The Education Department of the American Society for Yad Vashem and its Young Leadership Associates convened the Eleventh Annual Professional Development Conference on Holocaust Education. This year’s conference is the largest in recent years with close to 200 educators in attendance.

The Association of Teachers of Social Studies / United Federation of Teachers, which once again is co-sponsoring the Conference, points out that “This conference is an invaluable resource for increasing awareness and sensitivity to intolerance and injustice, especially in today’s world.”

This year’s conference focused on No Child’s Play, a look at the experiences of children during the darkest hour of humanity. The conference looked at the stories of these children through images, film, diary entries, and artwork. We were also pleased to have on display the No Child’s Play exhibit, created at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. “We work to put a face on individual Holocaust victims in order to introduce a human element to the story. Transmitting these messages is our hope for the future,” explained Eli Zborowski, Chairman of the American Society.

This year’s keynote speaker was Dr. Elizabeth Mundlak-Zborowski. Herself a child survivor, Dr. Zborowski made a presentation which included the screening of her film, I Was Lucky, and spoke of her life as a hidden child and the reunification with her birth mother.

Close to two hundred educators from the tri-State area, plus Texas and Ohio, attended this year’s conference. “The lost world of European Jewry and the tragic consequences should be used as points of departure to educate younger generations of the importance of tolerance, understanding and the dangers of hatred and discrimination,” said Mr. Eli Zborowski.

CHILDREN IN THE DARKEST HOUR OF HUMANITY
ELEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

Elizabeth Mundlak-Zborowski, Cultural Director, American Society for Yad Vashem and hidden child survivor, delivered the keynote address to the over 200 teachers gathered at this year’s conference. Also pictured are Carolyn Herbst, ATSS/UFT Liaison; and Caroline Massel, Chair, Young Leadership Associates of the American Society for Yad Vashem.

Some of the 200 educators during the morning general session.

Ofras Biener and Rebecca Hamus, Members of the Young Leadership Associates; Caroline Massel, Chair, Young Leadership Associates of the American Society for Yad Vashem; Eli Zborowski, Chairman, American Society for Yad Vashem; and Elizabeth Mundlak-Zborowski, Cultural Director, American Society for Yad Vashem.

Ilana Apelker, Education, American Society for Yad Vashem, presenting at an afternoon workshop to some of the educators.
A group of survivors and descendants of victims of the Holocaust is suing the Hungarian state railroad company in US district court in Chicago for transporting Jews to the Auschwitz death camp.

The class action suit was filed in a US district court in Chicago by attorneys representing the group of 85 plaintiffs. The suit seeks 1.2 billion dollars in compen- sation and punitive damages.

According to the document, the Hungarian railroad company "knowingly provided the trains for delivering 437,000 Jews to their death in Auschwitz" between March and October 1944.

Railroad employees are accused of "loot- ing the plaintiffs' possessions, valuables, heirlooms, stock certificates, currency and jewelry from the plaintiffs' luggage." Without the trains provided by (the defendant), hundreds of thousands of Jews could not have been transported to Auschwitz," the suit charges.

The award was announced last year by British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, who is expected to attend a conference in Berlin on the Holocaust, which is being held by the Claims Conference.

The voting award ceremony, attended by survivors and distinguished people, will take place at the Claims Conference offices in Jerusalem.

The 34-million-dollar museum — a state-funded Topography of Terror. The new “Topography of Terror” center, is not far from the government quarter com- plex of a field of 2,700 grey concrete squares this place come to life," Nachama said.

The 58-year-old Nachama, who is also a rabbi, a historian and a former leader of the Jewish Claims Conference, said the exhibition for years alongside infor- mation exhibition for years alongside infor- mation boards. The building designed by German architect Ursula Wilms is almost complete and is nearing completion ahead of its official opening on May 6, two days before the 65th anniver- sary of the end of World War II.

"We chose architecture that would let this place come to life," Nachama said. "We chose architecture that would let this place come to life," Nachama said.

Some 99 percent of students who par- ticipated in a tour of the museum said it was an effective means of learning about the Holocaust.

A national survey of Israeli principals, teachers and students has found that the Holocaust is a common denomi- nator among students of diverse back- grounds, and that there are no major dif- ferences between students from different demographic groups in terms of their per- ceptions of the Holocaust.

The study, headed by Erik Cohen of in- vestigation of the Berlin wall showing the same view taken through a hole in a remaining portion. The site of the former Gestapo building, near the government quarter com- plex of a field of 2,700 grey concrete squares, is where Jews were taken to the “death camp” where some 15,000 people were held during the Nazi era.

"We are a place to learn and in no way a memorial," Nachama said. "We are a place to learn and in no way a memorial," Nachama said.

The German government will pay $77 million in sub- sidies this year to aid needy Holocaust survivors worldwide. The deci- sion is the end result of annual negotia- tions held in Berlin between the German government and the Claims Conference.

According to the terms of the deal, half of the money will be sent to survivors living in Israel who are in need of home nursing care, medicine and food. The sum of $77 million is an 85 percent increase over last year’s budget the German government set aside for impov- erished survivors.

The claim conference officers are expected to empty within a few years, necessitating increased financial aid from Germany.

The Claims Conference has long sought to reach agreements with Germany on the establishment of a foun- dation devoted to the matter of helping needy Holocaust survivors, thus negat- ing the need for annual negotiations.

"It was only in recent years that the Germans began to recognize their responsiblity for moral debt owed to the former Soviet Union which were persecuted by the Nazis," Nachama said.

"This understanding lies beyond the bounds of an political argument in Germany, and it is being championed by Chancellor Angela Merkel out of a sense that this is the last chapter in negotiations in which we are engaging with Germany over compensation to the victims of the Nazi and to Holocaust survivors.

A new museum takes shape at heart of Nazi terror

Five years after opening a sprawling Holocaust Memorial in the heart of the city, Berlin is preparing to inaugurate a new museum this time targeting the Nazi perpetrators.

The new “Topography of Terror” center rests on the site of the Gestapo and Hitler’s elite SS force.

A trailer-like structure housed a tempo- rary exhibition for years alongside infor- mation boards. The building designed by German architect Ursula Wilms is almost complete and is nearing completion ahead of its official opening on May 6, two days before the 65th anniver- sary of the end of World War II. It will be free to the public. Its two-steel-and-glass stories, built to give the visitor the feeling of “floating” in a site, will include a permanent exhibition, a library and a multimedia con- ference center for school groups, scholars and public talks.

"That is the most hor- rifying thing," Nachama said.

