

MARTYRDOM & RESISTANCE



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HOPE תקווה AMERICAN & INTERNATIONAL SOCIETIES FOR YAD VASHEM ANNUAL TRIBUTE DINNER

“THERE IS HOPE FOR THE FUTURE”



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

Honored guests, ladies and gentlemen of dais, dear colleagues and friends:

I wish first to offer my heartfelt congratulations to this evening's three distinguished honorees, who are each in their own way the embodiment of this year's dinner theme – Hope. It is because they believed and hoped that they were able to make this world a better place for all of mankind.

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

American Society, and proud to have her as a member of our Executive Board.

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

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

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

Today to the date we observe the 70th Anniversary of the *Kristallnacht* and we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the State of Israel. We recall that, since November 9th, 1938, the infamous *Kristallnacht*, we experienced increased discrimination, systematic dehumanization, ghettos, starvation and deportations to concentration and death camps. A very few of us survived, to be witness to the tragedy, coined as the Holocaust.

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

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

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

“THE VERY WORLD RESTS ON THE BREATH OF A CHILD IN SCHOOL”



MARGARET SPELLINGS, U.S. Secretary of Education

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

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

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

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

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

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

Few understand this as well as survivors like Selma Gruder Horowitz. After surviving Korowice, Selma came to the U.S. and founded a highly successful company. Today, she serves as President of East Coast Industrial Uniform, a board member of the American Society for Yad Vashem, a trustee of Yad Vashem Jerusalem, and a strong supporter of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

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

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

Under his leadership, Yad Vashem has embraced new technologies to make sure the world's most comprehensive collection of Holocaust material is also the world's most accessible. He has established an International School for Holocaust Studies, a new museum complex, and a new library to house more than 68 million pages of documentation, plus hundreds of thousands of books and photographs.

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

I want to thank all of tonight's honorees for all that they do to create a more hopeful future. I thank them for teaching young generations the values of decency and tolerance.

Their wisdom gives us hope for what we can achieve. And I know they and your children, and all of us, will continue this work long into the future.

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ANNE FRANK MUSEUM RESTORES PHOTO COLLAGE

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

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

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

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

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

An investigation of the pictures found that most were movie stars cut from the Dutch women's magazine *Libelle*, Bekker said.

Other images include postcards of

Britain's Queen Elizabeth - when she was still a princess - and the Dutch royal family in exile.

As Anne grew older, she pasted over some of the glamor shots with reproduc-



tions of artwork by Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci.

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

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

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

CLAIMS CONFERENCE INCREASING ALLOCATIONS

The Claims Conference will increase its allocations in 2009 by \$23 million.

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

"Increasing Claims Conference allocations is essential to addressing the growing needs of Nazi victims as they age," said Julius Berman, the confer-

ence chairman. "These funds are for home care, hunger relief, medical care, winter supplies, emergency cash grants and other vital services to Nazi victims worldwide."

The funds mostly represent the proceeds from the sale of unclaimed Jewish property in the former East Germany. The conference also will fund \$18 million in Holocaust education and remembrance projects.

GERMANY MAKES LIST OF NAZI-ERA JEWS

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

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

Germany's federal archive drew up the list, which the government and a foundation that oversaw the compensation of Nazi-era slave laborers financed to the

tune of \$2.24 million.

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

The government said the idea for the list, drawn up over the past four years, first arose during negotiations over unpaid insurance claims dating back to the Nazi era.

It was compiled using information held in the nation's federal archive, as well as municipal registries and deportation lists.

FORMER NAZI TRIED FOR ROBBING STORE IN PROTEST OF WAR CRIMES TRIAL

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

The defendant had been convicted in 1968 of murdering six Jews in *Gorlice*, Poland during World War II and was sentenced to life imprisonment. He served 22 years and was then freed on grounds of age.

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

The court heard how he took a train from *Recklinghausen* to *Eupen* in March 2007, walked into a pharmacy and pointed the life-like toy gun at the pharmacist, 49, saying, "Give me all your money. This is no joke."

But when a woman customer walked in, he departed with no booty.

He confirmed his war crimes, saying, "They were vile acts, and I did do them." Some of the murders occurred in the street, with the Germans shooting people in the head at point-blank range.

However, he contended that his trial in Nuremberg for the war crimes had been unfair because no weight was given to orders from above.

He said the Belgium robbery had been an act of protest to attract public attention to his point of view

"I didn't care about the money," he asserted.

JEWISH MUSEUM IN BERLIN TRACES ART STOLEN BY NAZIS

Jewish-owned art seized by the Nazis from 1933 onwards is featured at a new exhibition at the Jewish Museum in Berlin. Meanwhile, Germany's culture minister has called for the "fair" return of Jewish art.

The exhibition consists of 15 artworks along with documents describing their seizure or forced sale, later changes in ownership, and ultimate restitution. Valuable porcelain and book collections from Dresden's intellectual von Klemperer family are included in the show. The Gestapo confiscated the family's collection in 1938, placing it in Dresden's municipal art collection and the Saxony state library.

Before the Second World War, Nazi Germany made it illegal for Jews to own art treasures, forcing them to sell them. Later during the Holocaust, Jewish property throughout eastern Europe was

seized by Nazi officials.

Exhibition organizers said that many of the confiscated paintings and other treasures had still not been recovered by the lawful heirs of the original owners.

Michael Blumenthal, director of the museum, charged that German art collectors, dealers and museums had all profited by being able to purchase art at reduced prices.

He praised Germany's current efforts to give back the art, but said he was disappointed that heirs had no absolute legal right to reclaim the artworks.

At an opening ceremony, Minister of Culture Bernd Neumann called for "fair and just" solutions in returning the work stolen by Nazi officials.

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

YAD VASHEM TO STIMULATE BELARUS RESEARCH

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

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

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

About 100 volunteers work in 16 areas of Belarus to find the names of victims

using archives, and with the assistance of museums and schools. The project began in Belarus in 2006.

Approximately 800,000 Jews perished in Belarus during World War II. Some 200 ghettos were located there.

"By now, we have managed to restore only a small part of the names of people that perished in Belarus," said Avner Shalev, the head of the executive board of the Yad Vashem Institute, at a meeting with volunteers in *Minsk*. "We want to find out new names."

HITLER DOLLS FOR SALE IN UKRAINE

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

The Hitler figurine features moveable arms that enable it to reproduce the Nazi dictator's infamous salute, and consumers are able to choose from a variety of outfits, including "early days Adolf" and "wartime Adolf" (A grey double-breasted tunic, black trousers and simple Iron Cross medal), the *Daily Telegraph* said.

The box containing the doll features Hitler's birth date and date of death. Even though officially the distribution of racist or

fascist materials is illegal in Ukraine, the dolls have reportedly already been put up for sale in local supermarkets.

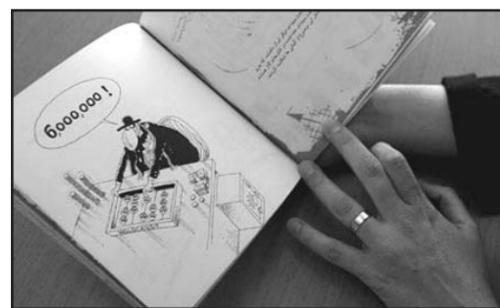
A representative for the toy manufacturer did not attribute any political significance to the doll, saying it's "like Barbie." She added that if the company sees high demand for the Hitler doll, it will continue to produce a whole series of toys inspired by the *Third Reich*.



IRAN LAUNCHES BOOK MOCKING HOLOCAUST VICTIMS

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

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



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

Written by student members of the Basij militia, the book comes two years after an Iranian newspaper commissioned a competition of Holocaust-themed cartoons.

Despite an international outcry, the Iranian government later in 2006 hosted a Holocaust conference featuring a number of revisionist historians.

Inside pages have pictures of bearded Jews shown leaving and re-entering a gas chamber with a counter that reads 5,999,999.

Another picture shows a hospital patient covered in an Israeli flag and on life support, breathing Zyklon-B, the poisonous gas used in the death camps.

The education minister, Alireza Ali-Ahmadi, was taking part in an official rally for *Qods Day* - an annual event to show solidarity with Palestinians.

In recent years - since the election of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as president in 2005 - the event has grown more vocal and angry.

At a *Qods Day* rally in that year, Mr Ahmadinejad first said that Israel would be "wiped from the map". He has since used similarly aggressive language.

Tens of thousands of Iranians attended the annual parade, waving placards and chant - ing "Death to Israel".

LITHUANIA DROPS PROBE OF EX-PARTISAN

Lithuania's prosecutor general dropped a war crimes inquiry of a World War II partisan.

A spokeswoman for the prosecutor general said the 2-year-old investigation of Dr. Yitzhak Arad, the chairman emeritus of the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem, was dropped because of insufficient data. The probe interviewed 83 people.

The inquiry stemmed from the publication of memoirs recalling partisan activities against Nazis and their collaborators in wartime Lithuania — activities that Lithuanian law interpreted as tantamount to genocide.

It is unknown whether the inquiry into

two other elderly former partisans, Rachel Margolis and Fania Brantsovsky, also will be dropped.

The incident in question was a Soviet-led ambush of Lithuanian collaborators in which 38 villagers were killed, including children and a pregnant woman.

Lithuania's consul general in New York, Jonas Paslauskas, had acknowledged previously that negative publicity abroad had generated second thoughts on the inquiry by Lithuania's highest officials, including President Valdas Adamkus.

In August Adamkus came out with a statement indicating that he would push to have the inquiry dropped.

A PRE-WAR MAP OF A LITHUANIAN TOWN DONATED TO AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR YAD VASHEM

Recently, a Boca Raton resident, Mr. Larry Pomeranz, donated a 6'x 7' hand-crafted map to the American Society for Yad Vashem. The map of *Kudrika-Naishtot*, a Lithuanian town on the border of the former East Prussia, lists the names of each Jewish family residing in the town before WWII and shows each family's exact dwelling location. Almost the entire Jewish community of Kudrika-Naishtot perished — 190 Jewish families, or 750 people, were massacred in a three-day period, in July and September of 1943.

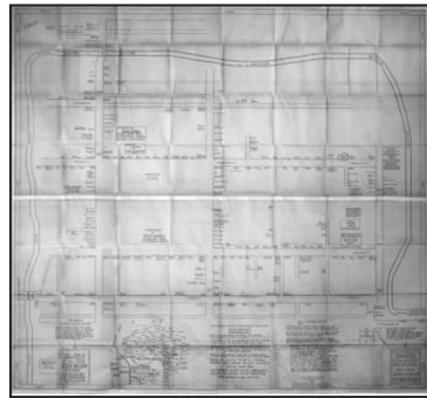
Mr. Pomeranz told the American Society for Yad Vashem the story of the map, owned by his great-aunt, the late Sarah Gventer.

"Sarah Gventer, z'l was my great uncle Isaac's second wife. Some time after her passing, in November 2006, my great-uncle and I went through boxes containing her effects and came across the map which had been stored away for many years. The map was sent to Sarah by a Mr. Ralph Goldberg, a relative and a Holocaust Survivor, who in the early 1970's commissioned a draftsman to create the map. The map lists, to the best of Mr. Goldberg's recollection, the name of each Jewish family within the town, in addition to public buildings, such as the Synagogue, directions to other cities and the exact dates of the massacre of Jewish men, women and children of the town. The Jewish men were killed on July 1st and 2nd, 1943 and the women and children on September 16th of that year. The map states that it was created as a testimony to the atrocities, with the sole purpose that the Holocaust be remembered for future generations...."

Mr. Pomeranz continued: "I am fortunate to state that while the map's journey en route to Yad Vashem may have been slow, I am privileged to have acted, albeit in a very small and insignificant capacity, as a custodian and a messenger by returning the map to its rightful owners, Klal Yisroel. May it serve as a testimony

and serve to help families with relatives who lived in *Kudrika*, Lithuania."

Upon receiving the map, the American Society of Yad Vashem explored ways of photographing it so that copies would be available for educational institutions throughout the United States. However, the unique size and nature of this map created challenges in finding a suitable photographer. Most of the labs that the American Society for Yad Vashem approached lacked the proper equipment to handle and photograph this document.



Map *Kudrika-Naishtot*, a Lithuanian town on the border of the former East Prussia, donated to the American Society of Yad Vashem by Mr. Larry Pomeranz

However, one lab recommended speaking with a well known photographers' agent, Elaine Korn of Elaine Korn Associates, Ltd. Ms. Korn was deeply touched by the story of the map and arranged for the renowned photographer, Charles Nesbit, to photograph it in his Manhattan studio. Mr. Nesbit, very much moved by the story himself, offered his services free-of-charge. Thanks to his generosity, the American Society for Yad Vashem now holds a reproduced copy of the map, as well as electronic copies of the map on disc. Eli Zborowski, Chairman of the Society will deliver the original map to Yad Vashem in Israel.

and persecutions, past and present, throughout the world. By contrast, LAMH will focus solely on the Holocaust.

Some questions have been raised in the Jewish community whether money spent on Holocaust memorials and education would not be put to better use fighting poverty, disease and myriad other causes.

LAMH president E. Randol Schoenberg responded that "You can ask the same question about money given to art and music. Life is more than just physical survival." He then quoted Jona Goldrich, a survivor and major supporter of the new museum, that "If you built a monument on every street corner in Los Angeles, you couldn't tell the whole story."

HOLOCAUST BABY GETS TO WATCH FAMILY'S STORY AS OFF-BROADWAY DRAMA

BY DEBBIE TUMA and JANE H. FURSE, DAILY NEWS

Roman Haller was born in a Nazi officer's basement, hidden with 11 other Jews in World War II by a Polish woman whose selfless act is the subject of a new play starring Tovah Feldshuh.

An appearance at the theater by Haller, 64, served as living proof of the sacrifice by Irena Gut Opdyke, whose life four-time Tony nominee Feldshuh portrays in "*Irena's Vow*," a play by Dan Gordon at the Baruch Performing Arts Center.

Seeing the story of his parents and his birth come alive on the stage "was for me a really great moment," said Haller, who heads a foundation in Munich that aids the restitution of property to the families of Holocaust victims.

"All these feelings came back in my mind, about what my parents went through, hiding in that basement for almost two years."

Irena Gut, a Catholic forced to work for a Nazi commander, agreed to become the officer's mistress when he found out she was hiding Jews in his basement — she begged him to let them live instead of condemning them to the death camps.

