IN THIS ISSUE
American & International Societies for Yad Vashem Annual Tribute Dinner...1, 8-9, 15
Amidst the shadows of trees...4
Diaries reveal how much wartime Germans knew...5
The schoolgirl who survived the Holocaust by fooling the Nazis...5
Ignoring Romania’s Holocaust complicity: Not an option...5
Unraveling the Mengele mystery...6
Rare survivor attends Israeli memorial...6
Heroic tale of Holocaust, with a twist...6
Recipes recall darker days...11
Grandchildren of Nazis delve into family past...11
Elusive justice: The search for Nazi war criminals...14

Wishing that your days are filled with joy and laughter from one Hanukkah to the next
Happy Hanukkah!
HOLOCAUST MASS GRAVES MEMORIALIZED

The Lo Tishkach Foundation, in cooperation with the Association of Jewish Communities of Ukraine (VAAD) and the United States Commission for the Preservation of America’s Heritage Abroad, is commemorating the mass murders of Jews in Ukrainian towns with the setting of memorial stones at these sites, marking 70 years since the mass killings of Jews during the Holocaust.

T he first private museum of Jewish history has opened in Moscow. The museum’s collection covers more than 200 years of the history of Jewish life in Russia from the late 18th century through to the late Soviet period. The museum’s collection totals over 4,000 exhibits, most of which were deemed from private collectors. The first part of it rediscovers the Jewish identity through traditions, culture, beliefs, and the way Jewish communities in Russia used to live. The second part of the collection deals with social issues. It considers the Jewish community within a historical context, exchanging the professions and crafts of the Jews, and their relation to the government. A significant number of exhibits tells the stories of the USYR’s Jewish community.

The display features dozens of photographs, portraits, rare documents, art pieces by Jewish handicraftsmen and their working tools and equipment, and religious cultural relics. For example, the exhibition offers the chance to see an armchair used for the traditional circumcision ritual, cases for storing Torah scrolls, ritual lamps, and many other items of interest. The newly-opened museum also recreates a special area that was common for most synagogues – the geniza. This room was used to store worn-out Hebrew books and papers on religious topics, mainly Torah scrolls that were stored there before they could receive a proper cemetery burial.

The founder of the museum, Sergey Ustinov, vice-president of the Russian Jewish Congress, has sponsored the creation of the Jewish History Museum in Moscow.

MOSCOW GETS FIRST PRIVATE MUSEUM OF JEWISH HISTORY

I rael is unveiling new identity cards for its citizens that will commemorate the Jews killed in the Nazi Holocaust of World War II. The serial numbers will begin at 6,000,000, the number of Jews who perished in a Holocaust. The new cards will also include six Stars of David, representing the six million victims.

Baruch Dadon, head of the new ID card project in Israel’s Interior Ministry, said a government committee had decided when implementing the updated, biometric cards came from Jonathan J. Rikoon, facilitated by the United States Commission for the Preservation of America’s Heritage Abroad.

Memorial stones to be set at mass grave sites.

Renovation and memorialization projects at these sites have led to the following surveys at all Jewish cemeteries and Holocaust mass grave sites in Kiev Oblast and among the Jewish youth and students, and coordination by the Lo Tishkach Foundation.

The setting of official memorials at these sites has been enabled by a kind donation by a Holocaust remembrance organization for £100,000 and will go on display at the Museum of Tolerance.

EXTRACTS FROM THE LETTER

A salvo of letters was sent to Adolf Hitler by a Holocaust museum in Los Angeles.

Marking 70 years since the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941, Operation Barbarossa, the Center for Research on the History of Soviet Jews during the Holocaust at Yad Vashem’s International Institute for Holocaust Research held a day-long symposium in June exploring the invasion as an ideological war. Historians discussed political, demographic, and social aspects of the war between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union, and its critical and destruc-

70 YEARS SINCE OPERATION BARBAROSSA

The Symposiun took place with the support of the Genesis Philanthropy Group and European Jewish Fund, and the Gutwirth Family Fund.
A

ner Shalev, Chairman of Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem, was awarded the prestigious 2011 Peter Yavorovsky (Yanay) Award in recognition of his public activity.

The award was presented in a ceremony at the Tower of David Museum.

Since 1967, the award has been presented by the Jerusalem Day to individuals who have

contrbuted to the city of Jerusalem, and whose public service has been focused in Jerusalem's capital and on its behalf.

Born in Jerusalem, Avner Shalev served first as Israeli army as Bureau Chief for Chief of Staff David Elazar during the 1973 Yom Kippur War and later as Chief Educa

tion Officer and head of the Education Corps.

After retiring from military service, Shalev served as Director General of the Culture Authority in the Ministry of Education and

Culture, and Chairman of the National Cultural and Art Council, and was on the board of directors of the Israeli Museum in Jerusalem.

NAZI WAR CRIMINALS MAY GET THEIR DAY IN COURT

Kurt Schirmann is the man the German government has put in charge of chasing down and bringing to justice the people responsible for the atrocities of the Holocaust.

In October he announced that he was reopening hundreds of cases of suspected war criminals that could lead to the prosecution and convictions of dozens of former Nazi guards and officials.

Schirmann decided to reopen the cases because he believes that those who committed war crimes significantly contributed to the deaths of nearly 30,000 people at a death camp in Poland.

According to Schirmann the case gave legal precedent to prosecute suspected war criminals even when they couldn't be connected to a specific crime, only to a death camp or event. Schirmann says it also gave German courts jurisdiction over crimes that occurred outside their borders, in places like Poland.

Jewish organizations are applauding the move. The American Gathering of Holo
cast Survivors and their Descendants says this is the final opportunity for many survivors to see justice in their lifetime. But even Schirmann admits that many of the people who are implicated are over 90 years old and may not last through an expected investigation.

Meanwhile, even Demjanjuk, who by some accounts was one of the most sadis
tic guards at the Polish death camp in which he worked and was convicted for helping to murder tens of thousands of people, was only given 5 years in prison and is currently free on parole pending an appeal.

JEWHISH GHETTO VICTIMS REMEMBERED

Memorial ceremony for thousands of Jewish victims of the Holocaust was held in a church in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius, with volunteers reading the name and profession of every resident who lived in the Jewish ghetto.

Organizers said the list of names, gath
ered from a census taken in 1942, includes thousands of names and would require at least 15 hours to read.

The ghetto was established after Nazi Germany took over Lithuania in 1941. A large part of the ghetto's population died from either starvation or disease, and those who survived where subsequently shot outside Vilnius and sent to death camps.

There were thousands on names read -- name by name by those who died in a forest near Vilnius after the Nazis marched them there from the ghetto. lawmaker Emanuels Zin
gers told The Associated Press.

"It was especially touching to see dozens of young and old Lithuanians read

ing those names in their church from dawn till dusk. This is the right way to remember victims of the Holocaust," he said.

About 95% of the country's prewar Jewish population of 220,000 people was killed by the Nazis and their collaborators during World War II.

The day of the ceremony marked the 68th anniversary of the destruction of the Vilnius ghetto, which effectively marked the end of the Second World War.