The Holocaust, a private initia- tive near the government quarter com- plex of a field of 2,700 grey concrete squares, is not far from the state-funded Topography of Terror.

"It is right that we reflect and learn from the past as we go forward in the future," Nachama told AFP.

While little remains of the original build- ings — merely a few cellars and pavement stones — the new complex aims to explain how the Nazi persecution appara- tuses this place come to life," Nachama said.

"We are a place to learn and in no way a memorial," Nachama said.

Those receiving the award posthumously, whose relatives attended the ceremony and accepted the award on their behalf, include June Ravenhall, a British housewife living in Holland in the 1930s to accept persecuted Jewish girls and man even after her husband had been taken to a concentration camp; Jane Haring from Scotland, who was sent to Auschwitz after caring for 400 Jewish girls in occupied Hungary, and Bertha Bracey, who lobbied the British government during the 1930s to accept persecuted Jewish refugees. Her efforts established the Kindertransport, which took an estimated 10,000 mainly Jewish children from main- land Europe to Britain.

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The plaintiffs are asking for 240 million dollars for the stolen property and one bil- lion dollars “as punitive damages reflect- ing the defendant’s robbery and fraudulent participation by the defendants in genocide.”

Even though discussion of money is not a major part of the case, there is no question of the amount of financial restitution,” law- suit says.

According to the plaintiffs, by US law the Hungarian railroad company can be sued if it is “engaged in commercial activity in the United States.”

“This final requirement is satisfied by the fact that the defendant sells tickets and passes for its railways through its agents in the United States,” the document reads.

In the period 1940-45 some 1.3 million people perished at Auschwitz, 1.1 million of them Jews from across occupied Europe.

The new “Topography of Terror” center rests on the site of the Gestapo and Hitler’s elite SS force.

"This is not about seeing the original architecture,” museum director Andreas Nachama told AFP at the preview of the new building.

"Rather, it is about comprehending what went out from this place: namely the Nazi terror spread across Germany and the Europe and cost the lives of millions of people.

A 34-million-dollar museum — a squat, light-filled structure — is nearing completion ahead of its official opening on May 6, two days before the 65th anniver- sary of the end of World War II. It will be free to the public.

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The study, headed by Erik Cohen of in-.
As a proprietor of Germany's largest private art collection, Solyom has signed a law making Holocaust organizer's files sealed.

Germany fights to keep Holocaust organizer's files sealed.

"We have long been fighting this battle," Solyom said in a statement. "We believe that the files contain evidence that is crucial to understanding the scale and scope of the Holocaust." But critics have argued that the files are a distraction from the broader conversation about the past and that they should be made public to promote understanding and reconciliation.

U.S. lawmakers push insurers on Holocaust claims.

"We need to hold these companies accountable," said Senator Elizabeth Warren. "Insurance companies that refused to pay claims to Holocaust survivors and their families must be held accountable for their role in denying justice to those who suffered so much.

Survivor's grandson buys Menenge diary.

The grandson of a Holocaust survivor bought the diary for $20 million, the most expensive sale of a Holocaust-related document so far. The diary, written by Eichmann, a key figure in the Holocaust, contains chilling accounts of the atrocities committed during the war.

Heirs relinquish claim to Picasso.

The heirs of a British industrialist, who purchased a Picasso painting for £30 million, have relinquished their claim to the painting. The artwork, "The Absinthe Drinker," was sold to a private collector who had been ordered by a court to return it to the rightful owner.

Lord Lloyd-Webber and the Picasso.

The heirs of the collector who bought the Picasso have already paid £30 million, but now they are demanding that the painting be returned. The British government has refused to intervene, citing the principle of "good faith." The case has sparked a debate about whether art should be returned to its original owners or归属于

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Amidst all the evil, there were also acts of kindness, minutes of good feelings, creating a kind of a flower in the frost of icy existence. Zuzana Szász Stessel, author and Holocaust survivor, in Snow Flowers . . .

In 1996, this reviewer had the distinct pleasure of reviewing Zuzana Szász Stessel’s Stessel’s seventy-year-old research and beautifully written book, Wine and Thorns in Tokay Valley: Jewish Life in Hungary: The History of Abaújszántó, in the pages of M&R. That book was Stessel’s loving tribute to her hometown, Jewish Abaújszántó. There she told us of its exceptionally vibrant Jewish life, a life she joyfully participated in. There, too, sadly, she told us of Jewish Abaújszántó’s ruthless annihilation at the hands of the Nazis. Many Jews from Abaújszántó were killed. Stessel was one of the few lucky survivors.

In Snow Flowers: Hungarian Jewish Women in an Airplane Factory, reviewed by Diane Cypkin. Pace University.

POWER TO REACH HUMAN SOULS

17 Days in Treblinka: Daring to Resist, by Eddie Weinstein. Yad Vashem. Reviewed by JEFF LONDON.

Every night, I was surprised to find myself alive,” says Eddie Weinstein, his Polish accent softened by years of toil in the hellish extermination camp. The exact date is unknown, but some 80,000 people are estimated to have died there between July 1942 and October 1943. Fewer than 100 survivors remain.

Treblinka II, a forced labor camp, was established in 1941. Treblinka II opened on July 24, 1942, one mile away. It was founded as part of Operation Reinhard, the Nazis’ plan for wiping out Polish Jewry, and it had one purpose only: to kill. “They didn’t have a chance,” another survivor recalls.

There were no numbers like they had in Auschwitz. They would kill you for anything, so they didn’t bother with numbering the victims died within a few hours of reaching the camp. Treblinka II, or what remains of it, is buried in deep forest, a depressively still and peaceful setting for a mass grave—buried in deep forest, a deceptively still place. By her father that once surrounded the camp is gone. Walk from the old station to the Treblinka II site and you will see a row of standing stones marking where the fence stood to be, while the train tracks have been replaced with commemorative stone blocks. Beside the ramp one will see a row of standing stones marking where the electrified fence stood.

Inside, the camp is piled with memorial stones bearing the names of communities that were destroyed there. Only one is dedicated to a person, the educator in Konskowola. These stones surround a much larger memorial, with a great wall of prayer in it to represent the evil that was perpetrated in Treblinka. There is a mass grave nearby, while another stone simply reads: “Never again” in five languages.

Weinstein says that people need to know what happened in this terrible place. His account of his experiences has been published by Yad Vashem, first in Hebrew under the name Plada Rotahat and then in English with the title Quenched Steel: The Story of an Escape from Treblinka.