One of the many harrowing moments in the Off-Broadway play comes when Haller's parents discover they are expecting a baby.

They tell Gut they will have an abortion, so as not to endanger the lives of everyone else she is hiding.

Gut says no.

"This baby will be born, because if this baby dies, then Hitler wins and he has

killed enough children and families already," she says.

When Haller came onstage after opening night performance to answer questions, joining Irena's daughter Jeannie Opdyke Smith, 51, the audience gasped.

"I guess they were amazed to see this little baby all grown up," he said.

After the war, Irena Gut moved to *Yorba Linda*, Calif., where she married William Opdyke, a former United Nations staffer, and gave birth to Jeannie Opdyke in 1957.

Haller met Gut Opdyke years later and recalls telling her, "I feel like I have two mothers — one that gave me birth and one that gave me my life."

Haller remained in contact with Gut Opdyke until her death in 2003. When he came to New York to attend the premier, it was

his first time meeting her daughter.

Opdyke Smith said the first time she saw Feldshuh's performance, "I cried my eyes out, because I finally got to see her story come to life."

She said her mom didn't tell her about her wartime heroism until she was 14 years old, when Gut Opdyke was the random recipient of a call from a college student doing a survey that asked whether people believed the Holocaust really happened.

"I saw my mother get animated and start yelling," said Opdyke Smith. From that moment on, she said, her mom dedicated herself to telling her story at schools, churches and organizations throughout the world.

"Her main mission was to tell people that even one person can make a difference, and that people should never give up," said Opdyke Smith.



Roman Haller, 64, is child of a Jewish couple whose crisis is part of "*Irena's Vow*," a play about a Polish woman who rescued 12 from the Holocaust.

ROMANIA TO BUILD HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

Romania will press ahead with plans for a national Holocaust memorial, said Prime Minister Calin Popescu Tariceanu.

Tariceanu said work would soon commence at the site in the centre of Bucharest, the capital, to commemorate some 400,000 Romanian Jews and Roma killed under a Nazi-allied regime during World War II.

"The Holocaust must not be denied or forgotten, and it must never be repeated," Tariceanu said in a written statement ahead of Romania's Holocaust memorial day, introduced four years ago.

The memorial is to use a design by Romanian-born sculptor Peter Jacobi, who lives in Germany.

It envisions a seven-meter high building with a glass roof and metal beams. Light and shadows are reflected on the floor of black, polished granite.

A Star of David sculpture is to be erected beside the building in addition to a

wheel, which has symbolic value for the Roma minority.

"Construction in Bucharest of a memorial to victims of the Holocaust will start soon," Tariceanu said. He gave no specific date.

Romanian authorities insisted well into the post-communist era that what happened under the World War II regime could not be labeled part of the Holocaust.

In 2004, the government accepted the findings of an international panel chaired by Nobel Peace laureate Elie Wiesel that implicated Romanian civilian and military authorities in 1940-44 in mass killings and deportations.

Some 280,000-380,000 Romanian Jews died in Romania and Romanian-occupied areas, and 25,000 Roma were deported, about half of whom died, the report said.

Some 800,000 Jews lived in Romania before World War II. Most of the Holocaust survivors emigrated to Israel, and about 9,000 Jews now live in the country.

MUSEUM TO DISPLAY ART BY HOLOCAUST VICTIMS

For the first time, a museum in the former East Germany, the Dresden State Art Collections, will display works from Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial alongside Dresden's own permanent collection.

Martin Roth, director of the Dresden col-

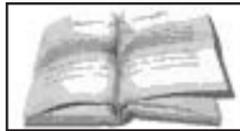
lection, said many of the artists whose works appear in the exhibition, scheduled to open in 2009, did not survive the Holocaust. Roth said he came up with the idea after visiting Yad Vashem, and that the exhibit is meant to show the power of art in times of suffering and barbarity.

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON L.A. HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

Construction began on the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust in the city's Pan Pacific Park.

The \$20 million project, which broke ground Oct. 13 and is scheduled to open in 2010, will include exhibits, a library and an archive in a 15,000-square-foot building, which will be integrated with the six stark black granite columns of the existing Holocaust Martyrs Memorial. Holocaust survivors, or their direct descendants, will serve as guides.

The new museum is distinct from the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Museum of Tolerance, also in Los Angeles, which started as a Holocaust museum but has now branched out to include genocides



BOOK REVIEWS

EVERY DAY LASTS A YEAR: A JEWISH FAMILY'S CORRESPONDENCE FROM POLAND

Every Day Lasts a Year: A Jewish Family's Correspondence from Poland. Edited by Christopher R. Browning, Richard S. Hollander, and Nechama Tec. Cambridge University Press: New York, 2007. 285 pp. \$28.

REVIEWED BY DR. DIANE CYPKIN

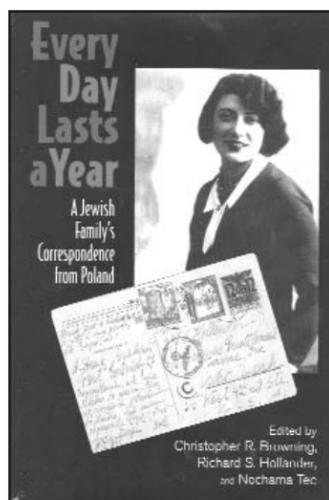
When this reviewer finished reading the absorbing volume entitled, *Every Day Lasts a Year: A Jewish Family's Correspondence from Poland*, edited by Christopher R. Browning, Richard S. Hollander, and Nechama Tec, all she could think of was how one wise decision and luck can so dramatically affect a person's life . . .

In the summer of 1939, Joseph Hollander and his wife, Felicia, left *Kracow*. Why? As his son, Richard, writes in an early section of the book entitled "Joseph," he "may have been prompted by what he observed during a three-nation trip to Western Europe in 1939. The journey probably provided Joseph with an ominous glimpse of the future of European Jewry. . . . [b]y the spring of 1939, there was nothing subtle about anti-Semitism in Germany; it was ugly and ubiquitous." His mother, sisters, in-laws, and nieces did not leave. The adults felt

that the Germans would be no worse to them than they were in World War I . . . but as we all know, such would not be the case.

By the time Joseph, his wife, and a young boy left in their charge, landed in America – by way of luck – *Kracow* was long overrun by the Nazis. Thus while Joseph was fighting for his, his wife's, and their charge's right to stay in America – they came as undocumented aliens – he found himself concomitantly fighting for the survival and emigration of his family in *Kracow*.

Moreover, even after the battle, he waged to stay in America ended – and that took a good while – he never stopped fighting for them. He sent them food – anything they asked for. He got in touch with people they asked him to find. (Friends in *Kracow* often begged that favor of the Hollander family). Joseph tried to collect moneys owed his family to somehow help them. Joseph actually



arranged for them to receive Nicaraguan papers. Perhaps that would help them emigrate. But the papers didn't work, you needed citizenship papers "validated by the German consulate."

In the meanwhile, the letters that are the heart of this book, reveal how very grateful his family in *Kracow* was for everything he did for them, even sending them letters. They bring hope at a time when "every day lasts a year",— words written by Berta, Joseph's mother, May 26, 1941. They thank him profusely for the food he sends, particularly after 1941. They are forever wishing him well. They keep him up to date on what's happening in the family . . . even as they keep the worst of their lives from him. They must have thought, "Why tell him?" Joseph was already doing all he could, and they sincerely believed that somehow he would save them.

In the end, however, in late 1941, the letters to Joseph stopped. On March

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

Before closing, this reviewer must give a tremendous amount of credit to Christopher R. Browning, Richard S. Hollander, and Nechama Tec, for their fact-filled, moving, and powerful essays, placed at the opening of this work. Without these essays, the letters that follow could not possibly be understood or appreciated.

Readers of *M&R* will find *Every Day Lasts a Year* touching, and exceptionally real. Put simply, the letters speak directly to us, reminding us of lives and hopes that once were . . .

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

AND THE RAGE IS NOT YET OVER

And The Rage Is Not Yet Over. By Aharon Appelfeld. Zmora-Bitan, Dvir Publishing House, 2008. Pp. 237. In Hebrew.

REVIEWED BY RABBI IZRAEL ZOBERMAN

Aharon Appelfeld's flowing wellspring of stored creativity on the *Shoah* continues to both enchant and alert us. The book's telling title, "*And The Rage Is Not Yet Over*", may offer a clue to the unique phenomenon of the renowned survivor's literary and emotional outpouring.

Paradoxically, his style is measured and guarded as if shielding the awesome task and challenge of sacred remembrance in a veil of careful reflection and expression, which behooves the Holocaust's depth and pain.

Some of the author's themes have remained constant. As those assimilating Jews who sought refuge in conversion to Christianity only to discover that neither they nor their offspring were exempt from the Jews' decreed fate. Or, the precious presence of some Christians whose deep faith and intact character moved them to reach out to desperate human beings in dire circumstances.

Ironically, Bruno Broomhart, the book's protagonist, was exposed to his spiritual identity from no other than his school teacher, a monk, whose offer to hide Bruno's family in his convent was declined. "Only the Jews stood at Mt. Sinai, and only in them are deposited the voices and lightnings of the divine speech. To our sorrow they have forgotten it, but Scriptures has not forgotten, though we should not take lightly these denying wit-

nesses. They are destined one day to recall who they are and become what they were elected to." (p.24 my translation).

Bruno's parents believed in *Tikkun Olam* through the Communist promise. Soon enough, they too discovered that their Jewish roots, as well as the new-found religion of Communist ideology, would doom them. While handicapped, and thus granted special powers which the author masterfully creates, Bruno's otherwise strong body through exercise, youth and fellow inmates' embrace, allowed him to survive the labor camp ordeal. With liberation he demonstrated sharp business skills, and established a prosperous international enterprise, reflecting the drive and success of some survivors. His core concern, however, was caring for fellow refugees via uplifting musical recitals and inspiring Biblical readings in an elegant setting. It was his designed plan to reeducating and reawakening the shaken survivors, in the spirit of his loving Christian teacher, to their true mission as noble heirs to a royal Jewish inheritance. Bruno's life took a critical turn when attacked, not too surprising, by an envious and explosive fellow refugee.

Unexpectedly and even shocking, perhaps testimony to recent realities and fears, Israel as a safe haven and new home is being questioned per Bruno's musing, "For myself, if to tell the truth, I'm concerned about *Aliya*. At times it seems to me that Israel is a new trap. Again all the Jews are together in one place. All say that the army is strong, but somehow it seems to me that our army is fragile, susceptible to feelings and too sensitive." (p.186, my translation).



BETWEEN MY FATHER AND THE OLD FOOL: A HOLOCAUST MEMOIR

Between My Father and the Old Fool: A Holocaust Memoir. By Maier Cahan. Adapted into English by Yosef Neumark. Mesorah Publications, Ltd. Brooklyn, 2004, 274 pages. \$36.78.

REVIEWED BY HILLEL GOLDBERG

I begin, and end, in the same place: decimation. The title of the appendix of this autobiography, *Between My Father and the Old Fool*, reads, "*The Decimation of the Cahan Family*." Between the beginning and the ending, however, is an odd dialogue, a conversation between Maier Cahan (the book's author) and the Old Fool.

The "Old Fool" is a Talmudic term for the "evil inclination," the *yetzer hara*. If I suffer and witness immense suffering, and an urge tells me to curse God, that is the Old Fool speaking. When my inner voice tells me steal, blaspheme, hurt or fall to despair, that is the Old Fool speaking.

Clearly, during the Holocaust, the Old Fool had a field day. This book is a memoir of the Holocaust on two levels: a personal story of suffering, and a personal struggle with God.

Maier Cahan struggles from within faith. In his struggles, he is brutally honest. He suffers too much not to be.

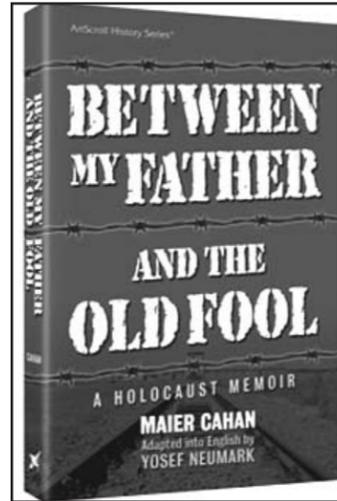
There is something ajar in the book title. If the struggle is "*Between My Father and*

the Old Fool," who is telling the story? Shouldn't the title read, "*Between Me and the Old Fool*?" In the book, a child of Maier Cahan presents his father's story; the struggle continues through the generations. The Holocaust wasn't simply an event back then, a piece of history, a

bracket enclosing the years 1939 to 1945, something to "remember," limited, possible to bury. The ramifications of the Holocaust live through the survivors and their children, down through the generations. If Cahan had a dialogue with the Old Fool, then, of necessity, so did those who came after him, who escaped the decimation.

The list of the decimated of the Cahan family is long, as you might imagine. That is not surprising. What is surprising is that Maier Cahan is not on the list. As in many Holocaust memoirs, Cahan, at countless turning points, should have been dead. Friends, family, acquaintances – all were killed. Time and again, somehow, he survived. Cahan never quite says so directly, but this is his ultimate weapon in his arguments with the Old Fool, who, one might also imagine, did not lay down and die after the war was over.

More than forty years after the Holocaust, (Continued on page 15)



ROSH HASHANAH 1944: A HOLOCAUST CONTROVERSY

BY DR. RAFAEL MEDOFF

Every year, on the eve of *Rosh Hashanah*, American political leaders, candidates for office, and other VIPs routinely send the Jewish community their wishes for a happy new year. Under ordinary circumstances, such greetings are welcomed in the spirit of friendliness in which they are offered.

But not on *Rosh Hashanah* in 1944. That year, while Jews around the country dipped their apples in honey to symbolize their hopes for a sweet new year, the American public received a vivid reminder that for the Jewish people, it was, in fact, a bitter holiday. Readers of the *New York Times*, the *Philadelphia Record*, and other major dailies opened their morning newspaper to find a large advertisement headlined "What's happy about this New Year?"

In the center of the ad was a riveting illustration of a ragged European Jewish refugee child, drawn by the renowned artist Arthur Szyk.

"As the Jewish New Year approached, greetings and messages of good will" were issued by the various Allied leaders, the ad began. The ad continued: "What's happy about a Jewish New Year which mourns millions of our people, brutally murdered, burned alive, asphyxiated in gas chambers, thrown, still living, into burial trenches, while the governments of our friendly nations dilly-dallied and split hairs about matters of rescue?"

