaac Goodfriend
Bila & Ernst Hacker
Maria Herskovic
Judy & Allen Hymowitz
Henriette & Gustave Jacobs
Sophie Kalina
Caroline & Daniel J. Katz
Frieda & Walter Katz
Sima Katz
Jan & John Kornreich
Wendy & Peter Lewis
Elsie Levy
Ardith & Charles Mederrick
Mindyleah & Sam Pollak
Lillian R. Rozmaryn
Arlene & Jerry Sanders
Jean & Ben Schreiber
Marion & Hans Seidemann

DINNER CHAIRMEN

Dr. Miriam Adelson

DINNER CO-CHAIRMEN

**Dr. Dalia Kalai-Gishon & Dr. Gadi Gishon
Jan & Andrew Groveman
Caroline & Morris Massel
Michael S. Miller**

Batsheva & Murray Halpern
Cheryl & Fred Halpern
Lieba & Jack Halpern
Deedee & Mark Honigsfeld
Andrea & Harry Krakowski
Lee & Murray Kushner

Stella Skura

Bernice Cohen
Sherrye & David Dantzker
Talya & Shmuel Davidovich
Cheri Deshe
Jennifer Drukier
Edith Druyan
Sarah Eisner
Trudy & Sol Englander
Rochelle & Maks Etingin
Allan Fried
Charles Fried
Roselyn & Dr. Mark Friedman
Sharon & Dr. Jeffrey Frieling

Ira Drukier

**Beatrice Mosberg
Sivan Ochshorn
Myrna & Mark Palmer
Marta & Ruben Schron
Marvin Zborowski**

Paula & William Mandell
Diana & Simone Mundlak
Joyce & Lee Neibart
Nechama & Mordy Schron
Evelyn Singer
Rita Spiegel
Dr. Axel Stawski
Rosa Strygler
Oren Wilf
Dr. & Mrs. Steven Winters

Gilda & Fred Slifka
Pola & Charles Sporer
Lillian & Milton Steinberg
Sam Stern
Henry Tenenbaum
Edith & Rudolph Tessler
Michele Cohn Tocci
Devora & Rabbi Mark Urkowitz
Olga & Herman Wachtenheim
Regina & David Weinberg
Bernice & David Weiss
Zehava & Steven Wolosky
Henry Wrobel
Julie & Scott Zelnick
Marjorie & Aaron Ziegelman

DINNER COMMITTEE CHAIRWOMEN

Gladys Halpern

Eva Halpern
Sharon Halpern
Selma Gruder Horowitz

DINNER COMMITTEE (in formation)

Gloria & Yoram Golan
Rachel Goldstein
Susan & Richard Goodstadt
Tziporah & Dr. Jack Gruber
Michelle & Yossi Hadad
Abbi & Jeremy Halpern
Dan Hoffman
Margalith Hoffman
Amy & John Jacobsson
Judy & Ruben Josephs
Ruth & Steven Katz
Rachel & Mark Klein
Robin & Stuart Koenig

Robert Abrams
Sara & Leonard Aronson
Tsipi and Zigi Ben-Haim
Cesia & Frank Blaichman
Lilly & Sam Bloch
Tzipy and Lawrence Bookman
Toni & Victor Chaltiel
Frances & Murray Chernick
Joseph Distenfeld
Helene & Glenn Dorfman
Zenita Erner
George Farbstein
Pamela & Barry Fingerhut
Sandra & Steven Finkelman
Suellen & Gordon Freeman
Ari Ganger
Ayala & Almog Geva
Pepa & Meyer Gold
Hala & Majer Goldstein
Rachel & Barnard J. Gottstein

Hon. Julius Berman

**Dr. Yitzhak Arad
H.E. Sallai Meridor
H.E. Amb. Dan Gillerman**

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton
Gov. Jon Corzine
Sen. Christopher J. Dodd

Leonard Wilf

Cheryl Lifshitz

**Marilyn & Jack A. Belz
Roberta & Irwin Chafetz
Joan & Theodore Cutler
Gale Drukier
Richard M. Joel
Dr. Lily & Avner Naveh**

Leslie & Michael Adler
Rebecca & Michael Altman
Harriet Becker
Susan & Jack Bender
Berne & James Bookhamer
Drs. Rochelle & Robert Cherry
Merry & Seymour Cohen
Renée & Lester Crown

