HOPE for the Future

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“I THERE IS HOPE FOR THE FUTURE”

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

Honored guests, ladies and gentlemen of da'as, dear colleagues and friends:
I wish first to offer my heartfelt congratulations to this evening’s three distinguished honorees, who are each in their own way the embodiment of this year’s dinner theme — Hope. It is because they believed and hoped that they were able to make this world a better place for all of mankind.

Selma Gruder Horowitz was born in Poland, survived the concentration camp, fled to the forests and was ultimately hidden by a Polish woman who has been designated a Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem. Her story of courage and optimism, against all odds, is truly heroic. We are grateful for her support of the American Society, and proud to have her as a member of our Executive Board.

Fred Zeidman, Chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, is a member of a growing generation of Jews who feel a strong connection to the Holocaust as a pivotal event in Jewish history, even though they do not have family members who were directly affected by this systematic annihilation of the Jewish people. Mr. Zeidman’s commitment to tikkun olam is evidenced by the dozens of organizations to which he gives his time, talents and resources. I am personally grateful to Fred for his expression of warmth and interest in the American Society for Yad Vashem.

General Avner Shalev, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate, has been a close colleague, friend and partner for the past 15 years. It is Avner’s vision, tenacity and creativity that has enabled Yad Vashem to become the Global Guardian of Holocaust Remembrance. It is not surprising that his contribution to Holocaust awareness has been acknowledged by a Legion of Honor presented by French President Nicolas Sarkozy, and that he accepted Spain’s Prince of Asturias Award for Concert on behalf of Yad Vashem. It has been a privilege for the American Society to participate with Avner in bringing his foresight to fruition.

The concept of Hope comes to us from the prophet Jeremiah, who said, “There is hope for the future.”

Today to the date we observe the 70th Anniversary of the Kristallnacht and we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the State of Israel. We recall that, since November 9th, 1938, the infamous Kristallnacht, we experienced increased discrimination, systematic dehumanization, ghettos, starvation and deportations to concentration and death camps.

A very few of us survived, to be witness to the tragedy, coined as the Holocaust.

When the liberation came, we could not return to our hometowns, to our communities. They simply did not exist! We became Displaced Persons, many of us still housed in the camps that once were our prisons, or in temporary makeshift communities. Yet, we made the effort to refocus our lives and move on. Now, seven decades later, not only have we established ourselves and become productive members of our communities and their institutions, but we are in the forefront in the support of the State of Israel.

Today’s Tribute Dinner is honoring a survivor, a witness of the tragedy and the two Chairmen, heads of the two great institutions working successfully for Remembrance. The teachings of these two great institutions and their activities for Remembrance give us HOPE for NEVER AGAIN.

The presence of a large number of young people in this Tribute Dinner and their active role in our activities is HOPE for a better future, HOPE for continuing teaching the lesson of our tragedy.

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“The Very World Rests on the Breath of a Child in School”

MARGARET SPELLINGS, U.S. Secretary of Education

As the U.S. Secretary of Education, It’s a pleasure for me to honor three champions of education: survivor Selma Gruder Horowitz, Avner Shalev, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate, and Fred Zeidman, Chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council.

The Talmud says that “the very world rests on the breath of a child in school.” No one lives by this saying more than tonight’s honorees.

I’ve known Fred for a long time, so I’d like to talk about him first. Fred has never been one for ceremonial assignments. Instead, he seeks out the most challenging and interesting work, where he can make a real difference. That’s why, in leading the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Fred not only commemorates the past, he also serves as a voice of conscience for today.

What that means is that, when you visit the museum, you learn about the tragedies of the Holocaust as well as the genocide that’s taking place now in Darfur.

I know that Fred and all associated with the museum are proud that 28 million people have visited the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum since it opened. I know he’s equally proud that a majority of these visitors are not of Jewish descent. Because intolerance, hatred, and fear are everybody’s problems.

Today, we mark the 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht and the beginning of the Holocaust. We know that these events may seem long past, but the tensions that created them are ever-present.

Fred understand this as well as survivors like Selma Gruder Horowitz. After surviving Kristallnacht, Selma came to the U.S. and founded a highly successful company.

Today, she serves as President of East Coast Industrial Uniform, a board member of the American Society for Yad Vashem, a trustee of Yad Vashem Jerusalem, and a strong supporter of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

When we hear the story of survivors, we are powerfully aware of our moral responsibility to challenge prejudice and intolerance.

That’s why the work of Avner Shalev is so critical. Thanks to Avner, the individual stories of more than three million Holocaust victims are now available online, so that anyone anywhere can hear them.

Under his leadership, Yad Vashem has embraced new technologies to make sure the world’s most comprehensive collection of Holocaust material is also the world’s most accessible.

He has established an International School for Holocaust Studies, a new museum complex, and a new library to house more than 68 million pages of documentation, plus hundreds of thousands of books and photographs.

The more I learn about Avner Shalev, the more I see why he and Fred have been such close partners. Between their two organizations, Fred and Avner have helped provide training for nearly 200,000 teachers. Think of the multiplier effect that will have. Over the course of their careers, those teachers will impact millions of students. I could not imagine a more hopeful way to illustrate tonight’s theme of “Tikvah” (hope).

I want to thank all of tonight’s honorees for all that they do to create a more hopeful future. I thank them for teaching young generations the values of decency and tolerance. Their wisdom gives us hope for what we can achieve. And I know they and their children, and all of us, will continue this work long into the future.
ANNE FRANK MUSEUM RESTORES PHOTO COLLAGE

The Anne Frank House museum said it has restored 52 photographs and images of the Jewish teenager pasted on the wall of her room to cheer herself up while hiding from the Nazis.

The water-stained collage of celebrities such as Greta Garbo and the Lane Sisters, that Anne Frank created shortly after her family went into hiding have been seen by millions of visitors, offering them another view into the mind of the girl best known for her posthumously published diary.