"What's happy about this New Year for us if one of the foremost democratic allies [Britain] ... still blockades the sole practical route of escape [from Hitler's Europe]—through the Balkans into Palestine?"

"With three to four million of our brethren already dead, it is fair to say that good wishes are not enough. It is fair to say that what has happened to us will go down in history as democracy's greatest disgrace..."

"You have the last chance to do some-

thing for a people who will not know happiness this New Year, nor next New Year, nor for generations... Let your government and your Congress know that vague promises and polite good wishes are not enough. Let them know that we can accept New Year's greetings only in the form of rescue — in the form of a haven — open the gates of Palestine — so that we can live and the world can have peace."



The ad was sponsored by the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, a group led by "Peter Bergson," a young Zionist activist from Jerusalem. During 1943 – 44, Bergson's group sponsored more than 200 full-page newspaper ads, lobbied Congress, and organized rallies, including a march by 400 rabbis to the White House to plead for U.S. rescue of Jewish refugees.

The Bergson Group also assembled an impressive coalition of supporters from across the spectrum. The 1944 New Year's ad, for example, featured a long list of signatories, including singer Eddie Cantor; Harvard criminologist Sheldon Glueck; poet and Academy Award-winning screenwriter (for *A Star is Born*) Dorothy Parker; Unitarian Church official Rev. Albert Dieffenbach; one of the most prominent Orthodox rabbis in America, Eliezer Silver; Nobel Literature Prize laureate

Sigrid Undset; actress Stella Adler; and the governors of Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Rhode Island.

The public and Congressional pressure that the Bergson Group mobilized helped bring about (in early 1944) the creation of the War Refugee Board, a U.S. government agency to rescue refugees from Hitler. The board played a crucial role in saving more than 200,000 Jews. Among other things, it financed the work of rescue hero Raoul Wallenberg in Nazi-occupied Budapest.

Many more could have been saved if the Roosevelt administration had taken an interest. For example, U.S. bombers repeatedly struck German oil factories adjacent to Auschwitz — but no order was ever given to bomb the mass-murder machinery.

On September 13, 1944 — just one week before the "What's So Happy About This New Year?" ad was published — a fleet of 96 American bombers struck German oil plants less than five miles from the gas chambers of Auschwitz. Stray bombs even accidentally hit an SS barracks and the railway line leading into the death camp. Jews serving in the slave labor battalions there, including 16-year-old Elie Wiesel, watched the U.S. planes dropping bombs nearby and prayed that the gas chambers were on their list of targets. Years later, in his best-selling memoir *Night*, Wiesel recalled: "We were not afraid. And yet, if a bomb had fallen on [the prisoners' barracks], it alone would have claimed hundreds of victims on the spot. But we were no longer afraid of death; at any rate, not of that death. Every bomb that exploded filled us with joy and gave us new confidence in life. The raid lasted over an hour. If it could only have lasted ten times ten hours!" It was not to be. The planes did not aim at Auschwitz. It was indeed a very bitter Rosh Hashanah.

Dr. Medoff is director of the David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies, which focuses on issues related to America's response to the Holocaust.

STUDENT UNCOVERS ALLEGED NAZI CRIMINAL

A student from Vienna has uncovered a suspected Nazi war criminal in Germany as a result of his research for a university project. Andreas Forster, 27, a student at the Institute of Political Science at Vienna, taped a video interview with the 89-year-old man, who allegedly recalled participating in the murder of 60 Jewish forced laborers in March 1945 in Austria.

After Forster made the research discovery, he informed his professor, political scientist Walter Manoschek, that the man probably was living in the German state of *North Rhine-Westphalia*. Forster and Manoschek traveled to Germany, according to a report in *der Standard* of Austria, and asked the man for an interview. He spoke with them on camera for several hours during three interviews. The man also was shown eye-witness reports from a trial that took place in Vienna in 1946.

Die Zeit newspaper reported that the massacre in question took place in the town of *Deutsch Schützen*, Austria — then part of the *German Reich*. Some 60 Jewish forced laborers were forcibly assembled and shot by German soldiers in a forest near a church. The mass grave was discovered in 1995.

Reportedly, the suspect was a member of the *Waffen-SS*, and his name was known as of 1946. Forster conducted research about the man in the Federal Archive in Berlin. Manoschek told *Die Zeit* online that he had the feeling the man "was using me as a sparing partner" during the interview, "to see what I knew, what was on the record, as if to prepare for a possible trial." At first he said he did not recall the shootings, but then he said the eyewitness reports might be accurate. By the end of the interview, the suspect again denied having taken part in the massacre.

Manoschek notified the state prosecutor in *Dortmund*. Chief Prosecutor Ulrich Maass, who heads the Central Office for the Investigation of National Socialist Mass Crimes, told *Die Zeit* that investigations are being "accelerated," with the first held on Aug. 15. They have not yet contacted the suspect, he said.

Manoschek and Forster hope to present their interview in a documentary film.

KRISTALLNACHT REMNANTS UNEARTHED NEAR BERLIN

BY KATE CONNOLLY, THE GUARDIAN

A huge dumping ground for the destroyed remains of Jewish property plundered during *Kristallnacht* has been found north of Berlin by an investigative journalist.

The site, which is the size of four football fields, in *Brandenburg*, contains an extensive array of personal and ceremonial items looted during orchestrated nationwide riots against Jewish property and places of worship on the night of November 9 1938. It is believed the goods were brought by rail to the outskirts of the village and dumped on designated land.

Yaron Svoray, the Israeli journalist who made the discovery, said it was a happy coincidence that he had stumbled across the artifacts so close to the 70th anniversary of the pogrom, also known as the *Night of Broken Glass*.

"I wasn't fully aware of the historical significance of the find until it was pointed out to me by a historian," Svoray told the *Guardian*. "We were looking for something completely different when we came across all these items and trinkets."

Svoray, a private detective turned jour-

nalist who has a list of wartime-related investigations to his name, was researching a story on the nearby hunting lodge of the Nazi *Luftwaffe* commander, Hermann Göring, when the local forester, who had been a young boy at the time of the *Kristallnacht*, pointed out the rubbish dump. Under mounds of earth Svoray uncovered the first items within two hours. "The locals of this site have basically been living with this dark hidden secret for 70 years," he said.

Among the items he found were glass bottles engraved with the Star of David, *Mezuzahs*, painted window sills, and the armrests of chairs found in synagogues. He also found an ornamental swastika. His search continues, under the protection of bodyguards after threats to his life.

Svoray has been wary of making his find public because the site might attract far-right treasure hunters. "There's no treasure as such here, but there's still the danger of it turning into some skinhead circus

eBay special," he said, urging the government to secure the site.

The British historian Martin Gilbert, author of *Kristallnacht: Prelude to*



Jewish shops laid waste on Kristallnacht in 1938.

Destruction, which illustrates how the event paved the way for the Holocaust, marking the moment when race hate became sanctioned by the German state, said the size of the rubbish dump was not a surprise, considering the scale of the

destruction that took place — about 1,400 synagogues, other Jewish religious establishments, as well as people's homes were completely, or partially, destroyed.

"Most of the interiors of the synagogues — seats, cupboards, pulpits etc — were taken away as loot. Most of the interiors of ransacked Jewish shops were likewise taken away as booty by neighbors and looters. Other interiors were set on fire. It will be interesting to see precisely what the items are."

Tanja Ronen-Löhnberg, an educational historian at Ghetto Fighters' House, a Holocaust research centre in *Galilee*, Israel, said the items' authenticity had been verified. "We don't

want to falsify history, so we sent historians who confirmed these items belonged to the time."

The center plans to organize a project for German and Israeli children to search together through the remains.

SURVIVORS' CORNER

ROMANCE IN THE HOLOCAUST

BY MATT SEDENSKY, AP

In the beginning, there was a boy, a girl and an apple.

He was a teenager in a death camp in Nazi-controlled Germany. She was a bit younger, living free in the village, her family posing as Christians. Their eyes met through a barbed-wire fence and she wondered what she could do for this handsome young man.

She was carrying apples, and decided to throw one over the fence. He caught it and ran away towards the barracks. And so it began.

As they tell it, they returned the following day and she tossed an apple again. And each day after that, for months, the routine continued. She threw, he caught, and both scurried away.

They never knew one another's name, never uttered a single word, so fearful they'd be spotted by a guard. Until one day he came to the fence and told her he wouldn't be back.

"I won't see you anymore," she said.

"Right, right. Don't come around anymore," he answered.

And so their brief and innocent tryst came to an end. Or so they thought.

Before he was shipped off to a death camp, before the girl with the apples appeared, Herman Rosenblat's life had already changed forever.

His family had been forced from their home into a ghetto. His father fell ill with typhus. They smuggled a doctor in, but there was little he could do to help. The man knew what was coming. He summoned his youngest son. "If you ever get out of this war," Rosenblat remembers him saying, "don't carry a grudge in your heart and tolerate everybody."

Two days later, the father was dead. Herman was just 12.

The family was moved again, this time to a ghetto where he shared a single room with his mother, three brothers, uncle, aunt and four cousins. He and his brothers got working papers and he got a factory job painting stretchers for the Germans.



Herman and Roma Rosenblat in their North Miami Beach, Florida, home. The story of the beginning of their relationship during the Holocaust is the inspiration for Laurie Friedman's book, *Angel Girl*.

Eventually, the ghetto was dissolved. As the Poles were ushered out, two lines formed. In one, those with working papers, including Rosenblat and his brothers. In the other, everyone else, including the boys' mother.

Rosenblat went over to his mother. "I want to be with you," he cried. She spoke harshly to him and one of his brothers pulled him away. His heart was broken.

"I was destroyed," Rosenblat remembers. It was the last time he would ever see her.

It was in *Schlieben*, Germany, that Rosenblat and the girl he later called his angel would meet. Roma Radziki worked on a nearby farm and the boy caught her eye.

And bringing him food – apples, mostly, but bread, too – became part of her routine.

"Every day," she says, "every day I went."

Rosenblat says he would secretly eat the apples, and never mentioned a word of it to anyone else for fear word would spread and he'd be punished or even killed. When

Rosenblat learned he would be moved again this time to *Theresienstadt*, in what is now the Czech Republic – he told the girl he would not return.

Not long after, the Russians rolled in on a tank and liberated Rosenblat's camp. The war was over. She went to nursing school in Israel. He went to London and learned to be an electrician.

Their daily ritual faded from their minds.

"I forgot," she says.

"I forgot about her, too," he recalls.

Rosenblat eventually moved to New York. He was running a television repair shop when a friend phoned him one Sunday afternoon and said he wanted to fix him up with a girl. Rosenblat was unenthusiastic: He didn't like blind dates, he told his friend. He didn't know what she would look like. But finally, he relented.

It went well enough. She was Polish and easy-going. Conversation flowed, and eventually talk turned to their wartime experiences. Rosenblat recited the litany of camps he had been in, and Radziki's ears perked up. She had been in *Schlieben*, too, hiding from the Nazis.

She spoke of a boy she would visit, of the apples she would bring, how he was sent away.

And then, the words that would change their lives forever: "That was me," he said.

Rosenblat knew he could never leave this woman again. He proposed marriage that very night. She thought he was crazy. Two months later she said yes.

In 1958, they were married at a synagogue in the Bronx – a world away from their sorrows, more than a decade after they had thought they were separated forever.

It all seems too remarkable to be believed. Rosenblat insists it is all true.

Even after their engagement, the couple kept the story mostly to themselves, telling only those closest to them. Rosenblat says it's because they met at a point in his life he'd rather forget. But eventually, he said, he felt the need to share it with others.

Now, the Rosenblats' story has inspired a children's book, *Angel Girl*. And eventually, there are plans to turn it into a film, *The Flower of the Fence*. Rosenblat expects to publish his memoirs next year.

Michael Berenbaum, a distinguished Holocaust scholar who has authored a dozen books, has read Rosenblat's memoir and sees no reason to question it.

"I wasn't born then, so I can't say I was an eyewitness. But it's credible," Berenbaum said. "Crazier things have happened."

Herman is now 79, and Roma is three years his junior; they celebrated their 50th anniversary this summer. He often tells their story to Jewish and other groups.

He believes the lesson is the very one his father imparted.

"Not to hate and to love – that's what I am lecturing about," he said. "Not to hold a grudge and to tolerate everybody, to love people, to be tolerant of people, no matter who they are or what they are."

The anger of the death camps, Herman says, has gone away. He forgave. And his life has been filled with love.

HOLOCAUST HAUNTS SURVIVORS; AGENCIES TRY TO HELP

Nearly every night, Martin Hornung's nightmare unfolds to the same haunting strains. Of Auschwitz. Of screaming voices. Of scenes he would rather not relive in the light of day.

"I'm almost afraid to go to sleep," the 86-year-old retired computer engineer said. The horrors that revisit Hornung in the dark are common among Holocaust survivors, and are a reason why he refuses to enter a nursing home despite his myriad health problems.

Jewish organizations worldwide are working to keep survivors out of such facilities, where the surroundings and routines – strangers in uniforms, desolate shower rooms, medical procedures – can exacerbate flashbacks.

"It frightens them and brings them back to the Holocaust," said Dr. Jaclynn Faffer, executive director of Ruth Rales Jewish Family Service, one of the groups helping keep survivors out of nursing homes.

Hornung wouldn't even consider moving into a nursing home. "I would kill myself."

An estimated 93,000 Holocaust survivors are alive in the United States, and South Florida is home to one of the largest populations. The youngest are

in their mid-60s, but many are much older. There is no definitive breakdown of how many are living independently and how many receive assistance, but many are living below the poverty line and in need of help.

"Their capacity for resilience that they've shown since the war is amazing," said Paula David, a social worker who has worked with more than 2,000 Holocaust survivors in Toronto over the last 20 years and has studied the specific problems of the population as it ages. "The hard part is no matter what we do, we can't make it OK."

Flashbacks can come to a survivor at any time. A fire alarm. A foreign accent. Standing in a line. Once, David witnessed a survivor begin screaming on a High Holy Day as musicians performed. The music happened to have been played as murders took place at the concentration camps.

One of David's clients slept with hiking boots under his pillow to ensure he'd be able to run away. Another one hoarded bread in his closet so he wouldn't starve. For Alex Moscovic, who survived *Birkenau* and the horrific medical experiments of Josef Mengele, a flashback

came in the dermatologist's chair. Moscovic needed to have a dime-sized cancerous growth removed. The doctor cauterized the area – and the patient began to shake uncontrollably.