This is a powerful and moving book. What Weinstein accomplishes is to show us how quickly and brutally both the successive restrictions upon Jews and their deportations were imposed, and how the trapped Jewish women clung to illusions (things have been bad before, there will also survive slave labor camps or life in a ghetto, surely one will live to tell the tale) and竟然 refused to die. Their stories have been凝聚 into a moving account of human endurance, atrocity, and superhuman courage. They also acts of kindness, minutes of good feelings, creating a kind of a flower in the frost of icy existence.

Thus, in the midst of the Junkers aircraft factory that once pulled in, the ground is uneven, still bearing the scars from the ditches that would soon be filled in. The owner of that bar, who was not Jewish, risked plenty to pay my grandfather for his work, sweeping the floor. Decades later, my mother tells me that my grandfather another favor, telling a collective group of Jews to leave, and fast. Schwartz, a professor emerita of the writing program at Richard Stockton College in New Jersey, takes us into the kitchens and gathering places of Germans and Jews alike, accepting, drinking, cakes, and stories, in an effort to separate truth from lies in her father’s account of good neighbors in a German village.

MARTYRDOM & RESISTANCE

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HISTORY WRIT SMALL


Reviewed by Aviya Kushner.

For one month in 1936, my grandfa-
ther worked in a bar in Bremen, Germany. The owner of that bar, who was not Jewish, risked plenty to pay my grandfather for his work, sweeping the floor. Decades later, my mother tells me that my grandfather another favor, telling a collective group of Jews to leave, and fast. Schwartz, a professor emerita of the writing program at Richard Stockton College in New Jersey, takes us into the kitchens and gathering places of Germans and Jews alike, accepting, drinking, cakes, and stories, in an effort to separate truth from lies in her father’s account of good neighbors in a German village.

A hand-typed article by her father that she discovers tucked in an old file after his death describes life in the village before Hitler, when it was common practice for neighbors to help each other with feeding the chickens, milking the cows, and stoking coal. Orthodox Jewish resi-
dents who were forced by train to Pforzheim regular-
ly converted one car into a private recital car. Schwartz, her father wrote, “much to the astonishment of Christian travelers. No one shed a tear over lying in a coffin. Weiss, who the author knew from her younger sister pre-
vented the author with a veritable bouquet.” Thirteen-year-old Erzskie was always there for the fourteen-year-old Zuzana. She shared any food that came her way. She shared her very warmth when that was all the teenage granddaughter for dry garments. She took care of her older sis-
Ter when she fell ill—a feat nothing less than heroic, considering their impossible situation. She offered her when Stessel’s flagged. And the author did no less for Erzskie. Each one did to the other.

Stessel notes the kindnesses extended to by those suffering alongside her. For example, there was the altruistic act performed by Margit Lörinc Hamburg, who the author knew from Bergen-Belsen. She “covered for” Stessel at work when that was all the author needed to know what happened in this terrible place. His account of his experiences has been published by Yad Vashem, first in Hebrew under the name Plada Rotahat and then in English with the title Quenched Steel: The Story of an Escape from Treblinka.

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THE UNTHINKABLE AS A TOLERANCE LESSON

BY AILEEN JACOBSON, THE Credentialled NEWSTELLE

A
tush had fallen over the ballroom, filled with 45 students from South Woods Middle School in Syosset. Peter Stone, a Holocaust survivor, was talking about what happened to him when he was 13, the same age as most of his audience—
he, his family and other Jews from small towns in Hungary were herded into a train to be taken to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

“You could barely move,” he told his rapt audience one recent morning in the man-

sion that houses the newly expanded Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County. At the concentration camp, Mr. Stone and his father passed before an SS officer after he later learned was the infamous Nazi doctor Josef Mengele.

“If he asks you, say you are 16,” a person he did not see whispered in his ear, Mr. Stone recalled. He and his father were members of the infamous Nazi doctor Josef Mengele.

“Duress was brought up at the last minute. There were, sadly, many sol-

diers who were forced into service dur-
ing the war. But it's been historically proven that if anybody wanted out of a killing unit, they were able to get out; they weren't sent to the Russian front, they were sent else-
due to obtain citizenship.”

A detailed story on the activities of Oberlander’s unit, much of it citing testimony provided to the Munich State Court, and published in 2000 in the

The entire exhibition, while not “sugar-

coating the history,” Ms. Lilach said, avoids

images too graphic for children as young as 10, the minimum recommended age.

OF about $3 million. The center, the 17-

year-old nonprofit center, which leases its building from Nassau County, focused on having survivors such as children, said Howard S. Maier, the chairman.

“The survivors realized that in the future they probably wouldn’t be here,” he said. So he and other board members made a “major commitment” to the center, he said, rais-
ing money, expanding board membership, visiting Holocaust museums around the country for ideas and broadening the cen-
ter’s mission.

“We evolved the center to one that not only teaches the lessons of the Holocaust,” Mr. Maier said in a telephone interview. Programs that reach some 35,000 people a year, he said, use the Holocaust to teach about prejudice, bullying or abusing others. The center also gives tolerance training to Nassau County police officers, little boys were gathered in the Trebbeinkra from which he escaped by hiding in a train filled with clothing of the dead. He has written a book about his experiences, “17 Days in Treblinka: Daring to Resist, and Refusing to Die” (Yad Vashem Publications of Jerusalem).

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SISTERS SURVIVED HOLOCAUST DEATH CAMPS

MEMORIES OF THE HOLOCAUST: ZIGI SHIPPER

BY JESSICA A. YORK, TIMES-HERALD
January 27 marks 65 years since the Allies liberated the infamous Auschwitz concentration camp from the Germans.

Despite the date’s international significance, it was just another day on the calendar for two Vallejo sisters who lived through the events now detailed in memoirs and history books.

It’s not that the liberation of Poland’s Auschwitz concentration camp was not a momentous event for Debora “Debbie” Sessler and Bertha “Beppy” Leaver. The two had avoided joining a final death march evacuation from the camp, prior to its liberation, only by being bedridden in a camp hospital.

It’s that the women, Dutch Jews, know their own suffering, and that is enough.

“Sixty-five years is a long time,” Sessler, 83, said, seated beside her sister at their dining room table. “It’s not important to me. You know, I never really thought about it. It was just a way of living, a way of life. A way our life went.”

Commentary events, books and films like the 1993 Oscar-winning film Schindler’s List about it, of liberation and stuff like that. It’s not important to my father. All my life I asked myself, why did I see it? Why did I see it? Why did I see it? It was just a way of living, a way of life. A way our life went.”

