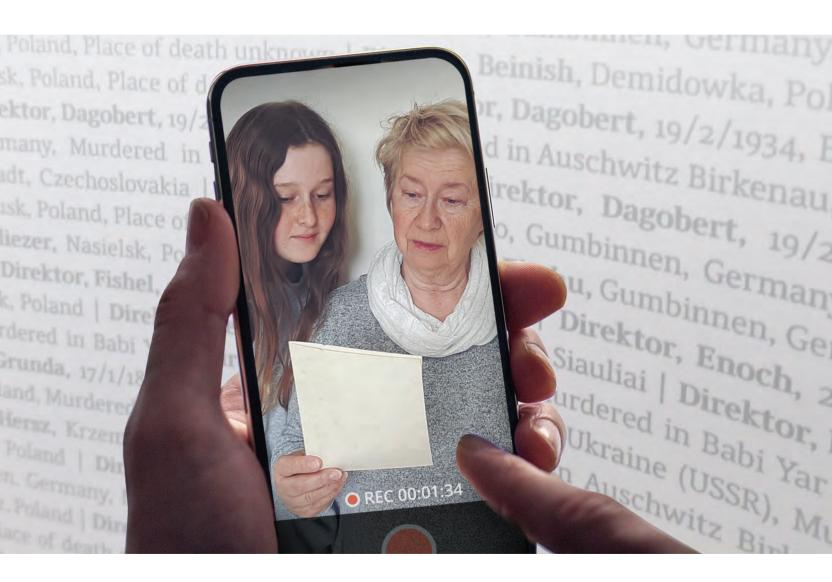
YAD VASHEM

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JERUSALEM



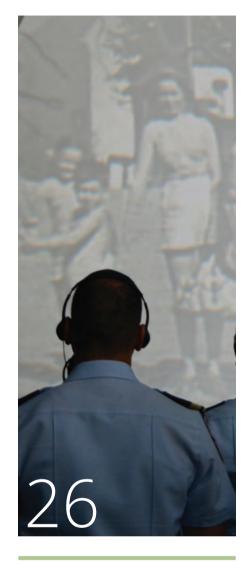
Holocaust Remembrance in the Shadow of Coronavirus (4-11)



RESCUE BY JEWS

RESCUE AT A PRICE

DILEMMAS OF JEWS TRYING TO RESCUE FELLOW JEWS



EDUCATION

ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE LAW

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FOR POLICE OFFICERS



RIGHTEOUS

"SHE WAS DEEPLY LOVED"

DIARY KEPT BY TEENAGE DAUGHTER
OF DUTCH RIGHTEOUS FAMILY



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HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

IN THE SHADOW OF CORONAVIRUS

Leah Goldstein

As the Mount of Remembrance temporarily closed its doors in mid-March due to the nationwide lockdown in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak, the dedicated staff at Yad Vashem took care to preserve its displays and collections, and concentrated on extending their reach to the public around the world with relevant, timely and captivating online presentations.



Iith content-rich websites well as a strong social media presence on a number of platforms, the basis of Yad Vashem's educational and commemorative efforts was already in place when the Coronavirus pandemic hit. Ideas began to emerge regarding how to bring new programs, research and accomplishments to interested parties worldwide,

as well as how to engage with the public on this year's Holocaust Remembrance Day and its central theme of "Rescue by Jews during the Holocaust: Solidarity in a Disintegrating World."

Holocaust Remembrance Day

The <u>State Opening Ceremony</u> marking Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day 2020 on the night of 20 April was pre-

recorded without an audience in Warsaw Ghetto Square on the Mount of Remembrance in Jerusalem. The event was broadcast with simultaneous translation (except for the remarks of the President and Prime Minister) into English, French, German, Russian and Spanish on Yad Vashem's website, as well as via Yad Vashem's Facebook page.

The ceremony comprised traditional elements, including

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>> HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE IN THE SHADOW OF CORONAVIRUS

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"The current pandemic occupying the entire world, the war against a non-human, invisible and indiscriminate foe, only emphasizes our common obligation to human solidarity." President Reuven Rivlin

video remarks by Israel's President H.E. Mr. Reuven Rivlin and Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu, both of whom alluded to the unprecedented challenges marking Holocaust Day Remembrance during a national lockdown. Prime Minister Netanyahu expressed his deep condolences over the death of Holocaust survivors due to the Coronavirus, and recalled the recent historic Fifth World Holocaust Forum, at which world leaders gathered at Yad Vashem to unite in the against contemporary antisemitism. "You, the lighters of the torches of memory and heroism, you represent unity in all of its glory." President Rivlin concluded: "The current pandemic occupying the entire world, the war against a non-human, invisible and indiscriminate foe, only emphasizes our common obligation to human solidarity, to mutual responsibility and to the

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uncompromising battle against antisemitism and hatred, which also spread like an infectious disease from one to another."