"The smell – it brought me back," the 77-year-old Moscovic said. "The only way you really left *Birkenau* was through the smokestacks."

Experts have seen similar reactions from other populations, including war veterans and survivors of genocide in Rwanda and elsewhere. The flashbacks are only expected to get worse as these groups age, so caregivers are trying to impart lessons learned from the Holocaust survivors.

For these Jewish survivors, being allowed to stay in their homes offers a measure of comfort and routine as so much else around them changes.

The Ruth Rales group provides Hornung a nurse's aide three days a week, and he also receives delivered meals. Hornung cared for his wife – also a survivor – for 10 years as she slipped into a haze of Alzheimer's, which along with other forms of dementia, further complicates the aging process of survivors. She grew so confused she would think her husband was a Nazi guard. Once, she stabbed him in the chest.

After his wife died in 2001, Hornung was diagnosed with colon cancer. He's still lucid, but he struggles with respiratory problems. On a recent afternoon, he couldn't get through a complete thought without slipping into a hacking cough.

Ann Speier, 85, has long been retired from her dressmaking job, and like Hornung, lives in Century Village in Boca Raton. It's a popular place for survivors in their final years. She, too, is haunted by memories. "I try not to think, but I have to," she said. "It doesn't go away."

Three days a week, her aide arrives to take her to the doctor, to help her to the pool and to assist around the house. Without the help, she said, she couldn't exist.

Speier's vision is nearly gone. Everything and everyone is just a blur. But she recognizes Lila Vaughn, her caseworker from Ruth Rales, when she arrives. She beams. She caresses Vaughn's face. And after some time passes, the caseworker has a question for Speier.

"Do you want me to leave or you want me to stay?" Vaughn asks. "I would like you to stay all day with me," Speier answers. "It's so hard. It's so lonely."

HOPE תקווה AMERICAN & INTERNATIONAL SOCIETIES FOR YAD VASHEM ANNUAL TRIBUTE DINNER

“THE RESPONSIBILITY TO EDUCATE”



AVNER SHALEV, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate and recipient of the American Society for Yad Vashem Leadership Award for Remembrance

I was born in Jerusalem, part of a generation that has strived to build a new Jewish society in our homeland. We have understood our responsibility and accepted it.

This led to my serving as a combat officer in the Israel Defense Forces and, I suppose, to my being wounded in the Six-Day War, fighting for my country. Eventually, I came to serve as Assistant to the IDF's Chief of Staff during the Yom Kippur War.

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

After I convinced Golda that we had indeed arrived at the right spot and that the Egyptians had not, she conveyed my explanation to Nixon and gained his approval for us to meet Gamassi's delegation that evening, this time behind Israeli lines. Fortunately that get-together did take place and the historic bilateral negotia-

tions commenced.

At the end of the formal discussions that night, I saw General Gamassi take aside General Yariv, the head of the Israeli delegation, for a private talk. After the Egyptians departed, General Yariv confided in me regarding a significant piece of information that had just come his way: Anwar Sadat wanted to transmit a message to Israel's leaders: I intend to achieve peace.

This news affected me deeply. I realized that if peace would indeed emerge from this bloody war, it would bring with it a new kind of responsibility for me to bear: The responsibility to educate.

It was as an educator that I arrived in 1993 at my next crossroads: the decision to come to Yad Vashem. It seems to me that my decision to take leadership of Yad Vashem was informed and influenced by a certain childhood memory which I shall now relate to you.

When I was a young boy in Israel, my mother used to prepare *gefille fish* for *Shabbat* dinner. And as she did so, many times – though not always – she would cry. I wanted to discover what had made her cry. One time I found the courage to ask my mother: “Why do you cry? What is so unique about this fish?” To this day I recall being stunned by her answer: “Silly, I am not crying because of the fish. I am crying because of my murdered grandparents, and parents and my sister, Shaindele. Cooking this fish reminds me of my Jewish home and its *Shabbat* that were destroyed.”

It took me some time to truly comprehend the meaning of that exchange with my mother. But gradually I came to understand that I could not just leave her sister, Shaindele, and her parents out there in Poland. This too was my responsibility: To make their existence part of my existence, my being and my identity. This sense of responsibility led me to Yad Vashem. To teach others, in a wide and up-to-date variety of methods and formats, about their responsibility.

We all reach critical crossroads from time to time, and make choices. May you and yours, those who are dear to us, and all our fellow Jews and citizens, find the wisdom and strength to choose the path of responsibility – the only path that can ensure the future of our people and its civilization and that of humanity.

“WHAT WE SHARE EXCEEDS WHAT DIVIDES US”



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

It is a privilege to accept this honor on behalf of myself, on behalf of the institution I represent, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and most importantly, on behalf of the sacred cause to which all of us here tonight are so deeply committed. For it is that cause – the cause of remembrance – which is primary; which transcends any institution, and which must not only endure, but thrive in this troubling 21st century.

Almost eight years have passed since I became chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council. When an old friend of mine was elected president of the United States, I told him this was the only role I wanted. I suppose that's because it's a role for which I feel I've been training all my life.

As many of you know, I didn't have the typical Jewish upbringing. Or, depending on your perspective, I had the very essence of a Jewish upbringing. I grew up in a small Texas town – a place with one horse and not too many more Jews. But we had enough to form what our people always have, no matter where we have found ourselves in the world: a community. That, in so many ways, is the Jewish experience – one that teaches us to draw strength from each other, to *kibbitz* and *kvetch* about our differences, and then eventually set them all aside for the sake of common purpose. It's an experience that tells us what we share exceeds what divides us.

When I accepted this role, I promised the survivors who are the very soul of our museum that I would do all I could to carry forth their legacy. Of course, that is a weight no one – least of all me – could bear alone. The great privilege of my service at the museum has been to work with a staff, a council and a corps of survivors and volunteers whose devotion and talent exceed any words I might use to describe them.

Tonight, as we reflect on the significance of these troubling times in the context of the *Kristallnacht* anniversary, one cannot help but think that the dreadful night 70 years ago was the beginning of the end of so much: Jewish existence in Europe; humanity's innocence; the ability to say “we did not know.” As of that

night, they knew. Humanity knew, and humanity turned away.

Our two institutions – Yad Vashem and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum – exist for one powerful and enduring mission: to amplify the sound of glass shattering in the night. We work together in efforts that range from education, to research, to rescuing the evidence of the Holocaust, to helping other countries confront their past.

Our curators and scholars constantly exchange information and collections. Our two institutions collaborate at the 25-nation international task force on Holocaust education, remembrance, and research to ensure that other countries face their history honestly. We work together with the United Nations on Holocaust education and remembrance efforts worldwide.

If we do not make a difference in all these areas and more, that piercing sound of shattered glass might recede into the night and its lessons, its warnings, will be lost.

Now we know that *Kristallnacht* was not only reported in all major papers in the United States. It was not only front page news. It dominated the headlines. For a moment, it grabbed the world's attention. And yet, we know what happened, or rather what did not happen. We might call this a failure of leadership.

The Holocaust happened for many reasons. Among them was the failure of leadership on so many levels and in so many places – in Germany, in Europe, and here in the United States. It is for this reason that the museum in Washington has taken on leadership training as one of its top priorities. Because if we believe in learning from the Holocaust, we must start with our leaders. That's why we educate students from our military academies, train every FBI agent, work with diplomats from the State Department and will soon teach the chief justices in all 50 states.

As we think about leadership today, we know a new president will soon assume leadership of our nation at a most challenging time, that he will face another type of leader such as the president of Iran. And, we realize that the Holocaust may be receding in time, but its lessons are only becoming more timely. And, that is why Yad Vashem and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum are so important. For they were born of the past, but they can shape the future. The past we know with clarity; the future remains uncertain. To navigate that future will require responsible leadership and the commitment of talented and dedicated people like all of you. If these years at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum have taught me anything, it is that all of you – all of us – are up to that noble and vital task. Thank you again for this wonderful honor.

“PREVENT THE ATROCITIES FROM EVER BEFALLING THE JEWISH PEOPLE AGAIN”

SELMA GRUDER HOROWITZ, Recipient of the Yad Vashem Remembrance Award



I want to thank Eli Zborowski and The American Society for Yad Vashem for honoring me here tonight.

My story of survival is similar to that of many other survivors. I was in a concentration camp, the camp was liquidated, I was able to escape and find my family in the village where I had grown up. My family was fortunate enough to be able to pay a Polish woman who used to work for us to hide us. We were hidden in a hole dug under the trough in her barn. The only way to get in was by crawling on your elbows for support. Shortly after that, the Ukrainians, who hated the Poles almost as much as they hated the Jews, burned the village to the ground and killed as many Poles as they could. We were moved by the Polish underground, along with non-Jewish Poles, to another Polish village. In the second village, another Polish woman, an agent of God, hid us until the end of the war. This woman, Maria Patchkowska, has been designated as one of the Righteous Among the Nations.

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

The American Society for Yad Vashem is about looking to the past. But why do we look to the past? Not for the sake of reliving the horrors that we experienced, which we do in our dreams and at all different moments. We look to the past in order to look forward. The theme of this evening is hope – *tikva*. Here with me this evening are not only my sisters and my brother – those of my generation who survived with me, but also my nieces, my nephew, and my great-niece and nephews. They and their futures are those on whose behalf I have dedicated myself in working on behalf of Yad Vashem, and who are the hope of future generations of Jews. And on a broader level, my hope in being part of the American Society for Yad Vashem and in supporting its work is that by keeping the memories alive and by supporting a strong State of Israel, we will be able to prevent the atrocities that so many of us here tonight have seen in our lifetimes from ever befalling the Jewish people again.

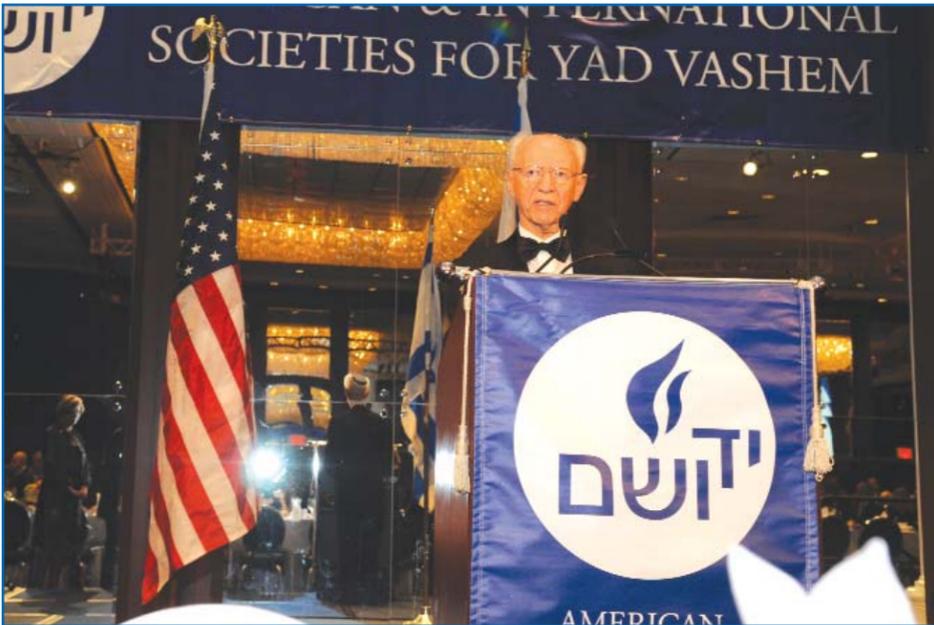
HOPE תקווה AMERICAN & IN



Avner Shalev, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate, Selma Gruder Horowitz, recipient of the Yad Vashem Remembrance Award, David Halpern, Dinner Co-Chair, and Eli Zborowski, Chairman of the American & International Societies for Yad Vashem.



From L to R: Eli Zborowski, Chairman of the American & International Societies for Yad Vashem, Elizabeth Zborowski, Avner Shalev, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate, United States Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings, Ira Drukier 2008 General Co-Chairman, Gale Drukier, Marilyn Rubenstein, 2008 Dinner General Co-Chair, Barry Rubenstein, Kay Zeidman and Fred Zeidman, recipient of the Yad Vashem Leadership Award for Remembrance.



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



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



Front row: Celina Zborowski and Paula Mandell. Back row (L to R): Marvin Zborowski, Stella Skura, William Mandell.



Members of the Third Generation, including Ofra Biener, Stephanie Lowenthal, Barak Wrobel, Ariel Zborowski, Boaz Zborowski, Eytan and Sivan Noy and friends.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETIES FOR YAD VASHEM ANNUAL TRIBUTE DINNER



Avner Shalev, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate and recipient of the American Society for Yad Vashem Leadership Award for Remembrance, Joseph Wilf, Ruth Zuria, granddaughter of Avner Shalev and Eli Zborowski, Chairman of the American & International Societies for Yad Vashem.



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



Ira Mitzner, Dinner Co-Chair.



Marilyn Rubenstein 2008 Dinner General Co-Chair.



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



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



The Skura and Lifshitz families.



REPORT FROM YAD VASHEM

RABBI ISRAEL MEIR LAU APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THE YAD VASHEM COUNCIL

On November, 9, at its weekly cabinet meeting, the government authorized the appointment of Rabbi Israel Meir Lau as Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council. He will succeed the late Joseph (Tommy) Lapid.

Rabbi Lau was born in 1937 in *Piotrków*, Poland, the scion of a well-known European rabbinic family. During the early years of the war, he was incarcerated in the *Piotrków* ghetto. In October 1942, his father and brothers, along with the majority of the Jews of their town, were deported to the *Treblinka* extermination camp, where they were murdered. Lau and his mother managed to escape the deportation.

In November 1944, during a selection, Rabbi Lau's mother had him stand close by his brother Naftali who was slated to be sent to a forced labor camp. Lau's mother was sent to her death, but the two brothers were deported to the *Czenstochow* forced labor camp and from there to the *Buchenwald* concentration camp. When *Buchenwald* was liberated by the US armed forces, eight-year-old Lau (nicknamed *Lolik*) was the youngest surviving prisoner. Following liberation, Lau emigrated to *Eretz Israel* on a ship of orphaned refugee children.