In June, lawmakers voted to pay $35 mil

ion in compensation for the seizure of a farmland property by Nazis during the war.
A CONTEMPORARY ULYSSES

U lyses has been eclipsed by Eli Zborowski. The Greek hero’s multi-ple adventures symbolize man’s tenacity in cunning, strength and courage. Eli Zborowski, the founder of the American & International Societies for Yad Vashem, and former president of Sheaffer Latin America, achieved that and more. After the loss of his father at the age of 16, he heroically saved his life, even as “the Lord of the Rings” was published first in Israel in Hebrew by Yad Vashem in 2007, and now in an attractive and improved English format, this compelling account is bound to acquire an honored place in the vast literature of Holocaust memoirs. It is the family drama wrapped in dramas of the author Deborah Steiner-van Rooyen and the book’s heroic protagonist, Yonah Steiner.

P Published first in Israel in Hebrew by Yad Vashem in 2007, and now in an attractive and improved English format, this compelling account is bound to acquire an honored place in the vast literature of Holocaust memoirs. It is the family drama wrapped in dramas of the author Deborah Steiner-van Rooyen and the book’s heroic protagonist, Yonah Steiner. Yonah did not enjoy school, and when at-...
The penultimate year of the war began with a speech exhorting Germans to persevere. Italy was no longer Germany’s ally, and the Soviet army was approaching the borders of Poland, Hungary and Romania. The Allied landing in France was imminent. After addressing soldiers and his fellow Germans, Adolf Hitler turned his attention to the Lord himself in his speech to ring in the New Year of 1944. “He is aware of the goal of our struggle,” he said. The Lord’s “justice will continue to test us until he can pass judgment. Our duty is to ensure that we do not appear to be too weak in his eyes, but that we are given a merciful judgment that spells ‘victory’ and thus signifies life!”

Two very different men in the German Reich noted their leading expression of religious sentiments in their diaries. The first, Victor Klemperer, lived with his wife in a small apartment in Dresden, where he wrote about the dictator, using a false name: “New content: Karl becomes religious. (The new approach lies in his approximation of the ecclesiastical style.)”

The second, Friedrich Kellner, lived with his wife in an official apartment in a court building for the Hessian town of Laubach, where he hid his written account of the war in a living-room cabinet. In his commentary on the Hitler speech, Kellner wrote: “The Lord, who has been maligned by all National Socialists as part of their official policy, is now being implored by the Führer in his hour of need. What strange hypocrisy!”

The extensive diary written by Klemperer, a professor of Romance literature who had been an editor in Dresden, was published in 1995 under the title “Ich Zeugnis ablegen bin zum letzten (I Will Bear Witness 1942-1945: A Diary of the Nazi Years).” It is perhaps the most important private document about the Nazis, because it offers an extremely clear-sighted and detailed account of the 12 years of the “Thousand-year Reich” from the perspective of someone who was marginalized. The account details small annoyances and major crimes, daily atrocities. Now, more than 65 years after the Allied landing in France was imminent, Rainer Hoess was 12 years old when he found out his grandfather was a guard at Auschwitz. That was no great surprise to him, he said, or to his family, who preferred that his grandfather’s crimes, it tears me apart for the sake of myself and that of my own children.”

I do not want to close my eyes and pretend nothing ever happened, like the rest of my family still does. I want to stop the curse that’s been haunting my family ever since, for the sake of myself and that of my own children.”

Hoess is no longer in contact with his father, brother, aunts, and cousins, who all could have a truant grandfather like him with distrust when he tells them about his grandfather — “as if I could have inherited the guilt.”

Despite such reactions, descendants of Nazis — from high-ranking officials to lowly foot soldiers — are increasingly trying to find out what their families did between 1933 and 1945.

The Nazis — the first generation — were too ashamed to talk about the crimes they committed and covered up everything up. The second generation often had trouble personally confronting their Nazi parents. So now it is up to the grandchildren to lift the curses off their families,” said Bode.

It was only during her university years — reading the memoirs of people whose lives were torn apart by the war — that Ursula Boger found out her grandfather was the most dreaded torturer at Auschwitz.

“I felt numb for days after I read about what he did,” recalled Boger, a shy, soft-spoken woman who lives near Freiburg in southwestern Germany. “For many years I was ashamed to tell anybody about him, but then I realized he was no different from my father of two boys and two girls.”

Atrocities in recent years as well as asthma, which he says gets worse when he digs into his family’s Nazi past. Today, Hoess says, he no longer feels guilty, but the burden of the past weighs on him at all times. "My grandfather was a mass murderer — something that I can only be ashamed and sad about," said the 45-year-old chef and father of two boys and two girls. "However,
THE SCHOOLGIRL WHO SURVIVED THE HOLOCAUST BY FOOLING THE NAZIS

BY NATHAN JEFFAY, FORWARD

T IT'S a bigger sacrifice than most people could ever imagine. But for Hester Ginberg-Boissévan, risking her life by hiding innocent Jews during the Holocaust just wasn't enough of a contribution to the Jewish people. The Dutch nurse also decided to move to Israel.

Until three years ago, the residents of Ramat Yishai, near Nazareth, knew nothing of the remarkable story that brought them to the attention of the world.

Helga Weiss, an artist in her early 80s who lives near Nazareth, knew nothing of a moral responsibility. "People in Israel, even in the community, have no idea that they are there," said Weiss. "When I talked to them, it was difficult to get on a plane back to Prague, but that was coming round for a coffee first," said Butterfield. "We were overflowed to see her and we talked for more than 10 or 15 minutes. She is an amazing woman. "

Rosen, who was married after the war, found that the story of Terezin camp in the Czech Republic still lives on today. He and his wife have visited the camp several times and have become involved in efforts to preserve its memory. "The Terezin camp is a great place for students to visit and learn about the history of the Holocaust. It is important to educate young people about what happened and to make sure that such events never happen again," said Rosen.

But Butterfield, who also publishes Anne Frank's diary, asked to see a sample of the writing in one of Weiss's surviving exercise books. "We had an academic report done, and once it was clear what the diaries were, I went to Prague to see her. Accounts of the past are often shaped by the knowledge of what was in the future. What is so important about the diary is that it is Helga's reality. You are aware of all the different things from a memoir."

Before Weiss was sent to the Nazi-controlled ghetto of Terezin as a child, she witnessed the insidious progress of the Holocaust in Prague. "One thing after another was forbidden: employers lost their jobs, we were banned from the parks, swimming pools, sports clubs. I was banned from going to school in Prague," she said. "I was told to the Observer at the time of the London concert: 'I was always asking my parents, what's happening?'; and became angry at them if they thought they were trying to hide something, to protect me."

"The apartment was handed over to Germans and the family was transported to Terezin by rail. Known as Then- sienstadt in German, the city on the northwest perimeter of Prague had become a transit hub where Czech Jews were put to work before being sent on to extermination camps. Her diary, which begins in 1939, records noises that still haunt her: "The4th steps, the roar of the ghetto guards, the banging of doors and hysterical weeping always sound — and fortell — the same," she said.

"She was obviously very clever and quite mature," said Butterfield. "She was obsessed with school at first, like any child of that age. Then there are terrible goodbyes as her friends begin to be taken off to camps."

"Weiss lied about her age, claiming she was old enough to work for her keep. Her mother was directed children and older women to the gas chambers and fit her friends begin to be taken off to camps."