Sisters Beppe Leaver, left, and Debbie Sessler of Vallejo survived German concentration camps during World War II as teens, including the infamous Auschwitz. Sessler now gives presentations about her experiences, while her sister prefers to keep her memories more to herself.

The weekly trains to Westerbork were billed as work opportunities.

“They didn’t tell you you were going to be gassed in concentration camps,” Sessler said. “So, ‘work opportunities.'”

Each day, the trains often left in the middle of the night, “To never see them, you know. Every Monday night, they would come into the barracks and they would call all the names out, right? And one week, they called all the names up, all the people from our orphanage, all the names were called off — except ours. The administrators were planning on sending the sisters with their father. When the girls said their father had already left, they were scheduled for the next week’s train.

From Westerbork, they were sent to the German “death camp” Sobibor, in Nazi-occupied Poland, packed like cattle in box cars, with no food or bathroom facilities, for a three- or four-day trip, they said.

“So, sure enough, the next week, we were on there with our (orphanage) director, and later on, we found out that the train which was before us, all those kids were immediately sent into the gas chambers,” Sessler said. “So, that was one of our lucks.

We had a couple of lucky days there.”

The second “luck” was when the Nazis called for 30 volunteer women to clean and sew. The girls lied and said they were 65 — too old for the manual work.

“This was the second luck because the whole lot, gassed. We were two of them out of Sobibor,” Sessler said. “I think there were not many people — out of Sobibor. Anyway, very few people came out of Sobibor, and very few got away.”

Sessler pulled out a printed sheet of statistics, listing 11,000 women who went from Sobibor to Auschwitz. Thirteen women came out alive from that transport.

“And we were two of them,” Leaver said.

The girls remained ignorant of their peers’ fate, traveling again by train to a camp in Lublin, Poland. The idea of death. (Continued on page 14)

You see, the point is this. We know that the women, Dutch Jews, know their own suffering, and that is enough. You know, I never really thought about it, of liberation and stuff like that. It’s not important to me.

“Sixty-five years is a long time,” Sessler, 83, said, seated beside her sister at their dining room table. “It’s not important to me. You know, I never really thought about it, of liberation and stuff like that. It’s not important to me. You know, I never really thought about it. It was just a way of living, a way of life. A way our life went.”

Commentary events, books and films like the 1993 Oscar-winning film Schindler’s List about it, of liberation and stuff like that. It’s not important to my father. All my life I asked myself, why did I see it? Why did I see it? Why did I see it? It was just a way of living, a way of life. A way our life went.”

Sisters Beppe Leaver, left, and Debbie Sessler of Vallejo survived German concentration camps during World War II as teens, including the infamous Auschwitz. Sessler now gives presentations about her experiences, while her sister prefers to keep her memories more to herself.

The weekly trains to Westerbork were billed as work opportunities.

“They didn’t tell you you were going to be gassed in concentration camps,” Sessler said. “So, ‘work opportunities.’”

Each day, the trains often left in the middle of the night, “To never see them, you know. Every Monday night, they would come into the barracks and they would call all the names out, right? And one week, they called all the names up, all the people from our orphanage, all the names were called off — except ours. The administrators were planning on sending the sisters with their father. When the girls said their father had already left, they were scheduled for the next week’s train.

From Westerbork, they were sent to the German “death camp” Sobibor, in Nazi-occupied Poland, packed like cattle in box cars, with no food or bathroom facilities, for a three- or four-day trip, they said.

“So, sure enough, the next week, we were on there with our (orphanage) director, and later on, we found out that the train which was before us, all those kids were immediately sent into the gas chambers,” Sessler said. “So, that was one of our lucks.

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CHILDREN OF NAZI MONSTERS SPEAK

BY ALLAN HALL, THE SUN

They are the children of the damned, the most monstrous beings of all, the most brutal monsters. Now, for the first time, they have come together to talk on film about how it feels to have relatives responsible for the worst crimes in history.

Hitler's Children, found "fascinating similarities" between the emotions of those related to Holocaust perpetrators and the survivors, some of whom meet the children of their tormentors in the program.

"I have made a powerful, mesmerizing dialogue between the children of the perpetrators and the children of the survivors. Both live out the Holocaust daily, unable to move forward with their lives," Niklas says: "Thin men were mounted on to a wild donkey by powerful German hands. The donkey bucked and the men fell off, and they could only pick themselves up again very slowly, and they didn't find it as funny as I did.

"And again and again they got back on and the donkey was given a slap and again they fell off and they tried to help each other - it was a fantastic afternoon. "Then we had cocoa with the most important soldier.

"These are the images I carry around of my father. I dream of the piles of corpses in the camps. "My country will never be rid of that history. It is a story that is still not over."

He lectures about his infamous father to young people in the former East Germany in a bid to prevent them from straying into the neo-Nazi scene that presys on the young, unemployed and desperate.

"I have never managed in my life to get rid of the memory of him," he said. "I live with this deep shame about what I did." Bettiina Goering now lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where she practices herbal medicine.

She told how both she and her brother were voluntarily sterilized, explaining, "I had my tubes tied at the age of 30, because I feared I would create another monster."

"I want him for a start - the eyes, the cheekbone, the profile. I look more like him than his own daughter." Bettiina said her father Heinz was adopt- ed by his infamous uncle after his own father died. Heinz became a fighter pilot for the Luftwaffe.

"He was shot down over the Soviet Union and returned from captivity in 1952 to find that his two brothers had killed themselves because of their shame - and the family's fortunes were gone."

Bettina Goering was sentenced to death in 1945. After being cleared just a short time before. And many others at the dark heart of the Reich had families - something encour-aged by Hitler, who idolized youth as the bedrock of his empire and was still to live until 1945.

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Over 800 people attended the American Society for Yad Vashem’s Young Leadership Associates’ Annual Winter Gala at the Metropolitan Pavilion in New York City. Featured at this year’s Gala was a port- folio of Carol Deutsch Bible Paintings.

Carol Deutsch, a Jewish painter, was born in 1911 in Liege, Belgium, in the pre-Nazi conquest of Belgium, the local Jewish community, and the city itself, active in non-violent resistance to the Nazi occupation of the Jewish people — the Shoah. During the era of the German occupation, she adopted an assumed name. During the years 1940–1944, the Nazis destroyed all Jewish manuscripts of the Bible and a wooden box to which they had attached a small portion of a page from the Hebrew Bible and a wooden box to which they had attached a small portion of a page from the Hebrew Bible. Shortly before the Nazi occupation of her hometown, Ingrid and the Bible were saved by neighbors. Ingrid was sent to a children’s home, and the Bible was hidden by a neighbor and saved from the Nazis.