Rabbi Lau has served in many rabbinic capacities, among them Regional Rabbi of Northern Tel Aviv, Chief Rabbi of *Netanya* and Chief Ashkenazi Rabbi of *Tel Aviv-Jaffe*. In 1993 he was elected Chief Ashkenazi Rabbi of Israel, a position he held until 2003. In 2005, he was re-elected Chief Rabbi of *Tel Aviv-Jaffe*. In 2006, Rabbi Lau was awarded the Israel Prize for Lifetime Achievement and special service to society and the State of Israel.

Rabbi Lau's autobiography, *Do Not Raise Your Hand Against the Boy* was published during the 60th anniversary of the liberation of *Buchenwald*. It tells the story of his experiences during the



Rabbi Israel Meir Lau appointed Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council

Holocaust, growing up in Israel and how the memory of his childhood during the war influenced him as a rabbi and communal leader.

"I welcome and am delighted by the decision to appoint a man of such high caliber Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council, a remarkable man I have been privileged to know personally for many years," said Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. "The issue of the Holocaust is close to Rabbi Lau's heart, and he sees in Holocaust Remembrance both Jewish and universal values. Rabbi Lau has strong, deep ties to Yad Vashem, and has already contributed significantly to Holocaust commemoration and its legacy."

"With feelings of awe, I thank Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and the members of the government who ratified the appointment, for choosing me to serve as the new Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council," said Rabbi Lau. "As we mark 70 years since *Kristallnacht* – the violent outbreak that marked the beginning of the Holocaust – this appointment is especially meaningful to me. My life experiences echo in the walls of Yad Vashem, and are found in the documents and exhibits therein. I have been privileged to witness up close Yad Vashem's activity in Israel and around the world for many years, and I have great respect and admiration for the Chairmen of the Council and Directorate who preceded me. Chairman of the Directorate Avner Shalev is the great visionary and builder of Yad Vashem and I am convinced, from our many years of acquaintance, that we will work together to continue to support and develop this institution, which is unrivalled anywhere else in the world. I am dedicated to giving my time and energy to fulfilling the commandment "Remember what Amalek has done to you in our generation."

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AUSCHWITZ ALBUM IN FARSI ON YAD VASHEM PERSIAN WEBSITE

A new online exhibit of the Auschwitz Album has been uploaded to Yad Vashem's Persian website. The new exhibit contains background information about Auschwitz, 60 pictures and short explanations from the Album itself, and survivor testimonies, all in Farsi.

The Auschwitz Album is the only surviving visual evidence of the process of mass murder at Auschwitz-Birkenau. The photos show the arrival and selection at Auschwitz of Hungarian Jews from *Carpatho-Ruthenia* in 1944. The photos in the album show the entire process except for the killing itself. More information about the Auschwitz Album



is available here. The entire Album is on display at Yad Vashem.

In January 2007, Yad Vashem launched a site in Farsi, including 20 historical chapters with dozens of photos – arranged chronologically, from the rise of the Nazis to power until the post-war trials. Some 100,000 people visited the Farsi website thus far.

"In 2007, there were more than 7 million visits to yad-vashem.org. Clearly, there is widespread interest in the Holocaust. We believe that making credible, comprehensive information about the Holocaust available to Persian speakers can contribute to the fight against Holocaust denial," said Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev.

YAD VASHEM HONORED UNHERALDED HOLOCAUST HERO

BY CNAAN LIPSHIZ, HAARETZ

A Dutch policeman who joined the resistance movement after being ordered to round up Jews posthumously received Israel's highest honor for people who rescued Jews from the Holocaust. Henk Drog's bravery became known thanks to the efforts of an *EI AI* pilot who heard the story from the hero's son, who will receive the honor on his 65th birthday.

Drog, who was executed by the Nazis in 1944, was already recognized as a hero by former U.S. president Dwight D. Eisenhower, Britain and the Netherlands for his role in rescuing Allied pilots who ejected over occupied Holland.

But Israel had never acknowledged the circumstances in which Drog joined the resistance. On September 22 his son received the honor naming his father Righteous Among the Nations in a formal ceremony in Jerusalem at Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes Remembrance Authority.

Drog, who was not Jewish, defected in 1943 with his rifle after receiving orders to arrest the remaining Jews in the Groningen area in northern Holland, where he served in the ranks of the *Marechaussee*, the military police. Some of his comrades who also refused the order were arrested, and later honored by Yad Vashem for their actions.

Drog's name was omitted from the list submitted to the Commission for the Designation of the Righteous, because he had managed to escape. It took another

20 years and the unexpected help of an *EI AI* pilot to complete the picture. The pilot told *Haaretz* that he met the son, Henk Brink, a few years ago in South Africa. "I thought I'd invite him to see Israel and meet the guys from my squadron, because he's interested in aviation," he said. "I also told Yad Vashem



Henk Brink accepts the certificate and medal of honor of Righteous Among the Nations on behalf of his late father, Henk Drog, from the Chairman of the Commission for the Designation of the Righteous Among the Nations, Supreme Court Justice Yaacov Turkel.

about it, but I wasn't sure they'd name him Righteous among the Nations." Drog, 23 at the time of his arrest, was planning to marry his pregnant girlfriend. She gave birth to Brink, the son, on September 22, 1943 – one month after Drog's arrest.

"The impression I received was of a young man, a doer rather than a thinker, who died young," says the pilot, who is also a reserve Israel Air Force pilot. "My connection to Drog's story is mostly as an army pilot," he added. "Ejecting behind enemy lines is a pilot's worst nightmare. It must have taken tremendous bravery to risk his life to help those stranded and wounded pilots."

POLISH RIGHTEOUS AMONG THE NATIONS HONORED AT YAD VASHEM

Wladyslaw Panczyszyn, a Polish Righteous Among the Nations who rescued Jews during the Holocaust, was posthumously honored at Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem.

The ceremony took place in the Hall of Remembrance, followed by the unveiling of the name of the Righteous in the Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations.

Born in *Lubaczow*, Wladyslaw Panczyszyn lived with his parents in *Drohobycz*. In 1939, he married there his Jewish neighbor, Helena Reinhartz. In 1941, the Germans captured the area where Wladyslaw was living and the murder of the Jews began.

Wladyslaw began to work in any way possible to help the Reinhartz family. He would enter the ghetto to give the family money and food, ignoring the danger to his own life.

When the ghetto was destroyed, the only surviving members of his wife's family were her sister Rosa and a brother who was in hiding elsewhere to whom Wladyslaw had been providing food. Helena's parents and a younger sister were murdered.

Wladyslaw decided to take action to save his sister-in-law, Rosa. He smuggled her into his home and hid her in a

hole under the floor.

But hiding Rosa placed the Panczyszyn family in danger from all sides, not only from neighbors, but also from close family members. Wladyslaw's sister-in-law, his brother's wife, strenuously objected to his marriage to a Jewish woman, and the family feared that she would inform on them.

As the risk to the family increased, Wladyslaw, Helena and their 2-year-old daughter, Irena, moved to *Boryslaw*. Once there, Wladyslaw placed his daughter in hiding with a colleague from work, while Helena and Rosa hid behind a wall that was built in a storeroom near their home.

One day a fire broke out in the Panczyszyn's kitchen, attracting a great deal of attention and threatening the safety of the women's hiding place. Feeling that she was endangering his life, Rosa wanted to leave Wladyslaw's house, but he insisted that she remain.

Wladyslaw hid Helena and Rosa for a year and a half, taking care of all their needs during that entire time.

Carmella Ben Natan and Avi Schweitzer of Israel, children of the late survivor Rosa Schweitzer, and Irena Gorniak of Poland, daughter of the late Righteous and the late survivor, Helena Reinhartz Panczyszyn, attended the ceremony.

A FRIEND IN DEED

BY LENNY BEN-DAVID

Recently, the Associated Press reported that newly released tapes from US president Lyndon Johnson's White House office showed LBJ's "personal and often emotional connection to Israel." The news agency pointed out that during the Johnson presidency (1963-1969), "the United States became Israel's chief diplomatic ally and primary arms supplier."

But the news report does little to reveal the full historical extent of Johnson's actions on behalf of the Jewish people and the State of Israel. Most students of the Arab-Israeli conflict can identify Johnson as the president during the 1967 war. But few know about LBJ's actions to rescue hundreds of endangered Jews during the Holocaust – actions that could have thrown him out of Congress and into jail. Indeed, the title of "Righteous Gentile" is certainly appropriate in the case of the Texan, whose centennial year is being commemorated this year.

Appropriately enough, the annual Jerusalem Conference announced that it will honor Johnson in February 2009.

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

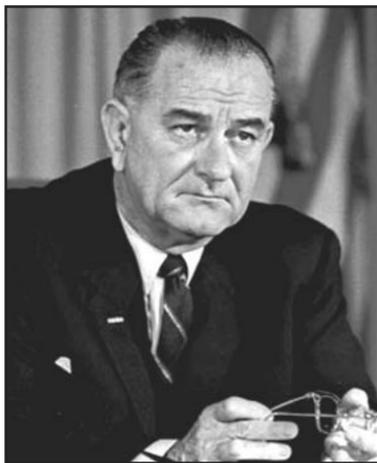
A key resource for uncovering LBJ's pro-Jewish activity is the unpublished 1989 doctoral thesis by University of Texas student Louis Gomolak, "Prologue: LBJ's Foreign Affairs Background, 1908-1948." Johnson's activities were confirmed by other historians in interviews with his wife, family members and political associates.

Research into Johnson's personal history indicates that he inherited his concern for the Jewish people from his family. His

aunt Jessie Johnson Hatcher, a major influence on LBJ, was a member of the Zionist Organization of America. According to Gomolak, Aunt Jessie had nurtured LBJ's commitment to befriending Jews for 50 years. As a young boy, Lyndon watched his politically active grandfather "Big Sam" and father "Little Sam" seek clemency for Leo Frank, the Jewish victim of a blood libel in Atlanta. Frank was lynched by a mob in 1915, and the Ku Klux Klan in Texas threatened to kill the Johnsons. The Johnsons later told friends that Lyndon's family hid in their cellar while his father and uncles stood guard with shotguns on their porch in case of KKK attacks. Johnson's speechwriter later stated, "Johnson often cited Leo Frank's lynching as the source of his opposition to both anti-Semitism and isolationism."

Already in 1934 – four years before Chamberlain's Munich sellout to Hitler – Johnson was keenly alert to the dangers of Nazism and presented a book of essays, *Nazism: An Assault on Civilization*, to the 21-year-old woman he was courting, Claudia Taylor – later known as "Lady Bird" Johnson. It was an incredible engagement present.

Five days after taking office in 1937, LBJ broke with the "Dixiecrats" and supported an immigration bill that would naturalize illegal aliens, mostly Jews from Lithuania and Poland. In 1938, Johnson was told of a young Austrian Jewish musician who was about to be deported from the United States. With an element of subterfuge, LBJ sent him to the US Consulate in Havana to obtain a residency permit. Erich Leinsdorf, the



Lyndon B. Johnson

world-famous musician and conductor, credited LBJ for saving his life.

That same year, LBJ warned a Jewish friend, Jim Novy, that European Jews faced annihilation. "Get as many Jewish people as possible out [of Germany and Poland]," were Johnson's instructions. Somehow, Johnson provided him with a pile of signed immigration papers that were used to get 42 Jews out of Warsaw.

But that wasn't enough. According to historian James M. Smallwood, Congressman Johnson used legal and sometimes illegal methods to smuggle "hundreds of Jews into Texas, using Galveston as the entry port. Enough money could buy false passports and fake visas in Cuba, Mexico and other Latin American countries.... Johnson smuggled boatloads and plane loads of Jews into Texas. He hid them in the Texas National Youth Administration... Johnson saved at least four or five hundred Jews, possibly more."

During World War II, Johnson joined Novy at a small Austin gathering to sell \$65,000 in war bonds. According to Gomolak, Novy and Johnson then raised a very "substantial sum for arms for Jewish underground fighters in Palestine." One source cited by the historian reports that "Novy and Johnson had been secretly shipping heavy crates labeled 'Texas Grapefruit' – but containing arms – to Jewish underground 'freedom fighters' in Palestine."

On June 4, 1945, Johnson visited Dachau. According to Smallwood, Lady Bird later recalled that when her husband

returned home, "he was still shaken, stunned, terrorized and bursting with an overpowering revulsion and incredulous horror at what he had seen."

A decade later, while serving in the Senate, Johnson blocked the Eisenhower administration's attempts to apply sanctions against Israel following the 1956 Sinai Campaign. "The indefatigable Johnson had never ceased pressure on the administration," wrote I.L. "Si" Kenen, the head of AIPAC at the time.

As Senate majority leader, Johnson consistently blocked the anti-Israel initiatives of his fellow Democrat, William Fulbright, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Among Johnson's closest advisers during this period were several strong pro-Israel advocates, including Benjamin Cohen (who 30 years earlier was the liaison between Supreme Court justice Louis Brandeis and Chaim Weizmann) and Abe Fortas, the legendary Washington "insider."

Johnson's concern for the Jewish people continued through his presidency. Soon after taking office in the aftermath of John F. Kennedy's assassination in 1963, Johnson told an Israeli diplomat, "You have lost a very great friend, but you have found a better one."

Just one month after succeeding Kennedy, LBJ attended the December 1963 dedication of the *Agudas Achim Synagogue* in Austin. Novy opened the ceremony by saying to Johnson, "We can't thank him enough for all those Jews he got out of Germany during the days of Hitler."

Lady Bird would later describe the day, according to Gomolak: "Person after person plucked at my sleeve and said, 'I wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for him. He helped me get out.'" Lady Bird elaborated, "Jews had been woven into the warp and woof of all [Lyndon's] years."

The prelude to the 1967 war was a terri-

(Continued on page 14)

STEVEN SPIELBERG HOLOCAUST ARCHIVE "MAKES ALIYAH"

"We may be living in something of a bubble, and I don't mean investment bubble – I mean reality bubble," Tim O'Reilly, a guru of the global technology community said. "These are pretty depressing times in a lot of ways," he groused, showing the audience a number of Facebook applications such as the one allowing surfers to toss virtual sheep at each other, or to drink virtual beer. "You have to ask yourself – are we working on the right things?"

The disenchanted O'Reilly would probably have liked the joint project by Yad Vashem and the global storage company EMC, which are collaborating on bringing more than 200,000 hours of video to Israel. The images include 52,000 interviews with Holocaust survivors, prepared and stored by the Shoah Foundation Institute, a Steven Spielberg creation at the University of Southern California (USC).