“Our little room looked very bare at first with nothing on the walls,” Anne wrote in an entry on July 11, 1942.

“But thanks to Daddy, who had brought my picture postcards and film-star collection... I have transformed the walls into one gigantic picture. This makes it look much more cheerful.”

One photo, of Olympic skater and Hollywood star Sonja Henie, had been out of place since an earlier renovation in the 1970s and has now returned to its original spot, said museum spokeswoman Anneke Beker.

An investigation of the pictures found that most were movie stars cut out from the Dutch newspapers of the day, but 12,500 of them are lost.

Other images include postcards of celebrities of the day, such as a New York Times editor and Alice Roosevelt Longworth.

The pictures, well over 60 years old, have been undergoing restoration for a decade. They were removed in October 2007 when the wallpaper was being taken down to be reinforced, and facsimiles hung in their place until August.

They are now protected behind climate-controlled glass that Beker said would guarantee their preservation for decades. The Frank family hid in a cramped secret annex above an Amsterdam canal-side warehouse from July 1942 until they were betrayed in August 1944.

Anne died of typhus in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp a few weeks before it was liberated in the spring of 1945.

The decision by the conference’s board of directors at its annual meeting in July brings the overall allocation for next year to $193 million.

“Increasing Claims Conference allocations is essential to addressing the growing number of claims at the moment,” said Julius Berman, the conference chairman. “These funds are for home care, hunger relief, medical care, winter supplies, emergency cash grants and other vital services to Nazi victims worldwide.”

The funds mostly represent the proceeds from the sale of unclaimed Jewish property in the former East Germany. The conference also will fund $15 million in Holocaust education and remembrance projects.

GERMANY MAKES LIST OF NAZI-ERA JEWISH ARTWORK

Germany has compiled a list of some 600,000 Jews who lived there from 1933 to 1945 and suffered discrimination by the Nazis, an index that is to be distributed among leading archives to help descendants research the fate of their family members.

The government gave the list to Israel’s Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial, Washington’s Holocaust Museum, the Jewish Claims Conference and the International Tracing Service in Bad Arolsen, Germany.

Germany’s federal archive drew up the list, which the government and a foundation that oversees the compensation of Nazi-era slave laborers financed to the tune of $2.24 million.

“In handing over this list, we want to make a substantial contribution to documenting the loss that German Jewish suffered through persecution, expulsion and destruction,” foundation leader Guenter Schabowsky said in a statement coinciding with a handing-over ceremony at the chancellery.

The government said it created the list to help researchers discover which Jewish art treasures, forcing them to sell them. Licensing the Holocaust Jewish property throughout eastern Europe was an act of protest to attract public attention.

Tens of thousands of Iranians attended the recent parade, waving placards and chanting “Death to Israel.”

A 91-year-old convicted German war criminal held up a Belgian pharmacy shop with a toy gun.

The defendant had been convicted in 1968 of murdering six Jews in Eupen, Belgium.

He departed with no booty.

At an opening ceremony, Minister of Culture Bernd Neumann said “for fair and just” solutions in returning the stolen art by Nazis.

“More than 60 years after the war’s end, Germany is unrestrained in its moral responsibility for the restitution of art looted by the Nazis,” he said.

YAD VASHEM TO STIMULATE BELARUSIAN RESEARCH

Yad Vashem wants to stimulate Holocaust research work in Belarus, the country’s Israeli ambassador said.

“Time is passing,” Ze’ev Ben Arie said. “It’s critical to do the work for immortalization of the names as soon as possible. If we will not do something now, we will never do it.”

Belarusian volunteers have compiled the names of some 30,000 Jews that perished in the Holocaust in the country.

About 100 volunteers work in 16 areas of Belarus to find the names of victims using archives, and with the assistance of museums and schools. The project began in Belarus in 2006.

Approximately 200,000 Jews perished in Belarus during World War II. Some 200 ghettos were located there.

“...we have managed to restore only a small part of the names of people that perished in Belarus,” said Avner Shalev, director of the Yad Vashem Institute, at a meeting with volunteers in Minsk. “We want to find out new names.”

HITLER DOLLS FOR SALE IN UKRAINE

An Adolf Hitler doll has hit the shelves in Ukraine recently, and the toy manufacturer that produces it says that similar products may follow, should the new doll prove to be a success.

The box containing the doll features Hitler’s birth date and date of death. Even though officially the distribution of racist or fascist materials is illegal in Ukraine, the dolls have reportedly been already put up for sale in local lifts.

A representative for the toy manufacturer did not attribute any political significance to the doll, saying it’s “like Barbie.” She added that if the company sees high demand for the Hitler doll, it will continue to produce a whole series of toys inspired by the Third Reich.

IRAN LAUNCHES BOOK MOCKING HOLOCAUST VICTIMS

Iran’s education minister looked on as a group of militant students unveiled a book ridiculing Holocaust victims during an anti-Israeli rally in central Tehran.

The book’s cover depicted a Jew with a hooked nose, dressed in traditional clothing, drawing the outlines of dead bodies on the ground.

The book comes two years after an Iranian newspaper commissioned a competition of Holocaust-themed cartoons.

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At an opening ceremony, Minister of Education Alaeddin Arasteh said that “Our little room looked very bare at first with nothing on the walls," Anne wrote in an entry on July 11, 1942.

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The defendant had been convicted in 1968 of murdering six Jews in Eupen, Belgium, during World War II and was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1992 and was then freed on grounds of age.

He has now been indicted in Recklinghausen, Germany, for extradition to Belgium for the purpose of robbery in Eupen, Belgium.

The court heard how he had taken a train from Recklinghausen to Eupen in March 2007, walked into a pharmacy and pointed the knife-like toy gun at the pharmacist, 49, saying, “Give me all your money. This is no joke.”
Lithuania drowns probe of ex-partisan

Ruthlessly thorough in its pursuit of the perpetrator, the report by the prosecutor general noted that the investigation was based on written testimonies of witnesses, held by the Lithuanian state since 1940, and on the fact that in the Lithuanian territory, the execution of hostages was carried out in a number of cases. The report also highlighted the role of the Lithuanian police in the commission of these crimes.