"She was then transferred from Auschwitz to a labor camp at Flossenbürg, where she escaped death a second time when she was forced to join a 16-day "death march" to the camp at Mauthausen. She remained there until the end of the war. "I asked Weiss whether it had felt wonderful to be liberated," said Butterfield. "She said, no, it was not that special because by that point she was so old and had seen so many terrible things it was hard to feel anything."

"The others left Israel, for New York and elsewhere," Shurani said. "My father told me, 'I come out of here alive, she will be my wife,'" Shiran said. Shurani's grandmother made sure he did. She dug a tunnel, through which 35 Jews escaped. Her mother led one of the groups, which included Levi, and the couple married after the war. The final episode of Shurani's story holds the irony of the Righteous Gentiles: Only some of them have a devotional to Israel stronger than that of the Jews they rescued. Her parents made aliyah in 1949 together with the most of the 35 escapees, and her mother, widowed in 2002, still lives in Nahariya. Many of the escapees chose to search for greener pastures.

"The others left Israel, for New York and elsewhere," Shurani said. "My father begged my mother to go. But she said that this is her country and refused to leave, insisting, I stay here."
IGNORING ROMANIA'S HOLOCAUST COMPLICITY: NOT AN OPTION

More than 70 years after the start of World War II, one would think that few secrets remain from what might be the most thoroughly researched period ever in world history. Each year, however, historians uncover new elements to the scope of horror that defined this era – and in particular the Holocaust. The sheer magnitude of human evil is difficult enough to comprehend, but when one looks at the mass murder of an entire people, it becomes all the more unfathomable.

One such example must be the complicity of the Romanian government in the murder of more than 400,000 Jews, the vast majority of them in the villages and forests of Ukraine. Among Hitler's allies, the Romanians are all too often forgotten.

The Romanians were not principled or ideological; they had motivations for an alliance with Germany – who had infiltrated the home of the infamous Nazi doctor on the border between Brazil and Paraguay – beat him to death with a baseball bat. Shortly afterward, it turned out that this so-called “Mengele” was actually an old farmer of German descent who had nothing whatsoever to do with the “Angel of Death” from Auschwitz.

Mengele was cleared of the accusation of causing an accident.”

In January 1945, the Nazis hastily evacuated Auschwitz with a death march. About a week later, Mengele was spotted in the Mauthausen concentration camp by one of the twins evacuated from Auschwitz, who had previously survived during experimentation at his hands. Four months later, at the end of April, Dr. Otto Hans Kahrer, a friend of the doctor’s who worked with him, by chance. He said Mengele “didn’t want to believe the report that had been broadcast over the radio that day about Hitler’s suicide.” According to Kahrer’s testimony, Mengele showed up suddenly in the unit where he had served as a medical doctor during the withdrawal from the Sudetenland, in the uniform of a officer of the Wehrmacht, the German military, uniform and with a gun.

A few weeks later, the unit surrendered to the U.S. Army and was taken to a prison in an armoured truck. There were no details about the type of unit,

to the police. At the end of April 1947, the official had requested that authorities in Vienna interrogate Mengele, who had supposedly been arrested in Argentina. In a conversation with the police, “he was unable to add details” about the affair.

On September 5, 1947, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency published a report from Warsaw to the effect that American forces in Germany had caught a group of Nazi criminals and extradited them to Poland. The report also said that the Polish military delegation to Nuremberg had asked the Americans to extradite Dr. Mengele, who had supposedly been arrested near Berlin. A letter sent by the Polish Central Jewish Historical Committee in June 1947 to an international organization of survivors in Vienna reported that Mengele had been extradited to Poland with the first group of Nazi war criminals who had been active in Auschwitz. In the letter, it was also claimed that “for technical reasons” no date had been set for the beginning of Mengele’s trial.

Later, Israeli police succeeded in locating in Italy the man who was then head of the Polish military delegation – the source of the reports about Mengele’s arrest. He told them that he had received the information about the arrest from the U.S. representative attached to the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg. Another official, who provided erroneous details about Mengele’s fate, was also found in Israel by Hungarian twins Eva and Mirena Mozes, survivors of Dr. Mengele’s experiments.

The forged immigration papers, but had a story that the wife of one of his cousins had helped him. In any event, upon arrival, Mengele received an Argentine identity card from the local police. Within a short time, he began to work as the South American representative of the family business – the German Karl Mengele and Sons firm, which manufactured agricultural machinery. The company, which was formerly based in Gunzburg, still operates under the same name.

Seven years later, in November 1956, (Continued on page 13)
Avner Shalev, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate; Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council; Senator Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz, Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland; Eli Zborowski, Chairman of the American & International Societies for Yad Vashem; and Rabbi Michael Schudrich, Chief Rabbi of Poland.

Jeremy Halpern, Young Leadership Associates Chair; Sam Halpern, National Vice Chairman; Eli Zborowski, Chairman of the American & International Societies for Yad Vashem; Elzbieta Zborowska, Cultural Director.

David Halpern, Dinner Chairman, opened the evening’s program and welcomed the nearly 1,000 guests in attendance.

Caroline Massel, Chair of the Young Leadership Associates, spoke on behalf of the Young Leadership Associates.

Ira Drukier, Member, Board of Trustees, delivered the response on behalf of the Pioneers.

Julius Berman, Esq., Chairman, Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, introduced Eli Zborowski, Chairman of the American & International Societies for Yad Vashem.

Barry Rubenstein, Member, Board of Governors, delivered the response on behalf of the Visionaries.

Dr. Miriam Adelson and Sheldon G. Adelson announced the Society for Yad Vashem Educational Programs. Dr. Miriam Adelson delivered her annual address, “The lessons of the Shoah to their students.” Mr. Adelson emphasized the importance of ensuring the continuation of its vital educational activities for the American Society for Yad Vashem in its crucial role of educating future generations about the Holocaust.
THE FUTURE: 30 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT
& INTERNATIONAL SOCIETIES FOR YAD VASHEM

Dr. Miriam Adelson; Eli Zborowski, Chairman of the American & International Societies for Yad Vashem; Sheldon G. Adelson; and Avner Shalev, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate.

Elizabeth Zborowski, Cultural Director; Eli Zborowski, Chairman of the American & International Societies for Yad Vashem; Jane Wilf and Mark Wilf, Member of the Board.

Ira Mitzner, Dinner Chairman, introduced the program guests.

Iris Lindenbaum, Young Leadership Associates, read greetings from the Honorable Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister, State of Israel.

Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council; Israel Krakowski, Member of the Board.

Announcing their $25 million donation for the American Societies for Yad Vashem. Dr. Adelson said, “We look to these educators to bring on added, “We are proud to partner with Yad Vashem in its activities. We encourage others to join us in supporting this work.”

Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate, gave greetings and reminded us of the importance of remembering the name and story of even one survivor.

Adina Burian, Member of the Young Leadership Associates, reads greetings from the Honorable Shimon Peres, President, State of Israel.

Mark Moskowitz, Member of the Executive Committee, delivered closing remarks at the end of a very memorable event.

Harry Krakowski introduced the Guest Speaker, Rabbi Israel Meir Lau.
REPORT FROM YAD VASHEM

By RENEE C. LEE, HOUSTON CHRONICLE

When the Nazis invaded the Netherlands in 1940, Chanon Florshiem was comfortably living and working at a nursing home south of Amsterdam. Two years later, he and the young Jewish man’s life was upended.