The testimonies will be added to a Yad Vashem collection of about 10,000 accounts that have been filmed on video since 1989, and some 5,000 films dealing with the Holocaust produced all over the world. The collections will be made accessible to the public.

The collection at USC is archived on analogue recordings with limited accessibility. Only the catalog of movies and a relatively few minutes of video are available on-line. "The USC has robotic systems that pull out recordings requested by

users. The process takes a few minutes each time," relates Yad Vashem CIO Michael Lieber. "After receiving a donation from Sheldon Adelson and EMC, we decided to fly the material to Israel in a consolidated storage system, although transferring so much material is rather unusual.



Steven Spielberg.

As part of the project, a number of EMC representatives came to the Shoah Institute to copy all of the testimonies over a period of a few weeks – more than 200 terabytes – to archive systems that were then flown to Israel.

The movies are now available for Video on Demand viewing at the Yad Vashem viewing center, founded three years ago. Lieber says that the center's top priority is to get the material onto the Internet. "Initially, we will use YouTube, so we can at least post sections of the interviews" he promises, noting that Yad Vashem would prefer to put the entire

archive on line, but technological, legal and especially financing problems make this a difficult task.

Lieber says that Yad Vashem computers contain about 500 terabytes of archived documents, pictures, voice and video files. "We are operating an enormous digitization system," he concludes. At present, movie searches can be performed based on a limited number of search keys: names, dates and places. In addition, there are some rudimentary tags that the Holocaust fund has added to the movies, allowing viewers to skip between sections of the movie.

The movies currently have no transcripts. Lieber says that Yad Vashem is considering the possibility of making use of voice search tools, but although they have consulted with a number of leading technology companies in the field, no satisfactory solution has been found. "The type of material we are dealing with presents difficult hurdles for voice recognition software, because of the emotionality in the material and the plethora of languages. Programs that do an excellent job transcribing news reports have a lot of difficulty when operated on the types of interviews that we are dealing with. Witnesses telling their story can suddenly halt under a deluge of memories. In these cases, the system, which analyzes breaks in speech, separates the first part from the continuation. For the viewer, the section ends at the height of the tension.

BELARUS REMEMBERS MINSK GHETTO VICTIMS

Belarus remembered its Jews who perished in the Holocaust on the 65th anniversary of the annihilation of the Minsk ghetto.

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko took part in memorial ceremony held at the Yama memorial complex in Minsk, where many of the ghetto victims are buried. "A small part of Belarusian Jews survived (the war). They were killed only because they were Jewish," Lukashenko told.

The president promised that Belarus would remember the Holocaust victims. He declared that a great memorial will be created on the site of the former *Trostenec* death camp was located, where thousands of Jews and people of other nations were killed by the Nazis. "New generations haven't forgotten what happened in the middle of the last century," Lukashenko said.

The head of the Belarusian Jewish community, Leonid Levin, told JTA that the ceremony is the first time that the Belarusian government has paid so much attention to the memory of Holocaust victims. "Mourning ceremonies take place all over the country. It is the first time that people speak openly about the tragedy of the Belarusian Jews," Levin said.

More than 800,000 Jews were killed in the country during World War II. About 100,000 Jews perished in the Minsk ghetto.

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS SEEK CONGRESS'S HELP IN COURT

BY JAMES BARRON,
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Abbe Dresdner remembers the train ride, remembers being "jammed in, standing for days and days" in a boxcar. It was August 1940 in Vichy France. He was 11.

"We had no food, no nothing," said Mr. Dresdner, who had fled his native Belgium, only to be captured by French authorities and put on the train. "They took all our belongings, our suitcases, except for what we were carrying in our pockets."

The train was bound for *Rivesaltes*, a village in southern France where there

camp. Of 2,166 passengers on one train, for example, 536 died on a three-day trip to the Dachau death camp in Germany, according to the lawsuit.

The railroad countered that it could not be sued in American courts because of the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act of 1976. The law was passed to prevent foreign governments from being sued in American courts and to give the force of law to principles that the federal government and the courts had long followed. The railroad also said it was entitled to immunity under American laws in effect during World War II.

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

"The evil actions of the French national railroad's former private masters in knowingly transporting thousands to death camps during World War II are not susceptible to legal redress in federal court today," the appeals judges wrote.

The survivors went back to the Supreme Court in 2005. The justices declined to hear the case.

Harriet Tanen, a Manhattan lawyer who represents many of the survivors in the lawsuit, said the 2004 decision was disturbing because it left them with no recourse. "The railroad has never denied what it did," she said. "They've just said, 'You can't sue us.' That's wrong."

The Senate bill, introduced by Senators Charles E. Schumer and Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York, is tailored specifically to the railroad case. The bill says that American courts "are and should be a proper forum" for the railroad case. A similar bill was introduced in the House.

"S.N.C.F. has continued to evade responsibility through minutiae and loopholes in the law," Mr. Schumer said. The bill says the immunity law "was not intended to bar suit against the S.N.C.F."

Andreas F. Lowenfeld, a professor at the New York University School of Law, who argued the railroad's appeal in 2003, called the proposed change in the immunity law "an attempt to get, in effect, another bite."

"The basic idea is this litigation doesn't belong in the United States," he said — a point that he said the appeals court had made clear. He added that officials of the railroad had "made an elaborate historical study, and they have made a variety of compensation and payments" in France.

In 2006, a French administrative court in Toulouse ordered the railroad to pay \$80,000 to relatives of four people who had been taken by train to a transit camp at Drancy, near Paris, from which Jews were sent to Nazi concentration camps. That was the first time the state and railroad had been found liable for their role in deporting French Jews. Also in 2006, many survivors' and victims' families filed

another lawsuit in New York seeking compensation from France for property taken from Jews.

Not all of the plaintiffs in either of the New York cases had been railroad passengers themselves. One of them, Mathilde Freund, 92, said her husband, Fritz, had been arrested when he left their hiding place near *Lyon*. He was imprisoned and taken by train to *Compiègne*, France, where he was held for several months before he was moved, again by



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

train, to the Buchenwald camp, in Germany. Mrs. Freund said he was killed there on Jan. 31, 1945.

"He was so hopeful that he would survive," said Mrs. Freund, who lives on the Upper West Side. "He wrote me letters and cards from Buchenwald. The last card I received was only seven lines. He was hopeful he would return and we would have a wonderful life."

Another survivor, Ruth Schloss, of Woodside, Queens, said, "The railroad forced my parents to be deported; they knew what was going on."

As for Mr. Dresdner, he escaped from *Rivesaltes* and was smuggled to Italy, where he hid in monasteries until President Franklin D. Roosevelt announced that 1,000 Jewish refugees would be admitted to the United States. Mr. Dresdner was sent to Oswego, N.Y.

Mr. Dresdner, who lives in Brooklyn, accused the railroad of trying to prolong the case. "In another 10 years, there won't be any survivors to talk to," he said. "They're trying to wait this out."



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

was a squalid camp for foreign Jews rounded up by the *Vichy* government.

For seven years, he and some 600 other survivors of Nazi Germany and Vichy France have been trying — so far unsuccessfully — to hold the national French railroad accountable in federal court in Brooklyn. Now they have turned to Congress, pinning their hopes on a bill that would permit their class-action lawsuit to go forward.

They filed suit against the railroad, *Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer*, in 2001, stating in court papers that the railroad had carried more than 72,000 Jews and thousands of others to Nazi camps. The court papers also said the railroad must have been aware of the horrendous conditions on the trains because it cleaned and disinfected the cars after taking the prisoners to the

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

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

NAZI HUNTERS TURN HISTORIAN

More than 60 years after World War II ended, Nazi hunters are running out of targets and increasingly becoming historians who shine a harsh light on dark family secrets. "It's hard to keep prosecutors here," said Kurt Schrimm, who leads Germany's department for prosecuting Nazi war crimes. "I tell them when they start that the prospects of prosecution are slim.

The suspects are getting older. It's more about finding out and explaining what happened."

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

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

he ever put behind bars.

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

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

In his initial interviews, Schwammberger appeared to be a gentle, grandfatherly figure. He told Schrimm he had turned to "the Pope" for help in escaping the advancing allied forces.

Over the course of his trial, he emerged as a sadist who once encouraged his dog to maul a man to death.

During the hearings, Schrimm received a visit from a 17-year-old girl: "His granddaughter had read it in the newspapers and wanted to know firsthand if it was true," Schrimm recalls. "She was totally shaken."

Correcting history has also become an important part of Eli Rosenbaum's work. Head of the U.S.

Office of Special Investigations, Rosenbaum has unmasked Nazis who settled inconspicuously into suburban America, as well as knocking prominent citizens off their pedestals.

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

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

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

In German archives, Rosenbaum discovered a report signed by Rudolph describing a visit to an aircraft factory using forced labor. "He writes that this is great from the security perspective and

recommends they use camp inmates to build the V2."

Disgraced, Rudolph surrendered his U.S. citizenship and returned to Germany. "I remember he died on New Year's day," says Rosenbaum. "He spent many years trying to rehabilitate his name.

Bringing war criminals to justice is getting ever tougher but Schrimm rebuts criticism from Nazi-hunting institution the Simon Wiesenthal Centre that convictions are too low. "The results are bad and they are going to get worse," he says. "They will have more cause for disappointment next year. "But that is no reflection of our competence or willingness. I can't pull witnesses out of a hat."

Setting history straight, however, offers some compensation. Schrimm recalls a meeting with a frail Jewish woman he visited in New York who had lost her family to Schwammberger's executioners. "I've told the story to my children and my grandchildren, she said. "I've waited 45 years for someone from Germany to express an interest in hearing it. Now that you have come, I can die in peace."

AUSTRIA ACCUSED OF SHIELDING NAZI SUSPECT

BY WILLIAM J. KOLE, AP

Milivoj Asner caused a stir just by showing up at a soccer game: The frail 95-year-old is ranked No. 4 on a leading list of most-wanted Nazi war crimes suspects.

Now Austria's most notorious far-right politician, former Freedom Party leader Joerg Haider, has touched off an even bigger scandal by praising Asner as a "treasured" neighbor who should be allowed to live out his days in peace.

"This could only happen in Austria," Efraim Zuroff, chief Nazi hunter for the Simon Wiesenthal Center, told The Associated Press.

Officials in southern Austria, where Asner lives openly despite being indicted for crimes against humanity in his native Croatia, contend the retired police chief is mentally unfit for questioning, extradition or trial.

But Asner's recent appearance at a "fan zone" near his home in the southern city of *Klagenfurt* — where he reportedly looked fit and lucid as he and his wife watched Croatia play in the European Championship — has some questioning whether this alpine country with a tortured World War II past is shielding him from justice.

Asner stands accused of persecuting hundreds of Jews, Serbs and Gypsies and dispatching them to their deaths in WWII-era Croatia, which was ruled by a Nazi puppet regime.

"Austria has the habit of closing its eyes," renowned Nazi hunter Serge Klarsfeld told French television.

The Asner case, he said, is fresh proof

the country is a safe haven for suspected war criminals.

Haider's impassioned defense of Asner has only reinforced that impression.

Haider, who brought the Freedom Party into Austria's coalition government in 2000 on a platform tinged with anti-Semitic and xenophobic undertones, is the governor of the province of *Carinthia* where Asner lives.

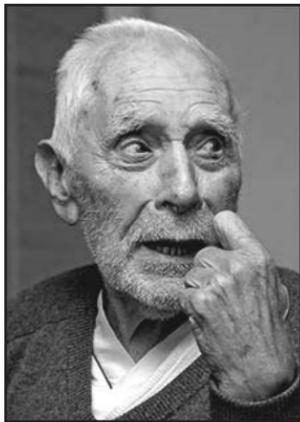
"He's lived peacefully among us for years, and he should be able to live out the twilight of his life with us," Haider told the newspaper *Der Standard*.

"This is a nice family. We really treasure this family," he was quoted as saying.

Such praise is unconscionable, said Zuroff, who has been pressuring the Austrian government to arrest Asner and hand him over for trial as part of "Operation: Last Chance" — an effort to bring aging top suspects to justice before they die.

"This is clearly a reflection of the political atmosphere which exists in Austria and which in certain circles is extremely sympathetic to suspected Nazi war criminals," Zuroff said.

Asner, he added, "has never showed any remorse for actions which affected the fates of hundreds of people."



Milivoj Asner.

Asner's indictment alleges he actively enforced racist laws while police chief in the eastern Croatian town of *Pozega* in 1941-42, and sent his victims to a Croatian death camp. The Wiesenthal Center ranks him No. 4 on a list of 10 top Nazi fugitives.

Asner has maintained his innocence, and in an interview aired on state-run Croatian television, declared: "My conscience is clear."

"I am ready to come to face the court in Croatia, but I'm not in the best health," Asner said, adding that if the judges were honest, "they would have to acquit me."

He acknowledged he participated in deportations of Serbs, Jews and Gypsies, but insisted the deportees were sent to their homelands and not to camps.

Austria's Justice Ministry said it is reviewing a request from Zuroff to make a fresh assessment of Asner's physical and mental state and prove he is suffering from dementia as experts have ruled in the past.

Without a new evaluation declaring him physically and mentally fit, "our hands are tied," said ministry spokesman Thomas Geiblinger.

Croatia demanded Asner's extradition in 2005, the year he was formally indicted. But the Austrians demurred, first on the grounds that he was an Austrian

citizen. Later, they claimed the statute of limitations for his alleged crimes had expired.

Austria eventually conceded that Asner was not an Austrian citizen, which normally would have opened the way for his extradition. But in 2006, independent experts declared Asner mentally unfit, and they did so again in April.

Among those challenging that assessment is Gerhard Tuschla, a reporter for Austrian public broadcaster ORF. Tuschla said he recently interviewed Asner, who began living under the name George Aschner after fleeing Croatia for Austria in 1945, and found him to be "a jovial, whiskey-drinking old man."

"We suspected from the very beginning that he might have been faking it-making a specific effort to appear as unfit as possible," Zuroff said. "That might be easier to fake than physical issues."

Austrian authorities have angrily denied they are giving Asner safe haven.

Manfred Herrhofer, a federal court spokesman in *Klagenfurt*, said officials are merely trying to comply with complicated extradition guidelines "and in no way are protecting a suspected Nazi war criminal."

"Austria is a constitutional state, not Guantanamo. We don't toss our principles overboard for political gain," he said.

The affair comes just as Austria takes over the chairmanship of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research — a 25-nation panel dedicated to maintaining the memory of Nazi atrocities.