In conclusion, the report noted that the investigation had revealed a number of facts that had been previously unknown. It called for the identification and apprehension of the perpetrators, and for the prosecution of anyone involved in the commission of these crimes. The report also called for the preservation of the evidence and the protection of the witnesses.

It is hoped that this report will help to bring justice to the victims of these crimes, and to prevent such crimes from being repeated in the future.
Every Day Lasts a Year: A Jewish Family's Correspondence from Poland

REVIEWED BY RABBI ISRAEL ZOBERMAN

Aharon Appelfeld's flowing wellspring of stored creativity on the Shoah continues to both enchant and alert us. Declined. “Only the Jews stood at Mt. Krarouw” writes in an early section of the book entitled “Joseph,” he “may have been prompted by what he was exposed to his spiritual nation trip to Western Europe in 1939. The journey probably provided Joseph with an ominous glimpse of the future of European Jewry . . . by the spring of 1939, there was nothing subtle about anti-Semitism in Germany; it was ugly and ubiquitous.” His mother, sisters, in-laws, and nieces did not leave. The adults felt that the Germans would be no worse to them than they were in World War I . . . but as we all know, such would not be the case.

But, the time Joseph, his wife, and a young man with their charge, landed in America—by way of luck—Kraców was long overrun by the Nazis. Thus while Joseph was fighting for his, his wife’s, and their charge’s right to stay in America—there came a body of alienated aliens—he found himself concomitantly light evoking and emigration of his family in Kracow.

Moreover, even after the battle, he was forced to stay in kraowan in a place that took a good while—he never stopped fighting for them. He sent them food—anything they asked for. His most touching with people they asked him to find. (Friends in Kraow often begged that favor of the Hollander family). Joseph tried to collect moneys owed his family to somehow help them. Joseph actually arranged for them to receive Nicaraguan papers. Perhaps that would help them emigrate. But the papers didn’t work, you needed citizenship papers “validated by the German consulate.”

In the meanwhile, the letters that are the heart of this book, reveal how very grateful his family in Kraow was for everything he did for them, even sending them letters. They bring hope at a time when “every day lasts a year.”—words written by Berta, Joseph’s mother, May 26, 1941. They thank him profusely for the food he sends, particularly after 1941. They are forever wishing him well. They have thought, “Why tell him?” Joseph was already doing all he could, and they sincerely believed that somehow he would save them.

In the end, however, in late 1941, the letters to Joseph stopped. On March 15, 1943, Joseph enlisted in the army. This made him a citizen and it also took him to Europe. There, he believed, he would finally find out what had happened to his family. He went looking. He went asking. He got some answers as to what had happened to them . . . but the answers were all tragic ones. In sum, none of his family survived. . . . only he. And he survived only because of his one exceptionally wise decision to leave Kraow when he did, and the luck that brought him to America . . .


Between My Father and the Old Fool: A Holocaust Memoir. By Maier Cahan. Adapted into English by Yosef Neumark. Maier Cahan presents his father’s story; the struggle continues through the generations. The Holocaust wasn’t simply an event back then, a piece of history, an event back then, a piece of history, a piece of history. The title “Between My Father and the Old Fool,” who is telling the story?

Don’t the title read, “Between Me and the Old Fool?” In the book, a child of Maier Cahan presents his father’s story, the struggle continues through the generations. The book’s title is “Between My Father and the Old Fool.” A Taut title, “Between My Father and the Old Fool” who is telling the story? Shouldn’t the title read, “Between Me and the Old Fool?” In the book, a child of Maier Cahan presents his father’s story, the struggle continues through the generations. The Holocaust wasn’t simply an event back then, a piece of history, a piece of history, a piece of history.

T h e l i s t of the doc-
By Dr. Rafael Medoff

E very year, on the eve of Rosh Hashanah, American political leaders, candidates for office, and other VIPs routinely send the Jewish community their wishes for a happy new year. Under ordinary circumstances, such greetings are welcomed in the spirit of friendliness in which they are offered. But not on Rosh Hashanah in 1944. That year, while Jews around the country dipped their apples in honey to symbolize their hopes for a sweet new year, the American public received a vivid reminder that for the Jews, the New Year was a time of mourning.

The site, which is the size of four football fields, in November/December 2008 - Cheshvan/Kislev 5769   MARTYRDOM & RESISTANCE                         Page 5

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The family was moved again, this time to Buchenwald, where Herman, his mother, three brothers, uncle, aunt and four cousins, shared a single room. While working papers, including Rosenblat and his brothers. In the other, everyone else, including the boys’ mother. Rosenblat went over to his mother. “I want to be with you,” he cried. She spoke harshly to him and one of his brothers pulled him away. His heart was broken. “I was destroyed,” Rosenblat remembered. It was the last time he would ever see her.

In Schleben, Germany, that Rosenblat and the girl he later called his angel would meet. Roma Radziki worked on a nearby farm and the boy caught her eye. Eventually, the ghetto was dissolved. As the Poles were ushered out, two lines formed. In one, those with working papers, including Rosenblat and his brothers. In the other, everyone else, including the boys’ mother. Rosenblat went over to his mother. “I want to be with you,” he cried. She spoke harshly to him and one of his brothers pulled him away. His heart was broken. “I was destroyed,” Rosenblat remembered. It was the last time he would ever see her.

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**THE RESPONSIBILITY TO EDUCATE**

**FRED S. ZEIDMAN, Chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council and recipient of the Yad Vashem Leadership Award**

If it is a privilege to accept this honor on behalf of myself, on behalf of the institution I represent, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and most importantly, on behalf of the sacred cause to which all of us here were so deeply committed. For it is that cause – the cause of remembrance and healing – which is primary. I speak not as an individual, but as an officer in the Israel Defense Forces during the Yom Kippur War. It is a privilege to accept this honor on behalf of myself and the other soldiers, of this generation that has strived to defend our country. Eventually, I came to serve as Assistant to the IDF’s Chief of Staff during the Yom Kippur War.