On September 15, 1943, the Nazis arrested her father, Gabriel Deutsch, and took him to a secret camp near Liege. During his imprisonment, her mother, Fanie Deutsch, tried to rescue her by going to the camp. Her mother was arrested; Ingrid was sent to the children’s home and the Bible was saved. On the night of September 16, 1943, the Nazis transported her father in transport 228 to Auschwitz, and were killed. Ingrid, like her mother, was saved by her neighbors and remained hidden in Liege. After the war, she returned to her hometown and, after some years, moved to the United States.

She died in 1982. She bequeathed the Bible to Yad Vashem.

This exhibit is one of several available for viewing at the American Society for Yad Vashem.

The Young Leadership Associates, a highly motivated group of young professionals, support the American Society for Yad Vashem’s efforts to communicate the story of the Holocaust. They ensure the continuity of programs, social events and activities.
American Society for Yad Vashem Young Associates Winter Gala on February 4, 2010 at the hip Associates Winter Gala  

A group of dedicated future leaders and are an integral part of the American Society for Yad Vashem, which is dedicated to commemorating the Holocaust through educational programs. 

Bible illustrations from Yad Vashem, Jerusalem.
REPORT FROM YAD VASHEM

BY DR. LEA PRAIS

Seventy years after the Nazi regime established its first Jewish ghetto – Piłkowice Trybunalski in Poland – Yad Vashem has released a new publication: the Yad Vashem Encyclopedia of the Ghettos During the Holocaust. Written by researchers at the International Institute for Holocaust Research and edited by Prof. Guy Mroen and Shlomit Shulchani, the encyclopedia includes entries on close to 1,100 ghettos established in the areas occupied by the Germans: Greater Poland, Ukraine, Belorusia, Lithuania, Latvia, Hungary, Transnistria, Romania and Greece.

As the first collection of the ghettos established by the Nazi regime, the encyclopedia marks an important milestone in the history of Holocaust research and historiography. While some ghettos are quite familiar to the public, others are not. Some have remained documenting the miserable and somber ghetto life in a vivid and human light, as frequently reflected in the literature. This encyclopedia aims to recall the tragic reality and to commemorate the transient and anonymous remains an historic tool of the first order.

In addition to the volume itself, an accompanying DVD includes a series of films taken in the ghettos or on the eve of their establishment. The cinematography and testimonies were reportedly gathered and researched by Yad Vashem film curator Efrat Komisar-Kaplan, were edited by

Jews in the Lodz Ghetto. When Yad Vashem was founded in the 1950s, it was guided by the principle that “every victim has a name,” and thus began the monumental task of identifying the victims of the Holocaust. It got off to a tough start. In the early years of the state, native Israelis ridiculed the victims of the Holocaust. Neiditz sits back in his chair and says, “I never wanted to think about it,” says Neiditz in his small, tidy flat in Tel Aviv. “It made me anxious to relive it. It’s not good for my mind.”

Sixty-seven years later he has at last found the courage to dig up painful memories, share his testimony and record the names of his parents and siblings, who still remember this information.”

They had been sent to their deaths and the officer knew that meant. The officer knew that meant they had been sent to their deaths and their identity. The Nazis tried to wipe off every memory of their victim … and when their identity,” Ophel says. “I think character, energy and much younger than his 86 years researching and writing the volume itself, an accompanying DVD includes a series of films taken in the ghettos or on the eve of their establishment. The cinematography and testimonies were reportedly gathered and researched by Yad Vashem film curator Efrat Komisar-Kaplan, were edited by

BY ARIEH O’SULLIVAN, THE MEDIA LINE

A final campaign is underway to get Holocaust survivors to record the names of lost family members. For the tenacious, eighty-six-year-old Yehoshua Neiditz, surviving has been a way of life: evading Nazis in his native Poland and hiding out with the Partisans, logging miles on his bicycle. But his entire family number among the estimated six million Jews murdered in the Second World War.

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“Each page of testimony with the name of a victim is in itself a testimony against Holocaust denial.”

Dinkin hot water, Neiditz, a retired barber, seems like a bundle of energy and much younger than his 86 years researching and writing the volume itself, an accompanying DVD includes a series of films taken in the ghettos or on the eve of their establishment. The cinematography and testimonies were reportedly gathered and researched by Yad Vashem film curator Efrat Komisar-Kaplan, were edited by

“Now they feel that they are old and they have to talk about it, otherwise it will be forgotten,” Schwartz says. “Every person is a new story and every person is a sad story, so it is difficult, and sometimes we cry together and sometimes I go home and then I cry.”

The Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and Museum has launched what may be the last viable campaign to get remaining Holocaust survivors to record the names of Jews murdered in the war.

A media campaign across Israel, the country with the largest living concentration of Holocaust survivors, has urged them to come forward and give the names of those who died.

According to the Centre of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel, an estimated 327,000 Holocaust survivors eventually received Israeli citizenship. About 167,000 are still alive today and the majority of them are over 80 years old.

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Jews leave Swedish city after sharp rise in anti-Semitic hate crimes

By Claudia Toirnes and Randy Herschhaft, AP

It took Ina Polak 35 years to discover the dusty piece of paper that probably saved her and her family from concentration camps.

And the areas targeted by the rescuers were thickets of refugees, a place where the rescuers had to work against the opposition of the German army and governments in Norway and Sweden.

She raised a family in the city of Malmo, whose efforts probably constitute the only successful rescue attempt in World War II. The certificate proves that people cared for the survivors in a way that is often forgotten.

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She raised a family in the city of Malmo, whose efforts probably constitute the only successful rescue attempt in World War II. The certificate proves that people cared for the survivors in a way that is often forgotten.
After the war, Polak married a fellow survivor, Jaap Polak. She believes that maybe friends of her father gave Mantello the name of her family.

Her father, Abraham Soep, was a diamond manufacturer in Amsterdam, and probably received the citizenship certificate while the family were in a Dutch transit camp before being sent to Bergen-Belsen (the same camp where another girl from Holland, the diarist Anne Frank, perished).

This Dec. 7, 1944 photo released by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum shows the Naturkundige building from left, with George Mantello, second from left, in white coat, arguing with Swiss border guards for the entry of the 800 Amsterdam Jews by train to Switzerland.

Citizenship papers entitled their holders to sometimes wear their own clothes instead of prison uniforms and to live in a separate section of Bergen-Belsen.