STAMP COLLECTOR'S HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

BY MATTHEW HEALEY,
THE NEW YORK TIMES

When Ku Klux Klan violence spiked across the South in the 1970s, and a hitherto unknown group in California began publicly denying that the Holocaust had ever occurred, Ken Lawrence decided to fight back — using his skills as stamp collector.

Painstakingly, over 30 years, he researched and assembled a collection of postal memorabilia documenting the range and depth of horrors of what he termed "the Nazi scourge." He gathered items that showed not just the persecution of Jews and Communists but also other groups deemed undesirable by the Nazis, like gypsies and the disabled, not just in Germany but across Europe.

The award-winning collection, containing some 250 letters, postcards, postal documents, leaflets and other materials, has now been sold to the Spungen Family Foundation in Illinois. That foundation, in turn, has sought to expand the collection and continue to use it for the educational purposes that inspired Mr. Lawrence, of Spring Mills, Pa.

Daniel Spungen, a board member and spokesman for the foundation, said recently that his acquisition of the collection represented a "life-changing" experience for him. He is retiring from his job with the family business, a manufacturer of ball bearings, and devoting himself to further development of the collection, which includes rare letters from concentration camp inmates, postal documents illustrating Nazi activities and a Hebrew scripture re-used by a German soldier as

a parcel wrapper.

In addition to being displayed online, the collection will be shown to the public, beginning next year in Skokie, Ill., at the new headquarters of the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, which was set up in part as a reaction to neo-Nazi activities in that suburb of Chicago in the 1970s. The center advocated successfully for an Illinois state law requiring education about the Holocaust in schools.

The collection will also travel around the country, including stops in Santa Barbara, Calif., and Billings, Mont.

Mr. Lawrence, a longtime civil rights



A fragment of a pillaged Hebrew scroll, used by a German soldier to wrap a parcel for mailing.

activist and writer, began gathering the materials in 1978 "in response to the sudden appearance of Holocaust deniers." He recalled in an interview recently that he used to show his first acquisition, a 1943 letter from 21-year-old Eduard Pys, who had arrived at the Auschwitz concentration camp on the very first transport in May 1940, to children in Mississippi and tell them, "David Duke says this never happened."

Having little money to spend on his collection, Mr. Lawrence used his contacts with writers and activists in Eastern Europe to solicit additional material. One item is a telegram from a member of a wartime Communist resistance group that was given to him by a friend in East Germany.

"I wanted to show all the victims and all the resisters, through their mail," Mr. Lawrence said. "I tried to include every sort of anti-Nazi activity, and treat them all heroically, whether they liked each other or not."

He continued to trail the Klan and neo-Nazis around the United States, offering his collection at community centers, schools and churches as evidence of what could happen if white supremacists prevailed.

Eventually, in 1992, Mr. Lawrence started exhibiting his collection to fellow stamp collectors as well, garnering awards at philatelic gatherings from Ohio to Washington to South Korea. His collection includes rarities like an envelope from a letter sent from Dachau in 1933, shortly after the concentration camp opened; a certified-mail receipt for a prayer book sent to a Jew in a French camp; a postal checking account receipt with a crude anti-Semitic cartoon indicating payment for a Nazi propaganda newspaper; the only known letter from Rabbi Leo Baeck, leader of German Jewry, when he was held in the Theresienstadt ghetto; cards from two previously unlisted camps in Romania; and mail sent to a Nazi doctor on trial for war crimes at Nuremberg in 1945.

Mr. Lawrence described the biblical scroll used as a parcel wrapper, which recounts part of the tale of David and Goliath, as "the most viscerally disturbing item" in the collection. "Some scholars have told me it is among the most important surviving evidence of Nazi desecration," he said.

The Philatelic Foundation, a nonprofit organization, has produced a DVD documentary about the collection, and Mr. Lawrence, who is being retained by Mr. Spungen to advise him on further development of the collection, is planning a book.

Last year, after a chance encounter with Mr. Spungen at a collectors' event, Mr.

Lawrence agreed to sell him his collection. "I felt like I had taken the collection as far as I could. And I'm 65," Mr. Lawrence said.

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



A letter and a post card sent from Ukraine to Austria.

tion intact rather than breaking it up to sell.

Mr. Spungen said he had originally planned to use part of his fortune to buy an "Inverted Jenny," one of the rarest of American stamps, which has an airplane misprinted upside down. But he said he changed his mind when he saw Mr. Lawrence's collection.

"I admit I knew next to nothing about the Holocaust, and now I'm playing catch-up," he said in a recent telephone interview. Among the items he finds most compelling are a piece of mail documenting sex slavery at the Buchenwald concentration camp and fake British banknotes made by Jewish slave laborers during the Nazis' program to undermine the British economy.

Mr. Spungen said that while the collection as a whole was insured for a million dollars, and the scroll used as a parcel wrapper could be worth as much as half a million dollars on its own, "the educational value to future generations is incalculable."

THE "SILENT HEROES" NOW HAVE A VOICE

A new memorial center in Berlin pays tribute to the thousands of German gentiles who risked everything to save Jews from persecution by the Nazis and documents the stories of those who sometimes spent years in hiding.

The "Silent Heroes" memorial center opened to the public amid a new focus in recent years on the legacy of the "good Germans" — individuals who resisted Hitler, were labeled as traitors by the Nazis and were often shunned after the war.

"Their accomplishments were totally forgotten, and this is an initiative to bring them back into our memory," said Johannes Tüchel, director of the German Resistance Memorial Center Foundation, which is behind the new memorial.

About 5,000 Jews were able to survive the war in hiding in Germany. It is not clear how many people were involved in helping them, Tüchel said. Research suggests that for

each person in hiding, about 10 people aided him or her.

Peter Michalski, whose family went into hiding in 1944, said it was a long overdue tribute to the Germans who helped people like him escape death.

"Where would you be now if these people hadn't existed?" he asked contemplatively while looking at an exhibit focusing on his family's plight. "The answer is simple: We wouldn't be."

The three-room exhibition has many multimedia displays in English and German — audio accounts, touch-screen computers focusing on 18 aspects of survival, and computers with more details on those in hiding and their rescuers. There are also personal photos, diaries and letters.

The best-known subject is Oskar Schindler, whose story was told by Steven Spielberg's Oscar-winning film "Schindler's List," which showed his efforts to shield

1,000 Jews from Nazi camps by hiring them to work in his factories.

Some of the lesser-known stories are just as moving.

Michalski looked slowly at the photos on display, picking out his parents — Lilli and Herbert Michalski — as well as himself and his brother, Franz.

Lilli Michalski was born Jewish but converted to her husband's Catholicism. Because of that, she was



Visitors view exhibits at a new memorial center honoring Germans who sheltered Jews.

able to initially escape deportation to a death camp, even though the Nazis began rounding up many of her relatives in 1941. But by 1944, the risks had become too great and the family went into hiding. Several Germans aided them, most prominently a colleague of Herbert's named Gerda Mez, who eventually helped them leave.

Michalski said it was important that people like Mez are recognized, so others can see their sacrifices. "These people are no longer alive but their relatives still are."

Yad Vashem memorial recognizes more than 22,000 gentiles across Europe who helped Jews escape the Holocaust as "Righteous among the Nations." Among them more than 450 Germans.

It is also not known how many people were caught sheltering Jews, which could have meant execution or deportation to a concentration camp.

FROM AUSCHWITZ TO CHICAGO, DETAILED HOLOCAUST LETTERS SURVIVE

The faded papers hint at stark details in the lives of Nazi concentration camp inmates.

Letters secretly carried by children through the sewers of Warsaw, Poland, during the 1944 uprising. A 1933 card from a Dachau camp commander outlining strict rules for prisoner mail. A 1943 letter from a young man, who spent time in Auschwitz, to his parents.

The more than 250 World War II postal documents — cards, letters and stamps — have been acquired by an Illinois foundation from a private collector and will soon be on permanent display in a museum in suburban Chicago.

"These artifacts underscore the very personal dimension to this catastrophe," said Richard Hirschhaut, executive director of the Skokie-based Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, where the exhibit will be housed next year when the museum opens.

"It now will reach an exponentially larger audience and serve as a genuine tool for education and learning," Hirschhaut said.

The Holocaust memorial exhibit belonged to longtime postal memorabilia collector and activist Ken Lawrence of Pennsylvania. It was called "The Nazi

Scourge: Postal Evidence of the Holocaust and the Devastation of Europe."

The Florence and Laurence Spungen Family Foundation, based in Northbrook, Illinois, recently bought the collection and has added to it.

"The insured value of the collection is \$1 million, but the educational value to future generations is incalculable," said Daniel Spungen, a board member of the foundation, in a statement.

The exhibit includes a handwritten Bible scroll in Hebrew that was used by a German soldier to mail a package. There are also documents sent to a Nazi doctor on trial for war crimes at Nuremberg.

Lawrence, the former vice president of the American Philatelic Society, meticulously collected the documents for more than three decades. His project was sparked by claims that the Holocaust never occurred.

He has since showcased the collection across the country, garnering awards.

The exhibit, which can also be viewed online, will travel to Billings, Montana, in December and Santa Barbara, California, later in the winter

ART COLLECTION TO RETURN TO ITS RIGHTFUL OWNERS

The Jewish Museum in Prague is about to return a modern art collection, stolen by the Nazis during the Holocaust, to the descendants of the original owner. The art works were collected by Prague Jewish lawyer Emil Freund who was deported to Poland by the Nazis in 1941 and died in the Lodz ghetto a year later. The heir to the 32 paintings, Mr Freund's great-great nephew, who was traced by the museum, would not be entitled to the art pieces under Czech law, but the director of the Jewish Museum in Prague, Leo Pavlát, says that where possible, all stolen property must be returned.

"As a Jewish institution, we feel a duty to deal squarely with all rightful owners or the children of those who could be entitled to acquire objects stolen by the Nazis during the war. Of course, we wouldn't like to keep anything that doesn't belong to us, and that's why we do all we can to ascertain possible owners of the objects we have in our collection."

The Jewish Museum's curator, Michaela Hájková, who initiated the search for Emil Freund's relatives, says that besides the value of the individual paintings, the art collection is also precious in that it shows what kind of art people collected before the Second World War.

The 32 paintings to be returned to Emil Freund's heirs are only a fragment of the original collection. Mr Freund's entire property was confiscated and only some of the paintings in his possession were handpicked for the war-time, Nazi-controlled Jewish museum in Prague.

"In 1942 or 1943, Dr. Polák and Dr.

Hana Volavková, who were Jewish scholars working for the Central Jewish Museum at that time, were able to select some art for the collection of that museum. That was obviously not open to the public, as it was meant to be used for Nazi propaganda purposes."

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

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

"I think it's absolutely unfortunate because I think that once the objects confiscated by the Nazis have their owners, these objects should be given back in any case and without any restrictions. That's why we protested, in a legal way, against the decision to declare the paintings we are talking about cultural assets of the Czech Republic. We even sued the Culture Ministry, but we lost the case, and so now we cannot change the decision of Czech justice."

The heirs of Dr Emil Freund are expected to collect their heritage by the end of the year. Meanwhile, the Culture Ministry has offered to buy the 13 paintings, protected as cultural monuments, reportedly at a fair price.

A FRIEND IN DEED

(Continued from page 11)

fying period for Israel, with the US State Department led by the historically unfriendly Dean Rusk urging an even-handed policy despite Arab threats and acts of aggression. Johnson held no such illusions. After the war he placed the blame firmly on Egypt: "If a single act of folly was more responsible for this explosion than any other, it was the arbitrary and dangerous announced decision [by Egypt] that the Strait of Tiran would be closed [to Israeli ships and Israeli-bound cargo]."

Kennedy was the first president to approve the sale of defensive US weapons to Israel, specifically Hawk anti-aircraft missiles. But Johnson approved tanks and fighter jets, all vital after the 1967 war, when France imposed a freeze on sales to Israel. Yehuda Avner recently described on these pages prime minister Levi Eshkol's successful appeal for these weapons on a visit to the LBJ ranch.

Israel won the 1967 war, and Johnson worked to make sure it also won the peace. "I sure as hell want to be careful and not run out on little Israel," Johnson said in a March 1968 conversation with his ambassador to the United Nations, Arthur Goldberg, according to White House tapes recently released.

Soon after the 1967 war, Soviet premier Aleksei Kosygin asked Johnson at the Glassboro Summit why the US supported Israel when there were 80 million Arabs and only three million Israelis. "Because it is right," responded the straight-shooting Texan.

The crafting of UN Resolution 242 in November 1967 was done under Johnson's scrutiny. The call for "secure and recognized boundaries" was critical.

The American and British drafters of the resolution opposed Israel returning all the territories captured in the war. In September 1968, Johnson explained, "We are not the ones to say where other nations should draw lines between them that will assure each the greatest security. It is clear, however, that a return to the situation of 4 June 1967 will not bring peace. There must be secure and there must be recognized borders. Some such lines must be agreed to by the neighbors involved."

Goldberg later noted, "Resolution 242 in no way refers to Jerusalem, and this omission was deliberate." This historic diplomacy was conducted under Johnson's stewardship, as Goldberg related in oral history to the Johnson Library. "I must say for Johnson," Goldberg stated. "He gave me great personal support."

Robert David Johnson, a professor of history at Brooklyn College, recently wrote in *The New York Sun*, "Johnson's policies stemmed more from personal concerns — his friendship with leading Zionists, his belief that America had a moral obligation to bolster Israeli security and his conception of Israel as a frontier land much like his home state of Texas. His personal concerns led him to intervene when he felt that the State or Defense departments had insufficiently appreciated Israel's diplomatic or military needs."

President Johnson firmly pointed American policy in a pro-Israel direction. In a historical context, the American emergency airlift to Israel in 1973, the constant diplomatic support, the economic and military assistance and the strategic bonds between the two countries can all be credited to the seeds planted by LBJ.

NAZI COLLABORATOR FLED ARREST, LIVING PEACEFULLY IN GERMANY

BY ASSAF UNI, HAARETZ

A Lithuanian citizen convicted of collaborating with the Nazis and persecuting Jews during World War II is living peacefully in a small town in Germany.

As a member of the Nazi-sponsored Lithuanian Security Police, Algimantas Dailide arrested Jews who were trying to escape the Vilna ghetto and handed them over to the Germans. He lied about his wartime activities on his U.S. immigration application after the war, was stripped of his American citizenship in the 1990s, and was ordered deported in 2003, following an investigation and legal proceedings that lasted more than a decade. Dailide fled arrest and settled in Kirchberg, Saxony, where he has been living ever since.