The Nazis, rooting out the Jews, stormed the home and Florshiem needed somewhere to hide. He found refuge in an unlikely place – the home of a German national named Erika Heymann.

A Jewish organization sent him to Heymann because she was known to secretly harbor Jews. She rented rooms to them, fully aware that she was breaking the law and putting herself and her two children at risk. A few years later, would later lead her to imprisonment in a concentration camp.

Florshiem, now 88, still doesn’t forget Heymann’s sacrifice. A few years ago, he nominated Heymann for the Righteous Among the Nations award, which honors those who risked their lives to assist Jews during the Holocaust. Yad Vashem named her as a recipient last year.

Heymann’s son, Dieter Heymann, re-tired Rice University professor, accepted her medal at a ceremony held by the Holocaust Museum Houston. Israeli Consul General Shlomo presented the award on behalf of the state of Israel. Florshiem, along with Heymann’s family and friends, were present for the special occasion.

Dieter Heymann, 84, said his mother probably would not have made much of the award if she were alive.

“Nothing could have made much of the award if she were alive,” he said.

Florshiem was six when he was taken with his family to the Babi Yar massacre. He barely escaped.

Sidko was six when he was taken with his family to the Babi Yar ravine outside Kiev, Ukraine, then part of the Soviet Union, to be murdered along with the rest of that city’s Jews. In the two-day killing spree in September 1941, Nazi troops gunned down more than 30,000 Jews and buried them in mounds of dirt.

Among those murdered were Sidko’s mother and two of his siblings. He and his older brother, Grisha, were among the few who managed to escape the killing fields.

“How is it that everyone was killed and only we survived?” he asked, hands quivering. “I still can’t believe what happened there and how I managed to get away. I thank God I am here today.”

At 76, he is one of the only living survivors of an atrocity that has become one of the defining events of the Nazi genocide of 6 million Jews.

The chairman of the Yad Vashem Council, Elie Wiesel, Meir Lau, who is a former Chief Rabbi of Israel and who was a child Holocaust survivor, theorized that the massacre at Babi Yar in Kiev 70 years ago may have been an experiment by Hitler to test world reaction to the elimination of the Jewish people.

Had the world raised its voice in protest at this horrendous atrocity, Lau surmised, what ensued afterwards might not have happened, and many more Jews might have survived the Holocaust.

“Who could have taken place. It was not a murder that was carried out in the concentration camps or the forests beyond the public eye. It happened where everyone could see it and the world did nothing,”” he said.

Retrospectively, said Lau, when he thought about it, he realized that the Babi Yar massacre had taken place prior to the January 1942 Wannsee Conference, at which the top Nazi command had discussed the final solution to the Jewish problem.

“After that,” he said, the Nazi guard allowed the brothers to break off from the group, and then they fled.

They returned home, but a Ukrainian neighbour reported them to the Gestapo and they were sent to a concentration camp. The brothers escaped that as well and were on the run for two more years, until the end of the war. Michael Sidko’s brother Grisha is no longer alive.

At the ceremony, Sidko rekindled the eternal flame at Yad Vashem alongside Ukrainian Minister of Culture Mykhailo Kulymyk.

“Through my efforts to help break the stereotypes and misconception about the war, I have gained a lot of courage and support to keep spreading the story of our pain and suffering to the world,” he said.

Sidko was six when he was taken with his family to the Babi Yar massacre. He barely escaped.

Sidko said he was gathered along with a small group of children while the adults were being slaughtered. For some inexplicable reason, a German guard allowed him and his 13-year-old brother Grisha to break off from the group, and then they fled.

They returned home, but a Ukrainian neighbour reported them to the Gestapo and they were sent to a concentration camp. The brothers escaped that as well and were on the run for two more years, until the end of the war. Michael Sidko’s brother Grisha is no longer alive.

At the ceremony, Sidko rekindled the eternal flame at Yad Vashem alongside Ukrainian Minister of Culture Mykhailo Kulymyk. “I saw the world before my eyes.”

Sidko said he was gathered along with a small group of children while the adults were being slaughtered. For some inexplicable reason, a German guard allowed him and his 13-year-old brother Grisha to break off from the group, and then they fled.

They returned home, but a Ukrainian neighbour reported them to the Gestapo and they were sent to a concentration camp. The brothers escaped that as well and were on the run for two more years, until the end of the war. Michael Sidko’s brother Grisha is no longer alive.

Sidko said he was gathered along with a small group of children while the adults were being slaughtered. For some inexplicable reason, a German guard allowed him and his 13-year-old brother Grisha to break off from the group, and then they fled.

They returned home, but a Ukrainian neighbour reported them to the Gestapo and they were sent to a concentration camp. The brothers escaped that as well and were on the run for two more years, until the end of the war. Michael Sidko’s brother Grisha is no longer alive.

At the ceremony, Sidko rekindled the eternal flame at Yad Vashem alongside Ukrainian Minister of Culture Mykhailo Kulymyk. “I saw the world before my eyes.”

Sidko said he was gathered along with a small group of children while the adults were being slaughtered. For some inexplicable reason, a German guard allowed him and his 13-year-old brother Grisha to break off from the group, and then they fled.

They returned home, but a Ukrainian neighbour reported them to the Gestapo and they were sent to a concentration camp. The brothers escaped that as well and were on the run for two more years, until the end of the war. Michael Sidko’s brother Grisha is no longer alive.

At the ceremony, Sidko rekindled the eternal flame at Yad Vashem alongside Ukrainian Minister of Culture Mykhailo Kulymyk. “I saw the world before my eyes.”

Sidko said he was gathered along with a small group of children while the adults were being slaughtered. For some inexplicable reason, a German guard allowed him and his 13-year-old brother Grisha to break off from the group, and then they fled.

They returned home, but a Ukrainian neighbour reported them to the Gestapo and they were sent to a concentration camp. The brothers escaped that as well and were on the run for two more years, until the end of the war. Michael Sidko’s brother Grisha is no longer alive.

At the ceremony, Sidko rekindled the eternal flame at Yad Vashem alongside Ukrainian Minister of Culture Mykhailo Kulymyk. “I saw the world before my eyes.”

Sidko said he was gathered along with a small group of children while the adults were being slaughtered. For some inexplicable reason, a German guard allowed him and his 13-year-old brother Grisha to break off from the group, and then they fled.

They returned home, but a Ukrainian neighbour reported them to the Gestapo and they were sent to a concentration camp. The brothers escaped that as well and were on the run for two more years, until the end of the war. Michael Sidko’s brother Grisha is no longer alive.

At the ceremony, Sidko rekindled the eternal flame at Yad Vashem alongside Ukrainian Minister of Culture Mykhailo Kulymyk. “I saw the world before my eyes.”

Sidko said he was gathered along with a small group of children while the adults were being slaughtered. For some inexplicable reason, a German guard allowed him and his 13-year-old brother Grisha to break off from the group, and then they fled.

They returned home, but a Ukrainian neighbour reported them to the Gestapo and they were sent to a concentration camp. The brothers escaped that as well and were on the run for two more years, until the end of the war. Michael Sidko’s brother Grisha is no longer alive.