Yad Vashem Council Chairman and Holocaust survivor Rabbi Israel Meir Lau kindled the Memorial Torch, followed by Naomi Cassuto, who spoke on behalf of the survivors. She emotionally recalled the heroic efforts of her father Léo Cohn, who refused to save himself together with his family in order to continue his vital rescue work, and thus became a Holocaust victim himself.

During the ceremony, six torches were lit, and the stories of six Holocaust survivors – Haim Arbiv, Zohar Arnon, Yehuda Beilis, Aviva Blum-Wachs, Avraham Carmi and Lea Reuveni - were shown, each featuring tales of courageous acts to help save fellow Jews during the Holocaust. The stories and videos of the torchlighters in six languages were uploaded to the relevant language websites

and shared in social media in different languages. Israeli singers Shiri Maimon and Shai Tzabari provided the artistic segments of the ceremony, which included narrative pieces written by Holocaust survivor Jack Werber, recited by Israeli actor Zohar Straus.

The ceremony concluded with a traditional memorial service, including the reading of a chapter from Psalms by Chief Rabbi of Israel Rabbi David Lau; the *Kaddish* mourner's prayer recited by the Rishon LeZion, Chief Rabbi of Israel Rabbi Yitzhak Yosef; and *El Maleh Rahamim*, the Jewish prayer for the souls of the martyrs, delivered by Cantor Daniel Dahan.

International Virtual Names-Reading Ceremony

To mark Holocaust Remembrance Day this year, when public gatherings were banned in the wake of the Coronavirus outbreak worldwide, Yad Vashem invited the public to participate in an international campaign to record themselves reciting the names of Holocaust victims, and share the video on social media using the hashtags #RememberingFromHome and #ShoahNames.

The campaign encouraged people of all ages, from all walks of life and from all corners of the world to join this global name-reading



initiative and thereby help restore the identities of the millions of Holocaust victims – men, women and children. In order to facilitate this unique project, the Yad Vashem website provided access to lists categorized in various ways - adults, children, country of origin and more. a link to names of Holocaust victims by country, and a link to the <u>Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names</u>, in order to allow a search for specific names.

"Join us and mark Holocaust

The campaign encouraged people of all ages, from all corners of the world, to join this global name-reading initiative and thereby help restore the identities of the millions of Holocaust victims

Remembrance Day this year from your homes," entreated Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. "Help us to restore the memory of those murdered during the Holocaust, as you do each and every year. Although the circumstances this year are unique, the message is still the same: We will never forget their names."

Participants in the campaign were requested to film a short video of themselves reciting names, and then share the video in their social media with the hashtags. Yad Vashem then collected videos from all over the world and created an online Holocaust Remembrance Day Global Names-Reading Ceremony.

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ONLINE

>> HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

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"As hundreds of participants aged 4-96 from over 50 countries worldwide joined the campaign via our five different social media platforms, we were able to create two moving Virtual Name-Reading Ceremonies (approximately an hour-long each) for both local and global audiences," says Gabi Duec, Head of the Social Media and Digital Projects Section in Yad Vashem's Digital Department, Communications Division. "Politicians, diplomats, celebrities, sportspersons and opinion-shapers from across the globe, including Israel's President, the German Foreign Minister, Facebook CEO Sheryl Sandberg and the Israeli Maccabi basketball team, all joined this unique international campaign."

New Online Exhibition

Through its vast array of online material, projects and campaigns, Yad Vashem endeavored to bring to public attention the multifaceted and complex stories of Jewish people who took it upon themselves, despite their own persecution, to lend a hand to their fellow Jews.

A new online exhibition entitled "Rescue by Jews: 'One for All" features eleven stories of Jews saving Jews from Belarus, Germany, the Netherlands, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, France, Croatia and Romania. The stories

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Every week, the public had the opportunity to hear from renowned Yad Vashem experts, historians and researchers on various compelling and timely topics

are taken from documents, testimonies, photographs and artifacts housed in the Yad Vashem Archives and Collections.