As the Chief of Staff’s assistant, my duties then involved participating in the secret ceasefire negotiations between Israel and Egypt, west of the Suez Canal, while the Egyptian 3rd Army was encircled by our forces. I joined the Israeli delegation to what was to be a fateful rendezvous. We arrived at the designated site in no-man’s-land, amidst gunfire, whereupon we waited and waited, and then waited, and then waited. There was no sign of the Egyptian delegation led by General Gamassi. Suddenly, he called on his telephone, and I heard the unmistakable voice of our Prime Minister, Golda Meir. Literally shouting at me, she demanded to know why we had not already met our Egyptian counterparts. It turned out that she had President Nixon on another line, and he was quite upset with us for apparently avoiding the start of the ceasefire talks.

Meir. Literally shouting at me, she demanded to know why we had not already met our Egyptian counterparts. It turned out that she had President Nixon on another line, and he was quite upset with us for apparently avoiding the start of the ceasefire talks.

At one of the final talks, we were offered a chance to save the lives of about 300 Egyptians. I joined the Israeli delegation to the Egytian delegation. Suddenly our field phone rang, and I knew it to be a fateful rendezvous. We arrived at the designated site in no-man’s-land, amidst gunfire, whereupon we waited and waited, and then waited, and then waited, and then waited. There was no sign of the Egyptian delegation led by General Gamassi. Suddenly, he called on his telephone, and I heard the unmistakable voice of our Prime Minister, Golda Meir. Literally shouting at me, she demanded to know why we had not already met our Egyptian counterparts. It turned out that she had President Nixon on another line, and he was quite upset with us for apparently avoiding the start of the ceasefire talks.

After I convinced Golda that we had indeed arrived at the right spot and that the Egyptians had not, she conveyed my explana- tion to Nixon and gained his approval for us to meet Gamassi’s delegation that evening. This time behind Israeli lines. Fortunately, the Egyptian delegation, led by General Gamassi, was not only reported in all major newspapers in the United States, but it was not only reported in all major newspapers in the United States. It was not only front page news. It dominated the headlines. For a moment, it grabbed the world’s attention, but it was abruptly cut short, as we were not told what had not happened. We might call this a failure of leadership. The Holocaust happened for many reasons. Among them was the failure to learn from the experience of so many people and to act on the knowledge and in the places – in Germany, in Europe, and here in the United States. It is for this reason that the museum in Washington has taken on leadership training as one of its top priorities. Because if we believe in learning from the Holocaust, we must start with our leaders. That’s why we educate students from our military academies, training every FBI agent, work with diplomats from the State Department and will soon teach the chief justices in all 50 states.

As we think about leadership today, we know a new president will soon assume leadership of our nation at a most challenging time. It will face another type of leader such as the president of Iran. And, will we be ready? Because the times are changing, but its lessons are only becoming more timely. And, that is why Yad Vashem and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum are so important. For they were born of the past, but its lessons are only becoming more timely. And, that is why Yad Vashem and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum are so important. Because if we believe in learning from the Holocaust, we must start with our leaders. That’s why we educate students from our military academies, training every FBI agent, work with diplomats from the State Department and will soon teach the chief justices in all 50 states.

The theme of this evening is We look to the past in order to look for- dreams and at all different moments. But why do we look to the past? Not for the sake of relying on the facts or on the mistakes of the past, but to learn from them and move forward. I believe we have only one answer. The answer to the question of whether we will learn from the past, is right here, in this room. We all have the responsibility to educate. This is a privilege to accept this honor on behalf of myself, on behalf of the institution I represent, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and most importantly, on behalf of the sacred cause to which all of us here were so deeply committed. For it is that cause – the cause of remembrance and healing – which is primary. We work together in efforts that range from education, to research, to rescuing the evidence of the Holocaust, to helping other countries confront their past.

Our curators and scholars constantly exchange information and collections. Our two institutions collaborate at the 25-nation international task force on Holocaust education, remembrance, and research to ensure that other countries face their history honestly. We work together with the United Nations on Holocaust edu- cation and remembrance efforts worldwide. If we did not make a difference in all these areas and more, that piercing sound of shattered glass might recede into the night and its lessons, its warnings, will be lost.

Now, as the horrors of war were not only reported in all major newspapers in the United States, it was not only front page news. It dominated the headlines. For a moment, it grabbed the world’s attention, but it was abruptly cut short, as we were not told what had not happened. We might call this a failure of leadership. The Holocaust happened for many reasons. Among them was the failure to learn from the experience of so many people and to act on the knowledge and in the places – in Germany, in Europe, and here in the United States. It is for this reason that the museum in Washington has taken on leadership training as one of its top priorities. Because if we believe in learning from the Holocaust, we must start with our leaders. That’s why we educate students from our military academies, training every FBI agent, work with diplomats from the State Department and will soon teach the chief justices in all 50 states.

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**AMERICAN & INTERNATIONAL SOCIETIES FOR YAD VASHEM**

**ANNUAL TRIBUTE DINNER**

**PREVENT THE ATROCITIES FROM EVER BEFALLING THE JEWISH PEOPLE AGAIN**

**SILMA GRUDER HOROWITZ,**

**Recipient of the Yad Vashem Remembrance Award**

I want to thank Eli Zborowski and the American Society for Yad Vashem for honoring me here tonight. My story of survival is similar to that of many other survivors. I was in a concentra- tion camp, the camp was liqui- dated, I was able to escape and find refuge in the country. My family was fortunate enough to be able to pay a Polish woman who used to work in the kitchen to hide us. We were hidden in a hole dug under the trow in her barn. The only way to get in was by crawling on your elbows for support. Shortly after, the Ukrainians, who hated the Poles almost as much as they hated the Jews, burned the village to the ground and killed as many Poles as they could. We were moved by the Polish under- ground, along with non-Jewish Poles, to another Polish village. In the second village, another Polish woman, an agent of God, hid us until the end of the war. This woman, Maria Patchkowska, has been designated as one of the Righteous Among the Nations.