At the ceremony, Sidko rekindled the eternal flame at Yad Vashem alongside Ukrainian Minister of Culture Mykhailo Kulymyk. “I saw the world before my eyes.”

Sidko said he was gathered along with a small group of children while the adults were being slaughtered. For some inexplicable reason, a German guard allowed him and his 13-year-old brother Grisha to break off from the group, and then they fled.

They returned home, but a Ukrainian neighbour reported them to the Gestapo and they were sent to a concentration camp. The brothers escaped that as well and were on the run for two more years, until the end of the war. Michael Sidko’s brother Grisha is no longer alive.
This is an event,” said Benjamin Stahl, a France’s pre-eminent historian on Africa and a consultant on the film. “Much has been written about Muslim colonialism, but there has been widely known that Muslims helped Jews. There are still stories to be told, to be recorded and documented.”

The film, directed by Ismaël Ferroukhi, is described as fiction inspired by real events and built around the stories of two real-life figures (along with a made-up character). The veteran French actor Michael Lonsdale plays Benghârî, an Algerian-born religious leader and a clever political maneuverer who gave tours of the mosque to German officers and their wives even as he apparently used it to help Jews.

Mahmoud Shalaby, a Palestinian artist living in Israel, plays Salim — originally Simon — Hilali, who was Paris’s most popular Arabic-language singer, a Jew who survived the Holocaust by posing as a Muslim. (To maintain his identity credible, Benghârî had the name of Hilali’s grandfather engraved on a tombstone in the Muslim cemetery in the Paris suburb of Batignolles, according to French obituaries about the singer. In one tense scene in the film a German soldier intent on proving that Hilali is a Jew, takes him to the cemetery to identify it.)

The historical record remains incomplete, because documentation is sketchy. Help was provided to Jews on an ad hoc basis and was not part of any organized movement by the mosque. The number of Jews who benefited is not known. The most graphic account, never corroborated, was given by Alain Assouline, a North African Jew who escaped from a German prison camp. He claimed that more than 1,700 resistance fighters — including Jews but also a lesser number of Muslims and Christians — found refuge in the mosque’s underground cavelike area under the courtyard. The mosque provided many Jews with certificates of Muslim identity.

In his 2006 book, Among the Righteous, Robert Satloff, director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, uncovered stories of Arabs who saved Jews during the Holocaust, and included a chapter titled Recipes Remembered: On right, and Luna Kaufman with her mother on the left.

RECIPES RECALL DARKER DAYS

As Michael Berenbaum, a Holocaust survivor and executive director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, said. The number of Jews protected by the mosque was probably in the dozens, not the hundreds. But it is a story that carries a powerful political message and deserves to be told.

In doing research for the film, Mr. Ferroukhi and even Mr. Stora learned new stories. At one screening a woman asked him why the film did not mention the Ashkenazi Jews of Eastern European origin who had been saved by the mosque. Mr. Stora said he explained that the mosque was probably in the dozens, not the hundreds. But it is a story that carries a powerful political message and deserves to be told.

In his 2006 book, Among the Righteous, Robert Satloff, director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, uncovered stories of Arabs who saved Jews during the Holocaust, and included a chapter titled Recipes Remembered: One of the things that kept me going during the war were memories of food, and so many of those revolved around family gatherings and food,” says Florence Tabrys, a bissel of salt, or missing the step in the instructions. She decided to maintain their integrity as artifacts, even though it sometimes makes the dishes difficult to re-create. Each book reveals the power of food to re-call history, both personal and collective, and the importance that food plays in sustaining traditions, even and perhaps especially during tragedy. “One of the things that kept me going during the war were memories of food,” says Florence Tabrys, a consulting to the film, directed by Ismaël Ferroukhi, a North African Jew who escaped from a German prison camp. He claimed that more than 1,700 resistance fighters — including Jews but also a lesser number of Muslims and Christians — found refuge in the mosque’s underground cavelike area under the courtyard. The mosque provided many Jews with certificates of Muslim identity. “I am an Imam born in the Yemen,” Mr. Stora said. “I am a powerful political message and deserves to be told.”

In his 2006 book, Among the Righteous, Robert Satloff, director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, uncovered stories of Arabs who saved Jews during the Holocaust, and included a chapter titled Recipes Remembered: "It pays homage to the people of our history who have been invisible," he said. "It is to the memory of those Muslims and Jews existed in peace. We have to remember that — with pride."
BEN HELFGOT, Holocaust survivor.

That was headed to Theresienstadt. “I was suddenly an orphan. I had heard that my mother and little sister were killed two-and-a-half years before when I was still with my father and my sister Mala. We were able to believe that the third generation of Jews happened to my father, I was alone. Theresienstadt was where I did all my crying. I cried for 24 hours.”

After liberation, Ben returned to Piotrków with a “cousin. “We thought we would be welcome, but we were racially abused and almost murdered by two Polish army officers.” However, there was good news. Ben’s sister Malia, and another cousin, had managed to survive. Later, Ben became one of “the Boys”, the young concentration camp survivors who were brought to Britain. Malia was taken to Sweden and the siblings were only reunited in London in 1947.

It was here that Ben built a new life. He learned English, went to university to study economics, and married, and he has a family of three sons, their wives, and nine grandchildren. Today he is a retired clothing manufacturer.

All that, though, misses an unexpected chapter in Ben’s story. On a summer’s day in 1944, the 18-year-old went swimming at Hampstead Heath ponds in London. He came across some weightlifters doing exercises. He asked whether he could try to lift some of the weights. One man said that he thought the weights would be too heavy for Ben, but he lifted 180 pounds with ease. He went on to become the only known survivor of Nazi concentration camps to compete in two Olympic games, capturing Britain’s Olympic weightlifting team at Melbourne in 1956 and Rome in 1960.

THREE DECADES AFTER HITLER’S FALL

GERMAN GRANDCHILDREN OF NAZIS DELVE INTO FAMILY PAST

Alexandra Senfft is the granddaughter of Hans Elard Ludin, Hitler’s Slovakian blacksmith who was involved in the deportation of almost 70,000 Jews. After Ludin was hanged in 1947, his wife raised their children in the belief that their father was ‘a good Jew’.

In her book, The Pain of Silence, Senfft describes how a web of lies burdened her family over decades, especially her mother, who was 14 years old when her beloved father was hanged.

“I had continued to remain obstinate and silent about my grandfather’s crimes. I would have become complicit myself, perhaps without even being aware of it,” Senfft said she wrote the book so her children could be free of guilt and shame, and that confronting family pasts is essential for the health of German society as a whole so that history does not repeat itself.

These days Rainer Hoess lectures schoolchildren about the Nazi era and anti-Semitism. A few months ago, he visited Auschwitz for the first time and met a group of Israeli students.

That day was “probably the most difficult and intense day in my life,” Hoess said, but it was also liberating because he realised that the third generation of Jews after the Holocaust did not hold him responsible. One Israeli girl even gave him a little shell with a blue Star of David painted on it, which now rests in his pocket or his neck on a black leather necklace at all times.

Hoess was embroiled in controversy in 2009 when Israeli media reported how he attempted to interest Yad Vashem, the Israeli Holocaust Memorial, in his correspondence seen by the AP back up Hoess’ assertion that he would have been just as willing to donate the items. Hoess eventually donated everything he owned from his grandfather – including a trunk, letters and a cigar cutter -- to the Institute of Contemporary History in Munich.