The difference was critical, said Paul Shapiro, director of the Washington museum's Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies. "Remember that if you were in the wrong part of the camp, you were dead."

While Wallenberg's activities were initiated and supported by his government, other diplomats acted against their countries' immigration policies or ignored them entirely. "You very, very, liberally," says Yeshiva University's Paldiel, who wrote a book titled "Diplomat Heroes of the Holocaust."

In her speech, Cohen said diplomats from Portugal and Romania, as well as representatives of the Vatican and the International Red Cross, helped spread Mantello's documents.

Those who made a sustained effort to save Jews numbered just "a few dozen" out of thousands of diplomats stationed in Europe, says Dr. Rafael Medoff, director of the David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies in Washington, D.C.

A s a Jew, Mantello might have faced execution if he fell victim to the Nazis. He had held honorary diplomatic positions for the El Salvador government starting in 1939, and had changed his name from Mandel to the more Spanish-sounding Mantello. But he was arrested by the Germans in Budapest in 1942. He managed to escape to Geneva, where he became first secretary of the Salvadoran consulate, and set about saving fellow Jews.

Col. Jose Arturo Castellanos, the consul general, allowed him to issue the certificates, and only later did his government get to know about it. Salvador wasn't a neutral country at the time — it was a member of the Allies, so Mantello had to use emissaries to distribute the certificates.

According to the Washington museum, copies of the certificates produced by Mantello and his team of Swiss volunteer clerks were sent to almost every country in occupied Europe — and even into Auschwitz.

The Germans, for their part, had a use for Jewish prisoners with such documents — to trade for German nationals held in Latin America or the U.S., said Medoff. When British and German spies suspected these documents might not be authentic, they often did not care because they considered these prisoners to be very useful," he said.

In January 1945, 800 Germans who had been held in the Buchenwald and Bergen-Belsen camps were exchanged for 800 American and Latin American citizens in Germany, and among them were 149 Jews from Bergen-Belsen with Latin American documents, said Medoff.

Robert Fisch, a Minneapolis pediatrician, remembers seeing a citizenship certificate in his house in Budapest in 1945. "My mother told me, even wrote, 'don't give out this paper. It is very important,'" said Fisch, Nov. 4.

While his work on citizenship papers stayed discreet, his role in publicizing the Auschwitz Protocol led to Swiss public protests, trials and angry headlines. The Western powers and even British soldiers in the area had already showed they were saving people all over Europe, and despite his efforts he was unable to save his own parents.

He needed very little sleep," he said. "I had sufficient evidence to prosecute Kepiro and Zentai. Kepiro was among the officers who organized the massacre by Hungarian forces of at least 1,300 civilians (mostly Jews, but also Serbs and Roma) in the city of Novi Sad, Serbia, on Jan. 23, 1942. Zentai is accused of the murder of Budapest on Nov. 8, 1944, of an 18-year-old Jewish boy named Peter Bataza, whom he caught on a streetcar without the required yellow star.

In most cases, although the evidence we provided was very substantial, the cases proceeded at a snail's pace, jeopardizing the chances of prosecution given the age of the suspects. In Kepiro's case, the investigation in Hungary was slowed by innumerable delays influenced by the fact that his crimes had been committed in Serbia. In Australia, Zentai's lawyers were able to get their case thrown out after four years by mounting various technical legal challenges unconnected to the case.

Now, however, we are finally approaching a moment when the two suspects should be tried. Reports from Budapest indicate that the prosecution is satisfied that it has sufficient evidence to prosecute Kepiro and Zentai, and hopefully will do so shortly, and Zentai is in jail pending his final appeal after Australian Minister for Home Affairs Brendan O'Connor approved his extradition to Hungary to stand trial. In short, by the end of 2009, we almost certainly will know whether these two suspected Holocaust perpetrators will be held accountable for their crimes.

While the process of facilitating these and other cases (in which excellent suspects died before they could be prosecuted) often is nerve-wracking, there is no alternative but to try our best to maximize the efforts of the existing system. This is our obligation to the victims of the Holocaust, one which fully deserves a serious effort to achieve as much justice as possible despite the difficulties engendered by the passage of time. "Operation: Last Chance" is an important part of that effort.

Dr. Erfaim Zuroff is the chief Nazi hunter of the Simon Wiesenthal Center and director of its Israel Office.

NAZI PERPETRATORS

MUST FACE JUSTICE

BY EFRAIM ZUROFF, JTA

The efforts to hold Holocaust perpetrators accountable are indeed in their final phase. Still, with legal action of various forms having been taken recently against four of the 10 Nazi war criminals on the Wiesenthal Center's "Most Wanted" list, it seems clear that the push for justice will continue — and register more successful outcomes.

The individuals in question — Ukrainian Solobir guard Ivan Demjanjuk (No. 1); Hungarian gendarmerie officer Dr. Sandor Kepiro (2); Dutch SS hit man Col. Jose Arturo Castellanos, second from left, in white coat, arguing with Swiss border guards for the entry of the 800 Amsterdam Jews by train to Switzerland.

The Germans, for their part, had a use for Jewish prisoners with such documents — to trade for German nationals held in Latin America or the U.S., said Medoff. When British and German spies suspected these documents might not be authentic, they often did not care because they considered these prisoners to be very useful," he said.

In January 1945, 800 Germans who had been held in the Buchenwald and Bergen-Belsen camps were exchanged for 800 American and Latin American citizens in Germany, and among them were 149 Jews from Bergen-Belsen with Latin American documents, said Medoff.

Robert Fisch, a Minneapolis pediatrician, remembers seeing a citizenship certificate in his house in Budapest in 1945. "My mother told me, even wrote, 'don't give out this paper. It is very important,'" said Fisch, Nov. 4.

While his work on citizenship papers stayed discreet, his role in publicizing the Auschwitz Protocol led to Swiss public protests, trials and angry headlines. The Western powers and even British soldiers in the area had already showed they were saving people all over Europe, and despite his efforts he was unable to save his own parents.

He needed very little sleep," he said. "I had sufficient evidence to prosecute Kepiro and Zentai. Kepiro was among the officers who organized the massacre by Hungarian forces of at least 1,300 civilians (mostly Jews, but also Serbs and Roma) in the city of Novi Sad, Serbia, on Jan. 23, 1942. Zentai is accused of the murder of Budapest on Nov. 8, 1944, of an 18-year-old Jewish boy named Peter Bataza, whom he caught on a streetcar without the required yellow star.