TRIBUTE CO-CHAIRMEN

Hadassah Gradowski
Ruth & Alexander Hart
Kim & Gary Heiman
Martin Heinfliing
Meredith Heller
Pnina & Anatol Hiller
Susan & Arnold Holtzman
Genia Horn
Doris & Simon Konover
Cecile & Roman Kriegstein
Beth & Jonathan Kaye
Noreen & Norbert Lempert
Chris & Miles Lerman
Laya & Herb Leshkowitz
Vladka Meed
Eva & Ben Mellen
Sandi & David Nussbaum
Miriam Oster
Lucy & Murray Pantirer
Sally & Jack Pomeranc

HONORARY CHAIRMEN

Hon. Edgar M. Bronfman

**Hon. Joseph Lapid
H.E. Amb. Arye Mekel
Hon. Avner Shalev**

HONORARY CO-CHAIRMEN

Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg
Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman
Hon. Robert Morgenthau

Dana & Yosi Raucher
Evelyn Reichenhal
Aby & Samantha Rosen
Miriam & Louis Rosenbaum
Nina & Jeffrey Rubinstein
Hedda & Sheldon Rudolf
Alan Silverman
Sara & Moniek Stawski
Jerry & William Ungar
Joy & Benjamin Warren
Naomi Warren
Gloria & Fred Weiss
Judy & Morry Weiss
Millie & Jack Werber
Sara & Leo Wolf
Arielle & Morris Wolfson
Rose Zarucki
Millie & Abraham Zuckerman
Anne & David Zygelman

Hon. Ronald Lauder
Hon. Elie Wiesel
Hon. Joseph Wilf

GENERAL CHAIRMEN

David Halpern

GENERAL CO-CHAIRMEN

Mark Wilf

**Richard M. Joel
Marilyn & Barry Rubenstein
Fela & David Shapell
Sam Skura
Dr. Ingrid Tauber
Audrey & Zygmunt Wilf**

Abraham Foxman
Claire Friedlander
Annette & Barry Goldberg
Elaine & Joel Goldstein
Marilyn & Jack H. Pechter
Karen & Harvey Pollak
Dara & Brian Rubenstein
Seryl & Charles Kushner

**Beth Wilf
Elizabeth Wilf
Ruta & Dr. Felix Zandman
Murry Zborowski
Kay Zeidman**

Phyllis & William Mack
Jean Rubinstein
Rochelle & Henryk Schwarz
Steven Schwarz
Mary & David Solomon
Marcia & Dr. Yaakov Toledano
Mara & Richard Weissmann
Abby & John Winkelreid

Elly Krakowski

Esther Born
Rita Distenfeld
Anna Erlich
Doris Gross

Gail & Larry Altman
Barbara & Harvey Arfa
Chaya & Jimmy Aviram
Elaine & Robert Baum
Lauren Belfer
Michelle & Benjamin Belfer
Jill & Bill Benjamin
Dr. Debbie & Sheldon Bootin
Nanette & Dr. Arthur Brenner
Gail & Bruce Bukiet
Karen & Michael Bukiet
Adina & Lawrence Burian
Judi & Kenneth Burnstein

Stella Skura

Bernice Cohen
Sherrye & David Dantzker
Talya & Shmuel Davidovich
Cheri Deshe
Jennifer Drukier
Edith Druyan
Sarah Eisner
Trudy & Sol Englander
Rochelle & Maks Etingin
Allan Fried
Charles Fried
Roselyn & Dr. Mark Friedman
Sharon & Dr. Jeffrey Frieling

Gladys Halpern

Eva Halpern
Sharon Halpern
Selma Gruder Horowitz

DINNER COMMITTEE (in formation)

Gloria & Yoram Golan
Rachel Goldstein
Susan & Richard Goodstadt
Tziporah & Dr. Jack Gruber
Michelle & Yossi Hadad
Abbi & Jeremy Halpern
Dan Hoffman
Margalith Hoffman
Amy & John Jacobsson
Judy & Ruben Josephs
Ruth & Steven Katz
Rachel & Mark Klein
Robin & Stuart Koenig

Robert Abrams
Sara & Leonard Aronson
Tsipi and Zigi Ben-Haim
Cesia & Frank Blaichman
Lilly & Sam Bloch
Tzipy and Lawrence Bookman
Toni & Victor Chaltiel
Frances & Murray Chernick
Joseph Distenfeld
Helene & Glenn Dorfman
Zenita Erner
George Farbstein
Pamela & Barry Fingerhut
Sandra & Steven Finkelman
Suellen & Gordon Freeman
Ari Ganger
Ayala & Almog Geva
Pepa & Meyer Gold
Hala & Majer Goldstein
Rachel & Barnard J. Gottstein