Hoess acknowledges that his granddaughter will probably never stop hearing him. After his visit to Auschwitz, he met Jozef Pacyzynski, a Polish camp survivor and the founder-editor of Commander Hoess.

“Somehow, subconsciously, I was hoping that maybe he would tell me one positive story about my grandfather, something that shows that he wasn’t all evil after all, that there was some good-nature in him,” Hoess confided.

Pacyzynski asked Hoess to get up and walk across the room, then told him: “You look exactly like your grandfather.”

RECIPE RECALL

DARKER DAYS

(Continued from page 11) by a feeling of kinship with family that didn’t survive. “If you make the same things your forefathers made, you feel closer to them.,” Rani Hanau writes in her entry. As Hersh explains, “Food is a connection to our parents.”

These recipes, however, are more than an inspiration. They are a way for these women, who have struggled to keep their memories and traditions alive through the pain of silence, to move forward. “It’s both helping the women who contributed [to the book] show the food that sustained them... and that now has carried their memories and traditions into the future,” says de Silva. With tested recipes, these dishes can easily be prepared at home and can even inspire our own traditions,” says de Silva.

While all the stories in Recipes Remembered are directly tied to food, Hersh strives to make the link between survivor and recipe clear and relevant by introducing each dish. When only a memory of a food could be recalled, or when a survivor did not provide an “inspired” recipe, Hersh contributed a recipe in the same spirit.

Although the chief purpose of these books is to help us remember the stories and recipes of these women and men, they also serve another, equally important, purpose: “They ensure a connection to a Jewish culinary legacy far older than the recipes themselves,” says de Silva. “These dishes have long been a way of preserving family traditions. We are directly tied to food, Hersh strives to make the link between survivor and recipe clear and relevant by introducing each dish. When only a memory of a food could be recalled, or when a survivor did not provide an “inspired” recipe, Hersh contributed a recipe in the same spirit.

Although the chief purpose of these books is to help us remember the stories and recipes of these women and men, they also serve another, equally important, purpose: “They ensure a connection to a Jewish culinary legacy far older than the recipes themselves,” says de Silva. “These dishes have long been a way of preserving family traditions. We are directly tied to food, Hersh strives to make the link between survivor and recipe clear and relevant by introducing each dish. When only a memory of a food could be recalled, or when a survivor did not provide an “inspired” recipe, Hersh contributed a recipe in the same spirit.

Although the chief purpose of these books is to help us remember the stories and recipes of these women and men, they also serve another, equally important, purpose: “They ensure a connection to a Jewish culinary legacy far older than the recipes themselves,” says de Silva. “These dishes have long been a way of preserving family traditions. We are directly tied to food, Hersh strives to make the link between survivor and recipe clear and relevant by introducing each dish. When only a memory of a food could be recalled, or when a survivor did not provide an “inspired” recipe, Hersh contributed a recipe in the same spirit.

Although the chief purpose of these books is to help us remember the stories and recipes of these women and men, they also serve another, equally important, purpose: “They ensure a connection to a Jewish culinary legacy far older than the recipes themselves,” says de Silva. “These dishes have long been a way of preserving family traditions. We are directly tied to food, Hersh strives to make the link between survivor and recipe clear and relevant by introducing each dish. When only a memory of a food could be recalled, or when a survivor did not provide an “inspired” recipe, Hersh contributed a recipe in the same spirit.

Although the chief purpose of these books is to help us remember the stories and recipes of these women and men, they also serve another, equally important, purpose: “They ensure a connection to a Jewish culinary legacy far older than the recipes themselves,” says de Silva. “These dishes have long been a way of preserving family traditions. We are directly tied to food, Hersh strives to make the link between survivor and recipe clear and relevant by introducing each dish. When only a memory of a food could be recalled, or when a survivor did not provide an “inspired” recipe, Hersh contributed a recipe in the same spirit.
UNRAVELING THE MENGELE MYSTERY

(Continued from page 7) Mengele showed up at the German embassy with his original birth certificate. The embassy confirmed the authenticity of the document, and based on it, Mengele received a temporary identity card, this time bearing his real name: Josef Mengele; date of birth: March 16, 1911; place of birth: Hohenau, Austria.

Years later, when the German ambassador in Argentina was asked for an explanation, he said: “I received instructions from the Foreign Ministry in Bonn not to pay any attention to the issue, since there was no legal arrest order against Dr. Josef Mengele at the time, and the German delegation didn’t request his extradition from Argentina.”

The Israeli police report also provides a glimpse into the life of Mengele’s family. His wife, Irene, refused to join her husband in South America. In 1954, she divorced him; about a half year she married. Four years after his divorce, Mengele married Marita Maria Mengele, his younger brother Karl’s widow.

According to the police report, Mengele, who became infamous for his experiments on concentration camp inmates during the war, had two twin nephews. Their father was Mengele’s other brother, Alois. The twins were born on May 21, 1919. After Nazi Germany surrendered unconditionally, they didn’t request his extradition from Argentina.

The report includes considerable detail about the people who helped Mengele hide and escape. One of them was Gitta Stammer, known as “Gi” for short. A native of Austria, the Stammer family owned a small herd of cows.

During their leisure hours, the two would spend time at a club for Hungarians and people from German-speaking countries. The twins also met the Gerhard family from Austria. The Austrian couple suggested that they employ on their farm a Swiss man named Peter Hochbichler. The Stammers agreed happily, and Hochbichler went to live on their farm, which he began to manage. The police report said: “Peter refuted all payment for his work and even insisted that he would pay them for his board and the services he received. Hochbichler, who had been introduced to the twins, received no visitors and adamantly refused to be photographed. The only people who visited them were the German envoy, who on those occasions would bring him German newspapers and books.”

Two years later, in 1943, Gitta Stammer happened to come across a photograph of Josef Mengele in a local newspaper. She became suspicious because of his surprising resemblance to her “Swiss” farm manager. That evening, Peter confirmed in a conversation with them that he really was Josef Mengele and showed them papers with his real name. At the time, he told them a little about his past and his connections with leading Nazis in South America, according to the report.

In wake of this discovery, Stammer wanted to dismiss Mengele. But a short time later, a man who introduced himself as the “manager of the Mengele company” – the Hochbichler family business – showed up at the farm. He gave the Stammers $3,000 “to cover his living expenses,” he said, adding that he had to go out of his way to find another safe haven for him. Another woman who helped Mengele to hide was Elisabeth Leiker, an Austrian. In a conversation with Italian police, Bossert said that in 1977 she met Rolf Bossert, who was still looking for his father, in Brazil. Rolf arrived in Brazil with a passport he had stolen from his friend. Bossert’s husband later told police about the circumstances surrounding Mengele’s death in 1979. As they did every year, she and her family would vacation in Brazil in the beach in Brazil. A day earlier, Josef Mengele had arrived at their home, planning to stay with them for a few days. Late in the evening, after she and the children had gone to bed, her husband and Mengele stayed up and talked. At about 2 A.M., she was awakened by a noise coming from the living room. Her husband and Mengele were having a loud argument, and it was not clear why.