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THE MUFTI OF JERUSALEM: ARCHITECT OF THE HOLOCAUST?

BY PAMELA GELLER

The original blueprints for the Terezin ghetto went on display in late January after being discovered in November 2008. They were found by a team of researchers along with another apartment during renovation work, yet the exact location of their discovery is being kept secret. No one will say whose apartment it was.

There are numerous bits of evidence, however, that point to a possible location where Hajj Amin al-Husseini, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, lived during World War II. And in the course of investigating this, I have found that the Mufti was involved in and may even have created the Final Solution for European Jews — and yet his central participation in the Holocaust has been covered up and forgotten.

The Mufti, whom his nephew Yasser Arafat calls “our” famous for his fascisti cal Jewish hatred. During World War II, the Mufti lived in Berlin, where he met Hitler and traveled in top circles (he even stayed in Hitler’s bunker toward the end of the war).

Among his close friends was Adolf Eichmann, who is commonly thought to be the architect of the Holocaust. Journalist Maurice Pearlman, author of the 1947 book The Mufti of Jerusalem, said that the Mufti advised Eichmann on the best ways to persecute Jews.

Hitler gave the Mufti a radio station, which al-Husseini used to preach Nazism and genocide in Arabic. In one of his broadcasts, the Mufti exhorted Arabs:

“According to the Muslim religion, the defense of your life is a duty which can only be fulfilled by annihilating the Jews. This is your best opportunity to get rid of this dirty race which has usurped your rights and brought misfortune and destruction on your countries. Kill the Jews, burn their property, destroy their stores, annihilate these base supporters of British imperialism. Your sole hope of salvation lies in annihilating the Jews before they annihilate you.”

Al-Husseini practiced what he preached. During the Nuremberg Trials in July 1946, Eichmann’s assistant, Dietrich Wisliceny, testified that Mufti was a central figure in the planning of the genocide of the Jews:

“The Grand Mufti has repeatedly suggested to the Nazi authorities — including Hitler, von Ribbentrop and Himmler — the extermination of European Jewry. . . . The Mufti was one of the initiators of the systematic extermination of European Jewry and had been a collaborator and adviser of Eichmann and Himmler in the execution of this plan. . . . He was one of Eichmann’s best friends and had constantly incited him to accelerate the extermination measures. I heard him say, accompanied by Eichmann, that he had visited into the gas chambers of Auschwitz.”

Wisliceny also testified that al-Husseini asked Heinrich Himmler to send one of Eichmann’s assistants to Jerusalem once the war was over, to aid the Mufti in “solving the Jewish question in the Jewish Middle East.”

And according to the Arab Higher Committee:

In virtually identical letters, the Mufti, in the summer of 1944, approached Germany, Romania, Bulgaria, and Hungary to speed the extermination of the Jews by sending them to Poland where the Nazi death chambers were located.

The Mufti successfully demanded that 400,000 Jews who were about to be deported to the Holy Land be sent to their deaths. That’s not merely a collaborator, that’s a partner with great influence and power.

Yet after the war the Mufti was not prosecuted. He got off scot-free, and it was one of the reasons why the cover-up now about in whose apartment the documents were found? Germany does not hide information like this after World War II; why are they hiding this now? The only plausible reason to keep this location secret would be because it would incriminate the Mufti. There are no other reasons. German authorities should come clean.

The denial about the key role that this Muslim leader played in the Holocaust must end. The only difference between Hitler and the Mufti is that Hitler was defeated and punished. The slaughtering Mufti went on to swamp Yasser Arafat, inspire Saddam Hussein, and work to destroy the Jewish homeland and its people.

There is no statute of limitations on genocide, I indict the Mufti and the Muslim world. They were equal partners in mass death. Not only does the Mufti放在 the Muslim world. They were equal partners in mass death. Not only does the Mufti

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR YAD VASHEM MOURNS THE PASSING OF DAVID BANKIER

David Bankier, who helped expand the contours of Holocaust research by examining the participation of ordinary Europeans in the extermination of their Jewish neighbors, died after a long illness, Yad Vashem, the Jerusalem Holocaust center, announced. He was 63.

Mr. Bankier, who was head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem, focused his scholarly work on anti-Semitism, especially its use by the Nazis to promote and sustain a broader ideology. He was the author of Germans and the Final Solution: Public Opinion under Nazism as well as a collection of essays, Hitler, the Holocaust and German Society. Cooperation and Awareness.

Born in Germany just before the state of Israel was created, Mr. Bankier grew up and was educated here, earning his doctorate in Jewish history at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He held a professorship at Hebrew University and had served as a visiting professor in Britain, the United States, South Africa and South America. He spoke excellent English and Spanish, in addition to German and Hebrew.

Divorced, Mr. Bankier is survived by three children.

A troubled, somber man who sought to understand the most bewildering aspects of genocide — how someone could play soccer with an acquaintance one day and insist in his murder the next — Mr. Bankier insisted both on the uniqueness of the Nazi Holocaust of six million Jews and on its applicability to other cases of mass murder.

For anti-Semitism, “Jews represent mysterious, evil and evil forces,” he said in a lecture. “The omnipotence playing a sinister role in world history.”

At the same time, Mr. Bankier said last year that the work he was overseeing at Yad Vashem on the role of bystanders and neighbors in numerous small or mass killings across the former Soviet Union

A MOSAIC OF LIFE AND DEATH

(Continued from page 10)

film producer Nathan Lifshitz. The circumstances in which the films were photographed, as well as the identity of the photographers — mostly members of the Nazi propaganda units — convinced

Floucing the Warsaw Ghetto.

Lifshitz added an introductory film explaining the objects and challenges these film segments harbor. Nevertheless, the rarity of the films and their ability to project an authentic picture of the physical surroundings and the faces of the ghetto Jews, most of whom were anonymous, proves a unique and singular supplement to the accounts themselves.

In addition to the collection of photographs and films, the encyclopedia also features maps and diagrams of the ghettos areas, appended to the relevant entry. Some of the illustrations display the frequency changes the ghetto area underwent, such as in Kovno, whose area was drawn in real time by the Bauhaus artist Fritz Gadem.

An analysis of Jewish life in the ghettos was not complete without exploring their day-to-day lives and spiritual world. The encyclopedias includes sections that characterized the daily rou tine of the ghetto inhabitants, such as the yellow pass or the labor and ration cards, alongside the artistic works and drawings they created in the nadir of those darkest days.