"My research and reconstruction of the lives and fates of the families presented in the exhibition was sometimes very difficult due to the lack of available information," explains Yad Vashem Online Exhibitions Coordinator Yona Kobo. "However, undoubtedly the most difficult part was dealing with the stories of the children who were murdered. As professional as we try to be when doing this kind of research, one cannot help but be heartbroken at these tragic events."

Many of the stories included in the online exhibition are being told for the very first time, illustrating how the content brought forth in these exhibitions is vital to ongoing efforts to disseminate Holocaust remembrance and awareness worldwide.

Staying Connected

Alongside Holocaust Remembrance Day initiatives, a of series podcasts Zoom lectures was launched as the world stayed behind closed doors. Topics connected to the Holocaust Remembrance Day central theme included the terrible dilemmas faced by Jewish rescuers and their charges, as well as the pressure of the developments during the war as they raced against the clock to save as many Jewish lives as possible. Other Holocaust-based presentations covered a range of topics, such as the origins and trends of antisemitism; an outline of Yad Vashem's Names Recovery efforts; the facts and politics of the liberation of Auschwitz; revenge after the Holocaust; the fate of Jewish women during the Shoah; the escape to the forests; and elderly survivors in the wake of the Holocaust.

A new series of online lectures was also launched, in several languages, for audiences worldwide. Every week, the public had the opportunity to hear from renowned Yad Vashem experts, historians and researchers on various compelling and timely topics, including a panel discussion on Medical Ethics and the Holocaust, Theological Responses to the Holocaust, the Ramifications of the Opening of the Vatican Archives, and a special discussion for Father's Day with Henry Foner, a Kindertransport survivor who received many

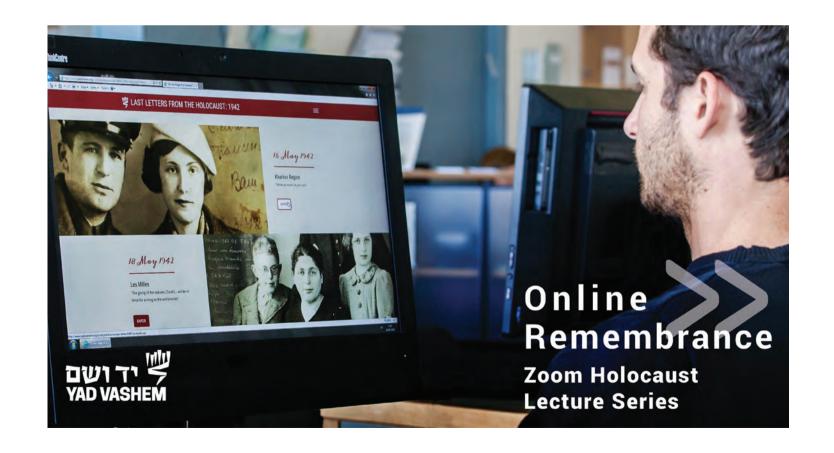
postcards from his father on the eve of WWII.

Throughout this period, Yad Vashem also intensified its outreach efforts in all its social media platforms: on Twitter in five languages, on Facebook in Hebrew and English, and on Instagram, which resulted in increased engagement with audiences around the world.

Marking 75 years since VE Day the Allied victory over Nazi Germany - each day for 75 days, one of the 75 portraits from the joint project "Survivors: Faces of Life after the Holocaust" was

shown on Yad Vashem's Twitter feed. These individual portraits of survivors were taken by worldrenowned photographer Martin Schoeller at Yad Vashem to mark the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, and were featured in an exhibition at the Ruhr Museum in Essen, Germany that opened in January 2020. Accompanying the portraits are messages from the survivors for the generations to come messages of human decency and dignity, filled with hope and faith in humanity.

"Many of the thousands of

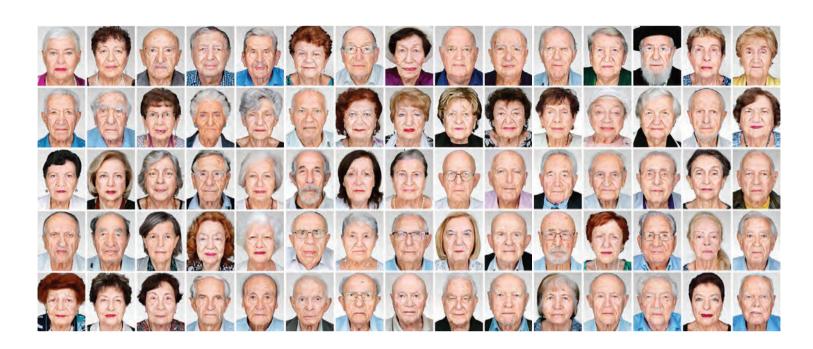


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ONLINE

>> HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

IN THE SHADOW OF CORONAVIRUS



From the exhibition: "Survivors: Faces of Life after the Holocaust"

people in Israel and around the world have joined in these educational and commemorative activities," said Avner Shalev. "Yad Vashem will of course strengthen contact with them and encourage them to continue to follow our online initiatives in order to welcome them into our community of meaningful remembrance."