Although I could go into great detail describing the experiences of my fami- ly and me during the war, doing so would take significantly more time than we have been allotted to me. I might add, none of us would enjoy the evening.

The American Society for Yad Vashem is about looking to the past. But why do we look to the past? Not for the sake of reliving the horrors that we experienced, which we do in our dreams and at all different moments. We look to the past in order to look for- ward. The theme of this evening is hope. Here with me this evening are not only my sisters and my brother — those of my generation who sur- vived with me, but also my nieces, my nephew, and my great-niece and nephews. They are those people who I have dedicat- ed myself in working on behalf of Yad Vashem, and who are the hope of future generations. With this work on a broader level, my hope in being part of the American Society for Yad Vashem is bringing hope to those of future generation. That by keeping the memories alive and by supporting a strong State of Israel, we will be able to prevent the atrocities that so many of us here tonight have seen as taking place from ever befalling the Jewish people again.
Avner Shalev, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate, Selma Gruber Horowitz, recipient of the Yad Vashem Remembrance Award, David Halpern, Dinner Co-Chair, and Eli Zborowski, Chairman of the American & International Societies for Yad Vashem.

Eli Zborowski, Chairman of the American & International Societies for Yad Vashem.

Margaret Spellings, United States Secretary of Education, with Sharon and David Halpern, Dinner Co-Chair.

Members of the Third Generation, including Ofra Biener, Stephanie Lowenthal, Barak Wrobel, Ariel Zborowski, Boaz Zborowski, Kyran and Sivan Ney and friends.
Avner Shalev, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate and recipient of the American Society for Yad Vashem Leadership Award for Remembrance, Joseph Will, Ruth Zaria, granddaughter of Avner Shalev and Eli Zborowski, Chairman of the American & International Societies for Yad Vashem.

Avner Shalev, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate, Jay Zeidman, Kay and Fred Zeidman, recipient of the Yad Vashem Leadership Award for Remembrance, Eli Zborowski, Chairman of the American & International Societies for Yad Vashem, and Ira Mitzner, Dinner Co-Chair.

Marilyn Rubenstein 2008 Dinner General Co-Chair.

Ira Mitzner, Dinner Co-Chair.

Members of the American Society for Yad Vashem Young Leadership Associates (from L to R) – Barry Levine, David Feld, Rebecca Hansen, Caroline and Morris Massel and Lawrence and Adina Burian.

A view of some of the over 800 guests who attended the 2008 Annual Tribute Dinner.

The Skura and Lifshitz families.
entire process except for the killing itself. Upon the arrival and selection at Auschwitz of Wladyslaw Reinharz, the photos show the process of mass murder at Auschwitz-Birkenau. The photos are significant, as they present evidence of the Holocaust, which was systematically documented at the time, even though it was illegal to do so.

Rabbi Lau has served in many rabbinic capacities, including Chief Rabbi of Netanya and Chief Ashkenazi Rabbi of Tel Aviv-Jaffo. In 1993, he was elected Chief Ashkenazi Rabbi of Israel, a position he held until 2003. In 2005, he was re-elected Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv-Jaffo. In 2006, Rabbi Lau was awarded the Israel Prize for Lifetime Achievement and special society and the State of Israel. Rabbi Lau’s autobiography, Do Not Raise Your Hand Against the Boy, published during the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Buchenwald, is available in Farsi, including 20 historical pictures and short chapters with dozens of logical, from the rise of Kristallnacht – the violent outbreak that marked the beginning of the Holocaust – this appointment is especially meaningful to me. My life experiences echo in the walls of Yad Vashem, and are found in Holocaust Remembrance both Jewish and universal values. Rabbi Lau has strong, deep ties to Yad Vashem, and has already recognized as a hero by former U.S. president Dwight D. Eisenhower, Britain and the Netherlands for his role in rescuing Allied pilots who ejected over occupied Holland. But Israel had never acknowledged the 20 Righteous Among the Nations in which Drogt joined the resistance. On September 22, 1943, Drogt received the honor naming him a Righteous Among the Nations in a formal ceremony in Jerusalem at Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes Remembrance Authority. Drogt, who was not Jewish, defected in 1943 with his rifle after receiving orders to escort the remaining prisoners of the Groningen area in northern Holland, where he served in the ranks of the military police. Some of his comrades who also refused the order were arrested, and later honored by Yad Vashem for their actions. Drogt’s name was omitted from the list submitted to the Commission for the Designation of the Righteous Among the Nations, because he had managed to escape. It took another 20 years and the unexpected help of an El Al pilot to complete the picture. The pilot told Naaretz that he met the son, Henk Brink, a few years ago in South Africa. “I thought I’d invite him to see Israel and meet the guys from my squadron, because he’s interested in aviation,” he said. “I also told Yad Vashem about it, but I wasn’t sure they’d name him Righteous among the Nations.” Drogt, 23 at the time of his arrest, was planning to marry his pregnant girlfriend. She gave birth to Brink, the son, on September 22, 1943 – one month after Drogt’s arrest.

“Tell me the story of your experiences during the Holocaust, growing up in Israel and how the memory of the Holocaust and its lessons have influenced him as a rabbi and communal leader.” I am now dedicated to giving what I have learned to others.”

Henk Brink accepts the certificate and medal of honor of Wladyslaw Pancezychn, a Polish Righteous Among the Nations who rescued Jews during the Holocaust, was posthumously honored by Yad Vashem memorial in Jerusalem. The ceremony took place in the Hall of Remembrance, followed by the unveiling of the name of the Righteous in the Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations.