Hon. Julius Berman

**Dr. Yitzhak Arad
H.E. Sallai Meridor
H.E. Amb. Dan Gillerman**

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton
Gov. Jon Corzine
Sen. Christopher J. Dodd

Leonard Wilf

Cheryl Lifshitz

**Marilyn & Jack A. Belz
Roberta & Irwin Chafetz
Joan & Theodore Cutler
Gale Drukier
Richard M. Joel
Dr. Lily & Avner Naveh**

Leslie & Michael Adler
Rebecca & Michael Altman
Harriet Becker
Susan & Jack Bender
Berne & James Bookhamer
Drs. Rochelle & Robert Cherry
Merry & Seymour Cohen
Renée & Lester Crown

TRIBUTE CO-CHAIRMEN

Hadassah Gradowski
Ruth & Alexander Hart
Kim & Gary Heiman
Martin Heinfliing
Meredith Heller
Pnina & Anatol Hiller
Susan & Arnold Holtzman
Genia Horn
Doris & Simon Konover
Cecile & Roman Kriegstein
Beth & Jonathan Kaye
Noreen & Norbert Lempert
Chris & Miles Lerman
Laya & Herb Leshkowitz
Vladka Meed
Eva & Ben Mellen
Sandi & David Nussbaum
Miriam Oster
Lucy & Murray Pantirer
Sally & Jack Pomeranc

HONORARY CHAIRMEN

Hon. Edgar M. Bronfman

**Hon. Joseph Lapid
H.E. Amb. Arye Mekel
Hon. Avner Shalev**

HONORARY CO-CHAIRMEN

Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg
Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman
Hon. Robert Morgenthau

Dana & Yosi Raucher
Evelyn Reichenhal
Aby & Samantha Rosen
Miriam & Louis Rosenbaum
Nina & Jeffrey Rubinstein
Hedda & Sheldon Rudolf
Alan Silverman
Sara & Moniek Stawski
Jerry & William Ungar
Joy & Benjamin Warren
Naomi Warren
Gloria & Fred Weiss
Judy & Morry Weiss
Millie & Jack Werber
Sara & Leo Wolf
Arielle & Morris Wolfson
Rose Zarucki
Millie & Abraham Zuckerman
Anne & David Zygelman

Hon. Ronald Lauder
Hon. Elie Wiesel
Hon. Joseph Wilf

GENERAL CHAIRMEN

David Halpern

GENERAL CO-CHAIRMEN

Mark Wilf

**Richard M. Joel
Marilyn & Barry Rubenstein
Fela & David Shapell
Sam Skura
Dr. Ingrid Tauber
Audrey & Zygmunt Wilf**

Abraham Foxman
Claire Friedlander
Annette & Barry Goldberg
Elaine & Joel Goldstein
Marilyn & Jack H. Pechter
Karen & Harvey Pollak
Dara & Brian Rubenstein
Seryl & Charles Kushner

**Beth Wilf
Elizabeth Wilf
Ruta & Dr. Felix Zandman
Murry Zborowski
Kay Zeidman**

Phyllis & William Mack
Jean Rubinstein
Rochelle & Henryk Schwarz
Steven Schwarz
Mary & David Solomon
Marcia & Dr. Yaakov Toledano
Mara & Richard Weissmann
Abby & John Winkelreid

Eli Zborowski, Chairman

Rachelle Grossman, Events Coordinator

Tel. 212-220-4304 / 1-800-310-7495 - Fax 212-220-4308 Email: info@yadvashemusa.org

Martyrdom & Resistance

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

*Published Bimonthly by the
International Society for Yad Vashem, Inc.
500 Fifth Avenue, 42nd Floor New York, NY 10110
(212) 220-4304

EDITORIAL BOARD

**Eli Zborowski
Mark Palmer
Israel Krakowski
Sam Halpern
Norman Belfer**

**Marvin Zborowski
Sam Skura
William Mandell
Isidore Karten**
Joseph Bukiet****

*1974-85, as Newsletter for the American Federation of Jewish Fighters, Camp Inmates, and Nazi Victims
**deceased

International Society for Yad Vashem

MARTYRDOM AND RESISTANCE

500 FIFTH AVENUE, 42nd FLOOR,
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10110-4299

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POST
PAID
NEW YORK, N.Y.
PERMIT NO. 10