Yad Vashem also intensified its outreach
efforts in all its social media platforms, which
resulted in increased engagement with
audiences around the world

Conservation During Corona

During the lockdown period, urgent preparations were made to protect the Yad Vashem Artifacts and Art Collections - invaluable assets of Jewish heritage – the museological spaces and the various exhibits. For this purpose, a special emergency team was appointed, led by Conservation Section Head Noga Schusterman, which outlined the treatment of the items and led the execution of these measures according to emergency procedures. The team, which also includes members of staff of the Artifacts and Art Departments, continues to address the issue, by visiting the collections warehouses to receive new items and to review preservation and climate conditions.

The emergency team drafted and implemented an action in accordance with emergency procedures issued by ICOM (International Council of Museums). Items were taken from the exhibitions where they were on display – the Holocaust History Museum, the "Gathering the Fragments" exhibit in the lobby of the Archives and Library Building, and the rotating display case in the Visitors' Center – and placed in storage. Other display cases were sealed against dust, and larger artifacts covered to protect them. Throughout this ongoing period,

checks are continuously carried out in all of the exhibition spaces: the Holocaust History Museum, the Museum of Holocaust Art and other displays on the Mount of Remembrance.

Noga Schusterman prepares an item from the Partisans' Display in the Holocaust History Museum for storage



1 O N L I N E

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES AT A DISTANCE

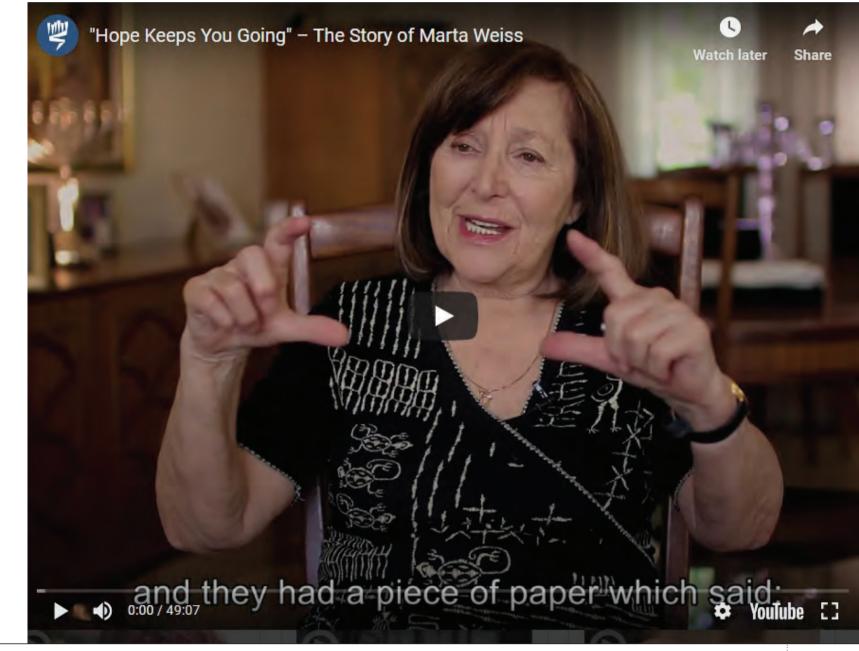
During the Coronavirus lockdown period, the International School for Holocaust Studies initiated online educational activities and continued special projects for Holocaust Remembrance Day through a variety of virtual platforms.

On the Website

Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies uploaded a <u>dedicated subsite</u> on Yad Vashem's website for Holocaust Remembrance Day 2020. The site comprised a range of pedagogic materials, including Yad Vashem podcasts on the subjects of Rescue by Jews; "Operation Reinhard"; Yad Vashem's Names Recovery Project; and Women in the Holocaust. In

addition, there was a playlist of selected testimonial films, as well as a wealth of educational resources in English and other languages.