Wladyslaw Pancezychn was born in Lubaczów, Poland, in 1924. In 1941, the Germans captured the area where Wladyslaw was living and the murder of the Jews began. Wladyslaw began to work in any way possible to help the Reinharz family. He would enter the ghetto to give the family money and food, ignoring the danger to his own life. When the ghetto was destroyed, the only surviving members of his wife’s family were her sister Rosa and a brother who was hiding elsewhere. Wladyslaw had been providing food. Helena’s parents and a younger sister were murdered.

Wladyslaw decided to take action to save his sister-in-law, Rosa. He smuggled her into his home and hid her in a hole under the floor. But hiding Rosa placed the Pancezychn family in danger from all sides, not only from the Germans, but also from close family members. Wladyslaw’s sister-in-law, his brother’s wife, sternly objected to her marriage to a Jewish woman, and the family feared that she would inform on them. As the risk to the family increased, Wladyslaw, Helena and their 2-year-old daughter, Irena, moved to Boryslaw. Once there, Wladyslaw placed his daughter in hiding with a colleague from work, while Helena and Rosa hid behind a wall that was built in a storeroom near their home.

One day a fire broke out in the Pancezychn’s kitchen, attracting a great deal of attention and threatening the safety of the women’s hiding place. Feeling that she was endangering her life, Rosa wanted to leave Wladyslaw’s house, but he insisted that she remain. Wladyslaw hid Helena and Rosa for a year and a half, taking care of all their needs during that entire time. Carmella Ben Nathan and Ari Schweitzer of Israel, children of the late survivor Rosa Schweitzer, and Irena Gornick of Poland, daughter of the late Righteous and the late survivor, Helena Reinharz Pancezychn, attended the ceremony.
By Lenny Ben-David

Recently, the Associated Press reported that newly released taped conversations between President Lyndon Johnson’s White House showed LB’s “personal and often emotional connection to Israel.” The news agency quoted out that during the Johnson presidency (1963-1969), “the United States became Israel’s chief diplomatic ally and primary arms supplier.” But the news report does little to reveal the full historical extent of Johnson’s actions on behalf of the Jewish people and the State of Israel. Most students of the Arab-Israeli conflict can identify Johnson as the president during the 1967 war. But few know about LB’s actions to rescue hundreds of endangered Jews during the Holocaust – actions that could have thrown him out of Congress and into jail. Indeed, the title of “Righteous Gentile” is certainly appropriate in the case of this Texas, whose centennial year is being commemorated this year.

Appropriately enough, the annual Jewish Film Festival announced that it will honor Johnson in February 2009.

Historians have revealed that Johnson, while serving in Congress in 1938 and 1939, arranged for visas to be supplied to Jews in Warsaw, and oversaw the appeal of illegal immigration of hundreds of Jews through the port of Galveston, Texas.

For a covering up LB’s pro-Jewish activity is the unpublished 1989 doctoral thesis by University of Texas student, L. Smallwood, LB’s Foreign Affairs Background, 1908-1948.

Johnson was keenly alert to the dangers of lynching as the source of his opposition to segregation, stating, “Johnson often cited Leo Frank’s lynching as the source of his opposition to both anti-Semitism and isolationism. It happened more than 20 years before Chamberlain’s Munich sellout to Hitler – Johnson was keenly alert to the dangers of Nazism and presented a book of essays, Nazism: An Assault on Civilization, to the 21-year-old woman he was courting. Claudia Taylor – later known as “Lady Bird” Johnson. It was an incredibly engage-ment present.

The key reason for uncovering LB’s pro-Jewish activity is the unpublished 1989 doctoral thesis by University of Texas student, Smallwood, LB’s Foreign Affairs Background, 1908-1948.

Johnson said that Yad Vashem computers contain about 500 terabytes of archived documents, pictures, video and voice files. “We are operating an enormous digitation system,” he concludes.

As part of the project, a number of EMC representatives came to the Shoah Foundation,抄 both the collection of the survivors and the materials which were used to get Jews to safety.

The movies currently have no transcripts. Lieber says that Yad Vashem computers contain about 500 terabytes of archived documents, pictures, voice and video files. “We are operating an enormous digitation system,” he concludes.

As part of the project, a number of EMC representatives came to the Shoah Foundation, copying both the collection of the survivors and the materials which were used to get Jews to safety.
A war-camp survivor who had his say.

Ruth Schloss in Woodside, Queens, left, and at age 13 with her parents, who were sent to Auschwitz. The railroads “knew what was going on,” she says.

By James Barron

The story had been told by both sides in both camps. Of 2,166 passengers on one train, for example, 536 died on a three-day trip from Wroclaw, Poland, to Auschwitz in Germany, according to the lawsuit. The railroad countered that it could not prevent for- eign governments from being sued in American courts and to give the force of law to principles that the federal govern- ment and the courts had long followed. The railroad also said it was entitled to immunity under American laws in effect during World War II.

The appeals court to apply it to the railroad case, which was dismissed.

In his initial interviews, Judge Trager of Federal District Court dismissed the case, saying the railroad was an entity of a foreign state and covered by sovereign immunity under the 1976 statute. In 2003, a federal district court judge ruled in decision and sent the case back to the lower court after ruling that the question was whether the State Department of the 1940s would have sanctioned the litigation.

The railroad appealed to the Supreme Court. The High court took the case, but sent it back to the appeals court in 2004 after ruling on another case, one that involved the heir to an Austrian Jewish art collector who was suing the Austrian govern- ment for the return of six Klimt paint- ings that her family had owned before the war. The court said the heir’s suit against Austria and its national museum could proceed. A week after issuing that deci- sion, the Supreme Court instructed the

appeals court to apply it to the railroad case, which was dismissed.

The railroad’s former private masters in know- ingly transporting thousands to death camps during World War II are not sus- ceptible to legal redress in federal court today,” the appeals judges wrote.