Dailide is in ninth place on the the Simon Wiesenthal Center's most recent list of the 10 most wanted Nazis. A Vilnius court convicted him of war crimes in a trial that began in 2005, but he has remained free. Last month, a high court in Lithuania ruled that he would not go to prison, partly because of his frail health.

Dailide, 87, lives with his wife in a modest apartment at Torstrasse 13, across the street from the town hall. His name is on the mailbox and intercom at the entrance. Dailide's German-born wife, whom he met in 1945 after escaping Lithuania, has relatives in Kirchberg, a town of 7,000 in what was formerly East Germany.

Dailide's conviction for war crimes relied on documents and testimony concerning a certain October 1941 night, when Dailide arrested 10 Jews who were attempting to escape from the ghetto, and another occasion on which he arrested two Polish Jews. What happened to those he arrested is not known, but it is safe to assume they were murdered, along with 94 percent of Lithuanian Jewry, which numbered 220,000 people before the war.

Dailide's name surfaced in documents found in Lithuania's archives, which were examined after the Baltic state won independence. The Vilnius court rejected Dailide's protestations of innocence, and ruled he had lied in his testimony. Despite that, the court refrained from sentencing him to prison, as is permissible by law. The prosecution appealed this leniency, but the appeal was rejected. Jewish organizations say this is typical of Lithuania's refusal to punish Nazi collaborators.

Efraim Zuroff, who heads the Wiesenthal Center's Israel office, called the court's failure to sentence Dailide to prison scandalous, "and attests to the manner in which the Lithuanian government refuses to deal with the past." More than a dozen Lithuanian collaborators have been tried, but not one has gone

to prison, a fact Zuroff says contributes to rising anti-Semitism in the Baltic country.

Last month, Dailide opened the door to his apartment and invited this Haaretz correspondent and a local reporter to come in. Dailide's wife, who suffers from Alzheimer's and cancer, was reclining in her bedroom. Taking care of her is one of the reasons Dailide has remained free. He said he uses a tube to feed her.

Dailide insists he is innocent. The documents used against him are misleading, he contends, based on a colleague's erroneous record in

October 1941. In the other case, he had signed an arrest warrant on behalf of a policeman who was illiterate, he said.

He recounted his escape to Germany in 2004, when he was afraid U.S. authorities were going to arrest him. "I took my car, packed a few things and fled the house. I slept in motels and used phone cards to contact my family. A neighbor drove my wife to meet me periodically. A priest from Cleveland contacted a priest in Toronto, who agreed to put me up. I didn't use credit cards, I put our house up for sale, and I managed to cross the border into Canada using my Lithuanian passport. My wife met me in Toronto, and we flew from

there to Frankfurt, took a train to Zwickau and arrived in Kirchberg."

He claims he suffers from chronic back pain and arthritis, and that he takes medication for high blood pressure.

A spokeswoman for the Lithuanian court said in response: "A medical board that convened for two years ruled that Dailide's state of health does not allow for his incarceration."

She said she would need to check whether the court had refrained from reexamining him.

How is it that someone convicted of collaborating with the Nazis can live in Germany?

A German lawyer who specializes in immigration cases explained that the European Union's Nice Treaty gives everyone – even if convicted – the right to choose where to live. The treaty stipulates that Germany can deport an EU citizen only if he or she is causing "significant damage" to the public. Dailide apparently does not meet this criterion.

Dailide's neighbors became familiar with his story six months ago when a local paper ran a photo of the house under the banner, "War Criminal in Kirchberg." A store owner in the adjacent building said she was shocked at first, but calmed down after she inquired into the details.

"He didn't shoot anyone, right? So he collaborated, so what? Everyone collaborated in that period," she said.



Algimantas Dailide

BETWEEN MY FATHER AND THE OLD FOOL: A HOLOCAUST MEMOIR

(Continued from page 4)

Cahan dedicated a Torah scroll in memory of his family. Dancing. Banqueting. Inspirational speeches. It was quite an event. The hour grew late, and Cahan felt as if he would float away.

Suddenly, a familiar voice said to him, "Maier, think about it for a minute." It was the Old Fool. "All these beloved people to whom you've dedicated this Torah scroll, why did they deserve to die? Wouldn't it have been better if they were all alive to share this celebration with you today? Better for them and better for you. For whom is it better that they are dead? For whom is it better that they suffered so horribly?"

The Old Fool had dogged Cahan even in 1988, forty-three years after liberation. What was Cahan's counterargument?

"For a moment, my anger flared, but then I leaned back and listened to the strains of the music. In my mind, I was once again dancing in the street, holding on tightly to the Torah and crying like a child, and I no longer heard the Old Fool. Life, I decided, was a choice between anger and joy. I chose joy."

Happy ending. But I cheated. I gave no evidence of how agonizingly difficult it was for Cahan to reach that moment of joy. His memoir is no storybook. The brutality he survived is impossible to grasp. One evening he was beaten so badly that one cannot understand how he went on. At one point, he makes three friends. All of them suffered unspeakably, but at least they had each other. An infinity later, dragging himself across a field of bodies, Cahan trips over his three dead friends. Not only was his family decimated, but so were the people whom he met in various camps and other places of torture who helped him survive. By the time the war ended, Cahan was not only bereft of the support system he had had before

the war, but he was also bereft of whatever slim support he had had during the war.

Subtly interwoven in this narrative is a totemic reminder of all that Cahan once was, and still hoped to be; at once a symbol and a concrete weapon against the Old Fool. This was *tefillin*.

A death train passed. It carried the Jewish faces of *Vishiva*, of *Sighet*, of *Strimtua*, of *Satmar*, of *Dragomiresti*, of *Bayna*, of *Grossverdan*. As the train came slowly into the bend, there were outstretched hands. And voices, moans, groans, wails. And the choking smells of unwashed bodies, of stagnating feces and puddled urine. Suddenly, a black object came flying through the air. It was one *tefillin*; the wheel of the train had crushed one side of it. Cahan picked it up gently, kissed it, caressed it.

"I crumpled to the ground as the tears gushed from my eyes and great heaving sobs wracked my body," writes Cahan. "I cried for the poor, miserable passengers of the train, innocent victims of the unspeakable evil that had broken loose from the nethermost bowels of Hell and was running rampant among my people. I cried for my father, my stepmother, my beloved brothers and sisters, my grandparents, my uncles and aunts, my cousins, for all the people that had populated my life and were now stuffed into these cattle cars on their way to an unthinkable destination."

Still, he hugged the crushed *tefillin*. It was unusable, and he buried it with dignity. He felt strangely comforted.

At the time, Cahan was still in possession of his father's pair of *tefillin*. They were all that remained of his father, but, perhaps precisely because of that tragic account, they meant more to Cahan than even the inherent sacredness of the *tefillin* themselves. One, or maybe a sec-

ond, infinity after the train had passed, Cahan found himself a prisoner, with guards beating him and everyone around him. "Toss all your personal belongings into the pit!" the SS officer shouted. Cahan resisted. No luck. His backpack, containing his father's *tefillin*, his last link to his father, was tossed in.

"So look what you've come to, Maier." He heard a familiar voice. It was the Old Fool. "Apparently, your God has no further need for you....He didn't even let you keep your *tefillin*. Why are you still so loyal to Him if He doesn't care about you?"

"I wanted to respond with a sharp retort," writes Cahan. "I wanted to devastate the Old Fool with ridicule and sarcasm, but he was gone. He had cleverly faded away after delivering his seditious little speech."

Later, in a concentration camp, where there was neither soup nor vegetable nor flour, Cahan and his friends figured out a way to exchange their puny rations for a pair of *tefillin*. They did so at the cost of not only their rations but also of their health and their bodies. They were whipped and punched when they were discovered with the *tefillin*, which a Nazi trampled until they were nothing more than a shapeless black mass.

"So what do you have to say now, Maier?" It was the Old Fool again.

And again, in another camp, still later, there was a man lying on the ground, a wasted shadow of a man. His eyes "held a look of resignation and such profound peace that I knew he was halfway to the next world," writes Cahan. The man pulled from his pocket, with great effort, an object wrapped in rags. It was a pair of *tefillin*. In secret, Cahan and a friend donned the *tefillin* in the forest, at pain of death. Then his friend fell sick and Cahan helped him put on *tefillin*. When Cahan

returned from work, his friend's bed was empty. "I felt as if part of me had died," thought Cahan. "Somehow, I had considered the discovery of the *tefillin* a portent of good things." Meanwhile, where were the *tefillin*? They were gone.

At the last moment, just before the war was over, Cahan astonishingly met his Uncle Shloime. The relief and joy were mixed with a choice, dictated by the Germans: Stay in the camp or go on the road, and whoever will go on the road will be given two loaves of bread, margarine and even some fruit jam. Those who stay behind will receive nothing. Shloime took the rations and went. Cahan stayed.

"Uncle Shloime, I've had too many brushes with the Angel of Death on the road. I'm staying here. Whatever happens, happens."

Uncle Shloime went, after tearful farewells.

Cahan survived.

Shloime did not.

Somehow, after liberation, Cahan learned the fate of his relatives, his friends, his collaborators, and it was all the same. Somehow, he located his sister's old apartment, thoroughly vandalized. Somehow, amid the debris, he found a crumpled photograph, and removed the caked mud and dirt. It showed his sister hugging her baby, smiling from ear to ear. Now dead.

"I kissed the photograph and burst into tears. I had cried often during the previous year. I had cried in pain, in agony, in frustration, and in sorrow. But now I cried with an emotion I could not identify. Perhaps I could say it was a sense that I myself had died a little through all my suffering and the loss of my most beloved, and that for the rest of my life I would only be a shadow of what I should have been.

"I slipped the photograph into my pocket, squared my shoulders and left."

HOPE תקווה AMERICAN & INTERNATIONAL SOCIETIES FOR YAD VASHEM ANNUAL TRIBUTE DINNER

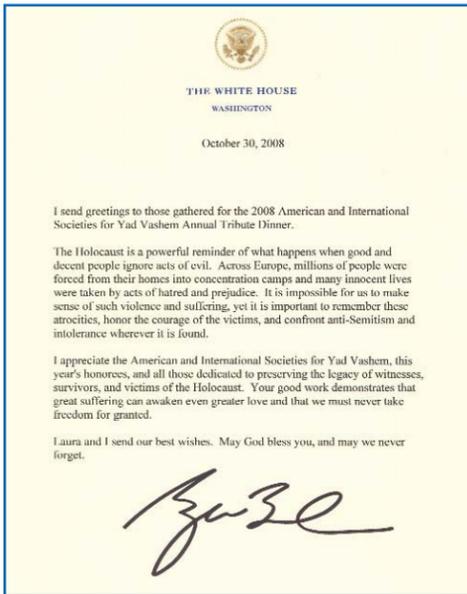
GEORGE W. BUSH: "GREAT SUFFERING CAN AWAKEN EVEN GREATER LOVE"

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

The Holocaust is a powerful reminder of what happens when good and decent people ignore acts of evil. Across Europe, millions of people were forced from their homes into concentration camps and many innocent lives were taken by acts of hatred and prejudice.

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

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



EHUD OLMERT: "WE NOW HAVE A HOMELAND AND A SANCTUARY"

It gives me great pleasure to send warm greetings to the American & International Societies for Yad Vashem on the occasion of your Annual Tribute Dinner.

Sixty years ago this year, the State of Israel was born out of the ashes of the Holocaust which ravaged the vibrant and glorious Jewish communities of Europe. The scattered and battered remnants of European Jewry slowly began to recover from the horrors inflicted upon them, and began to rebuild their destroyed lives.

They did so with hope and optimism, and with the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, the Jewish people were guaranteed that they would never again suffer such atrocities – we now have a homeland and a sanctuary.

While we celebrate the hope of a brighter future for the Jewish people, we must still never forget the Holocaust and the events and cultural norms which allowed it to occur. Yad Vashem plays a critical role in ensuring that the lessons of the Holocaust are taught and passed on to the younger generations, educating them about the past so that it is never repeated. The support and dedication of the American & International Societies for Yad Vashem help make this possible.



ANGELA MERKEL: "GERMANY IS FULLY CONSCIOUS OF ITS RESPONSIBILITY"

To everyone attending the Annual Tribute Dinner of the American and International Societies for Yad Vashem I send heartfelt greetings. I would also like to warmly congratulate this year's honorees, Selma Gruder-Horowitz, Fred Zeidman and Avner Shalev, all of whom have made an outstanding contribution to Holocaust remembrance.

Seventy years ago today, on the night of November 9, a campaign of hate and destruction was launched against Jews right across Germany. The Shoah was an unparalleled crime against humanity. It cannot and must not ever be forgotten.

Germany is fully conscious of its responsibility. Anti-Semitism, hatred and intolerance must be nipped in the bud wherever they are found. The German Government is likewise strongly committed to upholding Israel's immutable right to live in peace and security. The fact that today, sixty years after the founding of the State of Israel, the ties between Germany and Israel are closer than ever before is to me a cause of joy and gratitude.

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

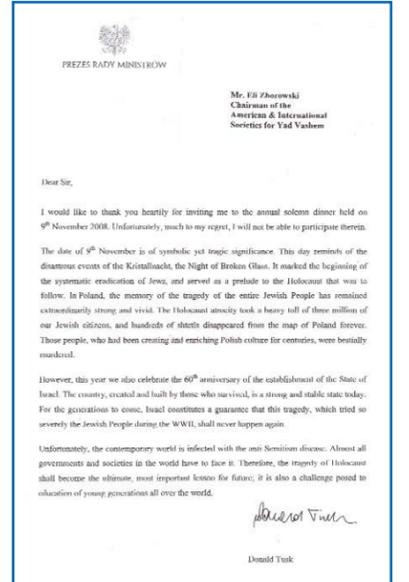


DONALD TUSK: "TRAGEDY OF HOLOCAUST SHALL BECOME THE ULTIMATE LESSON FOR THE FUTURE"

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

However, this year we also celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel. The country, created and built by those who survived, is a strong and stable state today. For the generations to come, Israel constitutes a guarantee that this tragedy, which tried so severely the Jewish People during the WWII, shall never happen again.

Unfortunately, the contemporary world is infected with the anti-Semitism disease. Almost all governments and societies in the world have to face it. Therefore, the tragedy of Holocaust shall become the ultimate, most important lesson for future; it is also a challenge posed to education of young generations all over the world.



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