In spite of that, the family continued with its original plan, and the next day went on a morning hike to the forests and along the beach, in the company of Mengele. In the afternoon, they returned home and later went Mengele out of the water, but almost drowned him.

The papers she presented to the authorities were forged and bore the name of Wolfgang Gerhard, the man who had first introduced her to Mengele. The doctor on duty did not examine the body, did not photograph it, and did not take fingerprints. Bossert asked to have the body cremated, but was told that would be possible only when his friend confirmed it was indeed Mengele.

The morgue official asked Bossert to identify the body in the coffin, but she refused, saying that she could identify the coffin and she was in a rush to get to the funeral, which was being held in the cemetery in Etmilio, about 30 kilometers from São Paulo.

At the cemetery, Bossert was once again asked to identify the body. Fearing that the cemetery director would notice that the dead man was not the same as the man whose name appeared in his papers, she pretended to have an anxiety and fainting attack in order to distract them. Ultimately, the coffin was interred in a double plot, where the mother of the real Wolf- gang Gerhard was also buried. Aside from the director of the cemetery and the gravedigger, nobody was present. Bossert later told police that during the ceremony, he had been assured that Mengele had died, letting his family know in a letter under the heading “The last day.”

A month after Mengele’s death, the Israeli government offered a $25,000 reward for anyone who could help solve the case. It was $25,000 reward for anyone who could help solve the case.

The Israeli government even offered a reward for anyone who could help solve the case. It was $25,000 reward for anyone who could help solve the case.

In 1985, Mengele’s body was exhumed. With the help of the U.S. consul in São Paulo, Brazilian police and a private detective, they were able to provide authorities with X-rays of Mengele’s teeth. “These were compared to the remains of his body, which was then identified with ‘complete certainty’ as belonging to Mengele. In 1992, a genetic test was conducted, confirming his death conclusively.”

DIARIES REVEAL HOW MUCH WARTIME GERMANS KNEW

(Continued from page 5) ‘friend’ Russia, of all countries. The Na- tional Socialists observed with close attention to terrifyingly the fight against Bolshevism (World Enemy No. 1, Anti-Comintern Pact). In the epilogue, the author’s grandson, longings to Mengele. In 1992, a genetic test themselves warned the population against the revenge of the perpetrators. Fearing for his life, the man had to flee the war zone only after the war was victory — or total annihilation.

Kellner lived until 1970. Despite having been under surveillance by the party and questioned several times, he escaped the concentration camps. In a denunciation written in 1940, a Nazi official named Engst wrote: “If we want to apprehend people like Kellner, we have to lure them out of their corners and allow them to make themselves guilty. The time is not ripe for an approach like the one that was used with the Jews. This can only happen after the war.”

In the epilogue, the author’s grandson describes how the publication of Kellner’s diary caused. German publishers were not interested at first. But then the diaries attracted attention when, in April 1992, German reports of research by the US President George Bush had looked at Kellner’s original notebooks in the George Bush Presidential Library at Texas A&M University.

Now that they have finally been published, and it did not lack for a place next to the Klemperer diaries in German libraries and on private bookshelves too.
ELUSIVE JUSTICE: THE SEARCH FOR NAZI WAR CRIMINALS

The American Society for Yad Vashem hosted the World Premiere Screening of Elusive Justice: The Search for Nazi War Criminals on September 20, 2011 at the prestigious Directors Guild Theater in New York City. The event, which included a VIP reception, selected film highlights, a panel discussion, and the Yad Vashem archival exhibit “Marking 50 Years Since the Eichmann Trial,” was made possible by the generosity of the Blavatnik Family Foundation and Sigmund A. Rolat.

Elusive Justice: The Search for Nazi War Criminals is a landmark PBS documentary about the global effort to identify, prosecute, and punish the 20th Century’s most notorious killers. The film was produced and directed by Emmy-award winning journalist Jonathan Silvers and narrated by Candice Bergen, and features well-known Nazi-hunters Rudolph Giuliani, Elizabeth Holtzman, Serge and Beate Klarsfeld, Allan A. Ryan, Howard Safir, and Eli Rosenbaum. In addition to Event Underwriters Leonard and Emily Blavatnik, and Sigmund A. Rolat, in attendance at the event were Executive Producers Nancy Spielberg, Jack Kliger, and Leon Constantiner, Event Sponsors Sharon and David Halpern, Mark Moskowitz, Alan Pines, and Young Leadership Chairs Nicole and Joseph Meyer. Stephen Segaller, Vice President of Programming, PBS-WNET 13, was one of the guest speakers.

The audience was treated to an in-depth and intriguing panel discussion after the film, featuring Elizabeth Holtzman, former U.S. Congresswoman and Chair of the House Immigration Subcommitte; Howard Safir, former Associate Director of the U.S. Marshals Service, Commissioner of the New York Police Department, and Commissioner of the New York Fire Department; Allan A. Ryan, former Director of the Office of Special Investigations (OSI) in the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice; and David G. Marwell, an investigative historian who served at the U.S. Justice Department’s OSI.

(Continued from page 4)

with SS officers. Transferred to Germany’s Flossenbürg for nine months, he tried to sabotage the planes he worked on so that they would explode in the air. He even hit back his kapo-like blockmas- ter, gaining his respect. He witnessed the arrival of well-groomed Czech, Hungarian, German, and French women who became prey to the wild soldiers and were tortured to death in horrific ways when deemed useless. There he learned from a German prisoner and friend never to drink unboiled water and to eat every morsel of the mea- ger food. It would safe his life. Unbeknown to Yonah, his brother Willi died in Ein Gev, but was saved, many were lost in the ensuing flight toward the electrified fences. Others, including Yonah, rushed to dig for potatoes. I’ll always recall my visit to Mauthausen with my wife Jennifer on a July 2002 day, and the contrast between the pastoral environ- ment and what transpired at the camp.

Following liberation by American troops on May 5, 1945, Yonah shared the revenge he and other freed in- mates exacted on captured SS on a bridge in nearby Linz with bayonets supplied by the black American soldiers. In the same town in 1946, my family and I spent 6 weeks in a refugee facility upon our es- cape from Poland via Czechoslovakia. A period of reckless conduct, which Yonah was not proud of, ensued, expressing the survivors’ outrage and pain. In Rome, Italy, with Yonah working for the Americans as a truck driver, an officer informed him that a newly arrived Jeep was donated by a Solomon Steiner of New Jersey. It was Yonah’s uncle! Subsequently Solomon sent him a ticket to join him, which Yonah didn’t use, creating a long estrangement which lasted till Solomon and Rose Steiner made aliyah in 1973.

Yonah’s focus became finding his brother Paul, who, unknown to him, was also in Mauthausen. Following arduous efforts, a book in itself, the two were reunited in Czechoslovakia’s Bratislave, where ambi- ous Paul was operating a textile factory. Paul reluctantly joined irresistible Yonah, but ended up to the family’s chagrin with a French Catholic wife in France. In Ham- burg, Germany, Yonah met Rikvah, a Ukrainian family’s sole survivor, and like many survivors quickly married. Yonah fol- lowed Rikvah to kibbutz Ein Gev, but was caught by the British. He was interred in Cyprus not before daring sea missions of bringing refugees to Palestine. He finally made it to Ein Gev with seven buddies in January 1947, escaping by boat from Cyprus. Yonah helped protect the kibbutz for the forthcoming war, and when leaving for kibbutz Ginosar in 1951, he put into practice the skills gained as a slave laborer for the Germans whom he both hated and admired.