The U.S. Senate bill, introduced by Senators Charles E. Schumer and Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York, is tai- lored specifically to the railroad case. The bill says the railroad “should be a proper forum” for the railroad case. A similar bill was introduced in the House. “S.N.C.F. has continued to evade responsibility through minutiae and loop- holes in the law,” said the 2004 decision was dis- missed. Not all of the plaintiffs in either of the New York cases had been railroad pas- sengers themselves. One of them, Mathilde Freund, 92, said her husband, Fritz, had been arrested when he left their hiding place near Lyon. He was impris- oned and taken by train to Compiegne, France, where he was held for several months before he was moved, again by

NAZI HUNTERS TURN HISTORIAN

There were too many who knew the truth.

Mathilde Freund, with her husband, Fritz. Her husband, who had served in the French Army, was killed in the Buchenwald concentra- tion camp in Germany in 1945.

For many Germans, the search for Nazis in their family ends in the small western town of Ludwigsburg.

Hundres of thousands of index cards fill the cellar of the former prison. Each card carries a name and often a list of war-crime prosecutions. A librarian leafs through the indexes, looking for names put forward by callers researching family members they may have never known. For Schrimm, the face of such bewil- dered teenager is as vivid a memory as that of her grandfather, Josef Schwammberger — the “most brutal Nazi” he ever put behind bars.

The Austrian purges, a in a Polish ghetto included shooting 40 children in an orphanage and offering a false amnesty to Jews living underground only to order them stripped and executed.

After paying 500,000 Deutschemarks to an informant, Schrimm traced Schwammberger to Argentina, which extradited him in 1987.

In his initial interview, Trager said, “Schwammberger was one of America’s most celebrated adopted sons.”

While the war, Rudolph had managed a “hell-like” underground factory in Germany where slave workers built the V2 rocket. Rosenbaum says. Prisoners were tortured, killed and, on one occasion, forced to watch a mass hanging of inmates.

After the war. Rudolph and others were hired by the U.S. military and brought to their new home under a secret program called Project Paperclip, formerly known as Operation Overcast.

In German archives, Rosenbaum dis- covered a report signed by Rudolph describing a visit to an aircraft factory forced laborers.

“Part of that is great from the security perspective and recommends they use camp inmates to build the V2.”

Disgraced, Rudolph surrendered his U.S. citizenship and returned to Germany, “In the New Year’s Day, says Rosenbaum. “He spent many years try- ing to rehabilitate his name.”

Bringing war criminals to justice is getting ever tougher but Schrimm reflects criticism from Nazi-hunting institu- tion Simon Wiesenthal Centre that convictions are too low. “The results are bad and they are going to get worse,” he says. “They will have more cause for dis- appointment next year. But that is not a reflection of our competence or willingness. I can’t pull witnesses out of a hat.”

Setting history straigly, he said.

Rudolph’s work. Head of the U.S. Office of Special Investigations, Rosenberg has unmasked Nazis who settled inconspicuously into suburban America, as well as knocking prominent citizens of their past.

When Rosenbaum discovered Arthur Rudolph around 1980, the architect of the Saturn V rocket that put man on the moon was one of America’s most celebrated adopted sons.

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BY WILLIAM J. KOLE, AP

Klarsfeld told French television.

"eyes," renowned Nazi hunter Serge

and dispatching them to their deaths in

hundreds of Jews, Serbs and Gypsies

ing him from justice.

zone" near his home in the southern city of

for questioning, extradition or trial.

tend the retired police chief is mentally unfit

Simon Wiesenthal Center, told The

allowed to live out his days in peace.

"treasured" neighbor who should be

form tinged with anti-

and other groups deemed

just the persecution of

considered items that showed not

postal memorabilia documenting the range

faked British banknotes made by Jewish slave

a parcel wrapper.

in addition to being displayed online, the

collection will be shown to the public,

beginning next year in Skokie, Ill., at the

new headquarters of the Illinois Holocaust

Museum and Education Center, which

will be shown to the public,

a parcel wrapper.

"I wanted to show all the victims and all the

resisters, through their mail," Mr. Lawrence said.

"I tried to include every sort of anti-Nazi

activity, and treat them all heroically, whether

they liked each other or not."

He continued to trail the Klan and neo-

Lawrence agreed to sell him his collection. "I

felt like I had taken the collection as far as I

could. And I’m 65," Mr. Lawrence said.

A well-known stamp auctioneer had advised Mr. Lawrence to keep the collec-

a letter and a post card sent from Ukraine to Austria,

the collection. A fragment of a papyrus scroll from Gnosticism, used by a German soldier
to wrap a parcel for mailing.

A fragment of a papyrus scroll, used by a German soldier

by a German soldier

the country is a safe haven for suspected

war criminals." He acknowledged the impassioned defense of Asner has

only reinforced that impression.

The Freedom Party into Austria’s coalition govern-

ment first took office in 1999 with its leader

form tinged with anti-

and xenophobic undertones, is the gover-
nor of the province of Carinthia where Asner

lives.

“He’s lived peacefully among us for years, and

he should be able to live out

the twilight of his life

without being afraid of

the Gestapo as they have ruled in the

past,” Zuroff said.

Without a new evaluation declaring him

physically and mentally fit, "our hands are

tied," he said.

The Austrians demanded, first

on the grounds that he was an Austrian

citizen. Later, they claimed the statute of

limitations for his alleged crimes had expired.

Austria eventually conceded that Asner

was not an Austrian citizen, which normal-

ly would have opened the way for his

extradition. But in 2006, independent experts
dismissed Asner mentally unfit, and they did so again in April.

Among those challenging that assess-

ment is Gerhard Tuschka, a reporter for

Austrian public broadcaster ORF. Tuschka

said he recently interviewed Asner, who

began living under the name George

Aschner after fleeing Croatia for Austria in

1945, and found him to be "a jovial,

whiskey-drinking old man."

"We suspected from the very beginning

that he might have been faking it—making a

specific effort to appear as unfit as possible," Zuroff said. "That might be easier
to fake than false publicity."

Austrian authorities have angrily denied

they are giving Asner safe haven.