Likewise, excerpts from the extensive literature written by ghetto residents provide a personal and human soundtrack to the formal texts, and act as a small window on the pulse of life in the ghetto. As Egon Redlich, Terzini ghetto resident, expressed in his diary: “My God, what a life! Multi-shaded, horrible, filled with contrasts and flowing rapidly. . . . If a fact that man can only do one hand and alongside it dying old men... problems with disinfectant, eradication lice infec tions, manufacturers — a colorful mosaic of life and death.”

March/April 2010 - Adar/Nisan 5770 MARTYRDOM & RESISTANCE Page 13
When do they find out about it…” The soldiers discussed the resettlements off the impression that you are the one the shootings. (Continued from page 7)
Karin Himmler, the great-niece of Heinrich Himmler, wrote her crimes on television.

“I always remember meeting a man yes year – I knew what my father did. It was 1958.

“He was washing dishes in a cafe and rolled up his sleeves and I saw the number tacked on his arm. He had been in a camp.

“He said he had been in Krakow. “Oh my father ran a camp there,” I said.

“He froze. He said, “Your father was Amon Goeth?” I smiled back at him, thrilled that I might find someone who could tell me something about my father.

“He pointed to the door of the cafe and told me never to come back.

In the film she meets a Jewish man who suffered under her father. His testimony about Goeth’s daily cruelties is heart-rending that I might find someone who could tell me something about my father.

“Told me never to come back.”

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“Told me never to come back.”

Karin Himmler, 43, the great-niece of Heinrich Himmler – the SS chief so keenly interested in and in charge of the extermination program – married an Israeli Jew and pondered how “one day, I will tell this story to my son about his great-uncle Heinrich.”

“She says: “I don’t believe I inherited his ‘badness.’ But I live with his name. When I was 11 the TV series Holocaust was shown in Germany. I sat at my desk crying and one by one the names Himmler was repeated again and again.

“I realize he was the worst mass murderer of the Holocaust. But I am not responsible.”

Other children of once-powerful Nazis speak on the program – set for worldwide release when it is completed in the summer.

“They include archaeologist professor Ricardo Eichmann, 55, who talks about his dad – “desk murderer” Adolf Eichmann, who organized the transport of the six million Jews who died in the Holocaust to the extermination centers. Adolf Eichmann was kidnapped by Israeli agents in Buenos Aires and flown to Israel, where he was hanged for his crimes in 1962.

Ricardo once said: “I tend to compare our family history and that of a multi-state rock band. My father was the drummer that was dropped to the sea shortly after take-off, while we continue flying. I am glad I do not have to live with him.”

DON'T FALL FOR ANTI-SEMITES' NEWEST TACTIC — TRIVIALIZING THE HOLOCAUST

(Continued from page 4)

are actually two extant Benheim Torahs. Adar Benheim bears the name of his wife, who was deported in 1940-41, 87 were murdered.

Those who read widely in the crowded field of Holocaust studies will find some facets of this book familiar. Like Daniel Mendelsohn, author of The Lost: A Search for Six of Six Million (2006), Schwartz goes to widely neighbors and relatives, and finally travels thousands of miles, to hear the stories she was “allegoric to” as a kid. These stories may be less reliable than historical data, she admits, but “I liked how one person’s memory bumped another, muddying the moral waters of easy judgment.” This book of moments and memories puts there to impress our medical inspector. But they were real. Many had their eyes and mouths open.

Lionel Grouling’s baby Eda.

He said he had been in Krakow. “Oh my father ran a camp there,” I said.

“She froze. He said, “Your father was Amon Goeth?” I smiled back at him, thrilled that I might find someone who could tell me something about my father.

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STOLEN HOLOCAUST ART RETURNED

The Israel Museum opened two new exhibitions of Holocaust-era art in February, giving light to nearly 60,000 paintings and Jewish ceremonial artifacts stolen by Nazi looters during the Second World War.

The exhibition "Looking for Owners: Custody, Research and Restitution of Art Stolen in France during World War II" includes 58 paintings by some of the biggest names in European art, representing hundreds of years and a wide variety of painting styles and topics. Paintings include non-Jewish works by artists such as Paul Cézanne and Édouard Manet, as well as Jewish painters such as Marc Chagall, Max Liebermann and others. Israel Museum officials stress that while most of the art was stolen from Jewish collectors and private homes, some of the works were taken from French non-Jews and culture institutions. Many were sold in "legitimate" commercial transactions for prices far below market value or in forced sales. Following the war, many pieces were returned to France, but restoring the material to the rightful owners proved impossible because many or most of the original owners were killed, both in concentration camps and as a direct result of the war.

In a gallery featuring many priceless masterpieces, one of the most sobering features of the exhibition is a series of eight photographs documenting the theft of French art. There are images of hundreds of classic paintings, boxed up and awaiting shipment to Germany; one shows the walls of the Paris Central Train Station laden with fine art, and another shows a similar view of the private homes of some Nazi high-ups. And of course, no exhibition on Holocaust-era theft would be complete without images of stolen Torah scrolls and other Judaica. With many things Nazi-related, the numbers are astounding. From April 1941 to July 1944, 138 railcars were packed with 4,174 cases of stolen artwork and shipped to Germany – an average of more than three per month. In all, more than 22,000 objects were taken during this period, some of the nearly 60,000 pieces of art looted during the war.

Museum officials consider the "second" exhibition, entitled "Orphaned Art: Looted Art from the Holocaust," to be secondary in importance to the French exhibit, but in many ways it is more descriptive of everyday Jewish life in prewar Europe than the primary exhibition. With more than 50 Jewish ceremonial objects, paintings, books and prints, all stolen from Jewish families throughout the Third Reich, the artifacts are stunning in their simplicity. Museum Director James Snyder said many of the objects, particularly the Judaica, would not be considered "valuable" in the international art marketplace, but nonetheless they are an important record of the history of European Jewry.

In addition to providing a non-traditional history of the Holocaust period in France, the exhibit highlights one of the most painful subjects for survivors of the tragedy: restitution and poverty. Museum sources say efforts to bring the exhibit to Jerusalem have been under way for more than a decade, but have hit stumbling blocks along the way from French authorities and culture institutions such as the Musées Nationaux Récupération (MNR), the current custodian of many of the French works, who were concerned about possible restitution claims by Holocaust survivors in Israel.

The concern was not unfounded: In the 1990s a legal battle surrounding a Torah crown from Alsace, France, returned to France, but restoring the material to the rightful owners proved impossible because many or most of the original owners were killed, both in concentration camps and as a direct result of the war.

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