In September 1999, on the 60th an- niversary of WW II, the author’s uncle, David Steiner, took 21 family members on an emotional roots journey to Gromnik, where Yonah was finally able to cry, admit- ting to years of psychological detachment that also had protected him. David Steiner, who has become the family’s generous pa- tron, owns New York’s Steiner’s Studios and Steiner Equities, and is an AIPAC past chairman. The author fulfilled her pledge to Grandpa Solomon: she found Yonah.

Yonah died of cancer on May 26, 2009, five days after his family gathered to cele- brate his 83rd birthday, and is buried in his beloved kibbutz where Deborah first met him in 1969. The dove in the book’s title stands for the Hebrew, Yonah.

Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, Virginia.
ANNUAL TRIBUTE DINNER

(Continued from page 4)

public discourse, making it his life’s mis-
sion to build a connection between the
eventual destination and the past. Eli’s unawakening towards this end
energized him in his founding of the Ameri-
can Society three years ago and has out-
bursted his unceasing efforts to this day. These efforts have always reflected his faithfulness to
Yad Vashem with needs and priorities, above all, Eli’s pioneering vision and inspir-
ing leadership have generated extensive general
and specific activities such as the Society’s signature project, the Valley of the Communities at Yad Vashem –
and have stimulated younger generations to
find meaning in everlasting Holocaust re-
membrance.

“Eli’s perceptive insight regarding the
powerful link between Holocaust remem-
brance and Jewish continuity has served as the essential foundation for the Ameri-
can Society’s myriad achievements. Eli was instrumental in tying the permanent bond between the American Society and Yad Vashem. That bond has helped yield the
Ansonian of the Yad Vashem $100
Masterplan, including the completion of our
new Museum Complex, the significant ex-
pansion of Holocaust education worldwide,
and the effective integration of cutting edge
technologies in the pursuit of Holocaust
commemoration, education, documenta-
tion and research. These achievements re-
fect Eli Zborowski’s paramount dedication to an affiliation with Yad Vashem.

“I know that Eli’s matchless achieve-
ments, his keen wisdom, and steadfast solidi-
arity with Yad Vashem constitute an
enduring legacy of leadership and loyalty
that will set the standard for all who steer
the American Society in the decades to
come. He, and we, have the satisfaction of
seeing how a younger generation is as-
suming the continued responsibility of re-
membrance through loyal support of Yad Vashem.

“Eli wish Eli Zborowski, the American Soci-
ey, and Yad Vashem much hatzlacha, suc-
cess, as we continue together to pursue
our destiny of meaningful remembrance.”

Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Ne-
tanyahu, Israeli President Shimon Peres, and President of Poland Bronislaw Ko-
morowski sent their greetings to the Ameri-
can Society on the occasion of its 30th
anniversary.

The annual tribute dinner concluded
with the blessings recited by Rabbi Judah Oppenheimer of the Young Israel of For-
est Hills.

(Continued on page 4)

Shimon Peres:
“WE SHALL CONTINUE TO REMEMBER THE PAST”

O
n the occasion of the Annual Tribute Dinner of the American & International Societies for Yad Vashem, I want to warmly greet the distinguished participants of this event and congratulate you on your 30th anniversary celebration – 30 years of great achievements.

The years that have elapsed since the dark era of the Holocaust are many, but its memory
is still vivid, and the voices and faces of its victims still haunt us, more meaningfully yet at
the sound of today’s strident calls for our annihilation and the tangible threats to our very existence. We cannot let our guard down, we cannot falter in our determination to prevail,
nor can we allow the distinctness of our past experiences to fade into the shadows of our
memories.

“Preserving the Past – Guarding the future” encapsulates this essential need and must
be upheld and I want to thank all those whose significant contribution to Yad Vashem’s
mission has been unflagging. And as we stand together as one, we shall continue to
remember the past, never to forget, and these memories will inspire us to build a secure,
hopeful and thriving future for the generations to come.

Bronislaw Komorowski:
“THE HOLOCAUST IS THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON WE MAY TAKE FROM THE HISTORY OF MANKIND”

I am happy that as the President of the Republic of Poland I may greet you and all those gathered.

Yad Vashem is the institution of record for transmitting the lessons of the Holocaust world-
wide. Poland is grateful for its continuous cooperation with many Polish partners, including
the Memorial and Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau and other Polish museums.

I want to specifically express the gratitude of Poland for the efforts of Yad Vashem to
honor those brave people who risked their lives to save Jewish citizens of Poland.

The cruel murder of millions of European Jews took place, to a great extent, on Polish
 territories occupied by Hitler’s Germany and this places a special obligation on the Polish
people to remember the past and recognize a danger of anti-Semitism, as well as to
remember the coexistence of Poles and Jews for hundreds of years. In Warsaw the new
history of Polish Jews, which is under construction, will tell the story of our life,
our long common life, including its brightest and darkest chapters.

I thank you for the achievements of societies for Yad Vashem. Through the assistance of Yad Vashem you help every-
one to build a better future for all of us.

A CONTEMPORARY ULYSSES

Benjamin Netanyahu: “WE COMMEND THE MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN & INTERNATIONAL SOCIETIES”

I give you great pleasure to send warm greetings to the American & International So-
cieties for Yad Vashem on the occasion of the Annual Tribute Dinner.

This year, the American & International Societies for Yad Vashem mark their 30th
anniversary, and this year’s dinner is a celebration of those remarkable individuals who
helped establish Yad Vashem Jerusalem and the American & International Societies.

Their achievements and dedication to ensuring that the horrors of the Holocaust are re-
membered and can never again occur are highly deserving of this recognition.

Yad Vashem is the leading Holocaust educational institution, and serves as a repository
for valuable eyewitness testimony of those who survived the Holocaust, information re-
garding European Jewry before its almost total eradication and invaluable documents
related to World War Two.

We commend the members of the American & International Societies for their support
in ensuring the future of Yad Vashem, and thank you for your commitment.
In conjunction with the 30th Anniversary of the American & International Societies for Yad Vashem we are pleased to announce the publication of

A Life of Leadership

published by KTAV in association with Yad Vashem Publications

“In this book there is not a single dull page, not a single story that does not resonate today with the capacity to inspire new generations.”

—The Right Honorable Sir Martin Gilbert

Follow the remarkable path of Eli Zborowski’s journey from survivor to entrepreneur to communal leader that led him to

• Inaugurate the first Yom Hashoah commemoration in the United States
• Establish the world’s first academic chair in Holocaust Studies at Yeshiva University
• Found and chair the American & International Societies for Yad Vashem

See book review on page 4

All book proceeds will benefit the American Society for Yad Vashem. For a donation of $25.00 or more you can receive a copy of A Life of Leadership.

To take advantage of this offer:
Call (800) 310-7495 or
Order online at www.yadvashemusa.org

A bequest to the American Society for Yad Vashem helps keep the memory of the Six Million alive...

Please remember us in your trust, will, estate plan or with the planned gift. It’s your legacy... to your family, and your people.
For more information, or for help with proper wording for the bequest to ASYV, please contact us at 212-220-4304.

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