Manfred Hemthofer, a federal court

spokesman in Klagenfurt, said officials are

merely trying to comply with complicated
technicalities and in no way are pro-

tecting a suspected Nazi war criminal."

"Austrian authorities are a traditionalist
country, not Guantnamo. We don’t toss our principles
overboard for political gain," he said.

The affair comes just as Austria takes over

the chairmanship of the Task Force for

International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research – a

25-nation panel dedicated to maintaining the

memory of Nazi atrocities.

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AUSTRIA ACCUSED OF SHIELDING NAZI SUSPECT

van Quis, chief Nazi hunter for the

Simon Wiesenthal Center, told The

The collection has been sold to the Spungen Family

Daniel Spungen, a board member and

director of the collection to attend

and continue to use it for the educational

purposes that inspired Mr. Lawrence, of

Spring Mills, Pa.

Daniel Spungen, a board member and

spokesman for the foundation, said.

recently that his acquisition of the col-

lection represented a “life-changing” experi-

ence for him. He is retiring from his job

with the family’s plastic manufacturer of

ball bearings, and devoting himself to

further development of the collection,

which includes items ranging from

concentration camp inmates, postal documents

illustrating Nazi activities and a Hebrew scripture re-used by a German soldier as

a parcel wrapper.

In addition to being displayed online, the

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"This could only happen in Austria,"

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Art collection to return to its rightful owners

The Jewish Museum in Prague is about to return a modern art collection, long thought to have been used for Nazi propaganda purposes.

In the 1950s, the paintings were transferred into National paintings, where they remained until 2000. Just months before they were to be returned to the Jewish Museum in Prague, however, 13 of the 32 paintings were declared part of the country's national heritage by the Czech Culture Ministry.

That means, among other things, that the 13 paintings in question cannot be sold or even taken out of the country without the ministry's approval. The Director of the Jewish Museum in Prague, Leo Pavlát, believes this was a calculated decision.

"I think it's absolutely unfortunate because I think that once the objects confiscated by the Nazis have their owners, these objects should be given back in any case," he said. "That's why we protested, in a legal way, against the decision. Some of these objects are talking about cultural assets of the Czech Republic. We even sued the Culture Ministry, but so far it seems that so now we cannot change the decision of the Czech justice."
NAZI COLLABORATOR FLED ARREST, LIVING PEACEFULLY IN GERMANY

BY ASSAF UNI HAARETZ

A Lithuanian citizen convicted of collaborating with the Nazis and persecuting Jews during World War II is living peacefully in Germany. As a member of the Nazi-sponsored Lithuanian Security Police, Algimantas Dailide arrested Jews who were trying to escape to the West and settled in Saxony.

The court convicted him of war crimes in a trial that began in 2003, following an investigation and legal proceedings that lasted for more than two years. The Baltic state won independence in 1991, and the Lithuanian Security Police was re-established.

Upon his arrival in Saxony, Dailide, 87, lives with his wife in a modest apartment on the second floor of a house, not far from the old Jewish quarter. His neighbors became familiar with him after liberation, Cahan observed. In the meantime, he returned from work, his friend’s bed was empty. The hour grew late, and Cahan felt as if he would float away.

Suddenly, there was a familiar voice on the phone, saying: “Maier, think about it for a minute. It’s the Old Fool.” All these beloved people to whom you’ve dedicated this Torah scroll, why did you do it? They were too young to be alive, better if they were all alive to share this celebration. But I cheated. I gave the scrolls to the Angel of Death on the road. I’m staying here. Whatever happened, happens. Uncle Shloime went, after tearful farewell. Cahan survived. Shloime did not.

Somehow, after liberation, Cahan dedicated the fate of his relatives, his friends, his collaborators, and it was all the same. Somehow, he located his sister’s old apartment, thoroughly vandalized. Somehow, amid the debris, he found a crumpled photograph, and removed the caked mud and dirt. It showed his sister hugging a small child, and I no longer heard the Old Fool. Life, I decided, was a choice between anger and joy. I chose joy.


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**ANGELA MERKEL:**

“GREAT SUFFERING CAN AWAKEN EVEN GREATER LOVE”

I send greetings to those gathered for the 2008 American and International Societies for Yad Vashem Annual Tribute Dinner. 

The Holocaust is a powerful reminder of what happens when good and decent people ignore acts of evil. Across Europe, millions of people were forced from their homes into concentration camps and many innocent lives were taken by acts of hatred and prejudice. It is impossible for us to make sense of such violence and suffering, yet it is important to remember these atrocity’s honor the courage of the victims, and confront anti-Semitism and intolerance wherever it is found.

I appreciate the American and International Societies for Yad Vashem, this year’s honorees, and all those dedicated to preserving the legacy of witnesses, survivors, and victims of the Holocaust. Your good work demonstrates that great suffering can awaken even greater love and that we must never take freedom for granted.

Laura and I send our best wishes. May God bless you, and may we never forget.

DONALD TUSK:

“TRAGEDY OF HOLOCAUST SHALL BECOME THE ULTIMATE LESSON FOR THE FUTURE”

The date of 9th November is of symbolic yet tragic significance. This day reminds of the disastrous events of the Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass. It marked the beginning of the systematic eradication of Jews, and served as a prelude to the Holocaust that was to follow. In Poland, the memory of the tragedy of the entire Jewish People has remained extraordinarily strong and vivid. The Holocaust atrocity took a heavy toll of three million of our Jewish citizens, and hundreds of shtetls disappeared from the map of Poland forever. Those people, who had been creating and enriching Polish culture for centuries, were bestially murdered.

However, this year we also celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel. The country, created and built by those who survived, is a strong and stable state today. The fact that today, sixty years after the founding of the State of Israel, the ties between Germany and Israel are closer than ever before is to me a cause of joy and gratitude.

I offer my best wishes to everyone at the Annual Tribute Dinner in New York, as well as to the Yad Vashem Societies, for the continued success of the splendid work they are doing.