Among other online initiatives for Holocaust Remembrance Day,





Holocaust survivor Moshe Ha-Elion speaks via Zoom to a group of students and teachers in Mexico to mark Holocaust Remembrance Day 2020

six new additions to the "Witnesses and Education" series – produced by the International School – were released online, in which survivors recount their life stories at the locations in which the events transpired.

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International Seminars

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, Yad Vashem had to cancel all its planned international educational seminars (some 70 seminars) until the end of 2020. The staff of the different desks in both the Jewish and international worlds immediately turned to their graduates from over 30 different countries – including the US, South America, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Turkey, France, Germany, UK, Poland and Russia and offered them free online lectures on an array of various Yad Vashem educational and pedagogical topics.

The sessions were directed towards teachers, their students, the general public and Yad Vashem supporters in different countries. During the months of April, May and lune, the staff from the International Seminars Department performed 130 Zoom sessions for over 6,000 participants from 30 different countries. Topics included the Educational Philosophy of the International School for Holocaust Studies, Spiritual Resistance during the Holocaust, Holocaust Survivor Testimonies, Liberation and the Return to Life, Post-Holocaust Theology, Jewish Solidarity during the Holocaust, and Rescue by Jews.

Six new additions to the "Witnesses and Education" series of testimony films – produced by the International School – were released online, in which survivors recount their life stories at the locations in which the events transpired

Educational Guiding

Every year, participants in "Masa," a program for lewish students from abroad who come to work and study in Israel, take part in Yad Vashem's Holocaust Remembrance Day activities. This year, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Educational Guiding Department at the International School conducted sessions via Zoom to some 4,400 participants in English, Russian, French and Spanish. The students learned about Rescue by Jews during the Holocaust - the central theme for this year's Holocaust Remembrance Day – watched a testimonial film, and joined in a discussion of last letters sent by Holocaust victims.

The annual <u>"Musical Memory"</u> project took place in collaboration with Ariel University. During the project, the music students participated in an educational-

learning process held by Yad Vashem, and then composed or reworked Holocaust-era poetry and songs. The performance was staged virtually during the University's Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony to approximately 6,500 fellow students.

Online activities were also organized in both formal and informal settings for thousands of teachers, students, guides and youth movement members across Israel. These groups conducted educational discussions on the complexity of rescue attempts during the Holocaust, and viewed films recording the fates of Holocaust survivors before, during and after the Shoah. Several of these meetings included remarks by Holocaust survivors, and school ceremonies were also held to commemorate Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day.

The IDF and Security Forces

On Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day (21 April 2020), special commemorative activities took place on IDF army bases across Israel as soldiers endured over a month in lockdown to ensure their health and safety.

At the center of the program, IDF officers and commanders hosted special meetings around the "Kolchem Shamati" (I Heard Your Voice) anthology, which includes recitation of stories from the Holocaust through the use of testimonies, poetry, photographs, songs and the last words of many of the victims of the Holocaust. The program was initiated by the Education and Youth Corps of the IDF in cooperation with Yad Vashem in April 2018. The shared reading and engaging discourse that followed created a learning experience for over 40,000 of Israeli soldiers and officers that was unique and meaningful for all participants.

A variety of online seminars and lectures were also conducted throughout the country for staff at Israel's Fire Brigade and Prison Services. The International School sent materials to military units with digital guidance for commanders and educational staff to conduct educational activities in order to commemorate the Holocaust.

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RESCUE AT A PRICE

DILEMMAS OF JEWS TRYING TO **RESCUE FELLOW JEWS**

Dr. David Silberklang

The story of the Bielous family in Zhetl (today's Belarus) is an illustration of the unfathomable dilemmas faced by Jewish rescuers during WWII.

s the Germans set about liquidating the Vilna ghetto in September 1943, Abba Kovner and his United Partisan Organization fighters were escaping to the forest through tunnels and sewers. Suddenly, Kovner's mother chanced upon him. "What should I do?" she asked him in desperation. Sworn to secrecy for fear of exposing the escapees,

Kovner gave no reply. She returned to her hiding place and was caught and killed; he reached the forest, led a partisan unit fighting the Germans, and is remembered as a Holocaust hero. But the encounter never stopped haunting him. He wondered if he should not rather be remembered as someone who abandoned his own mother to her catastrophic fate.

Jewish rescue during the Holocaust is a complex topic with unfathomable dilemmas in the unprecedented circumstances into which the Germans thrust the Jews. From the difficulty to grasp the Nazis' intentions amidst constant German deception,

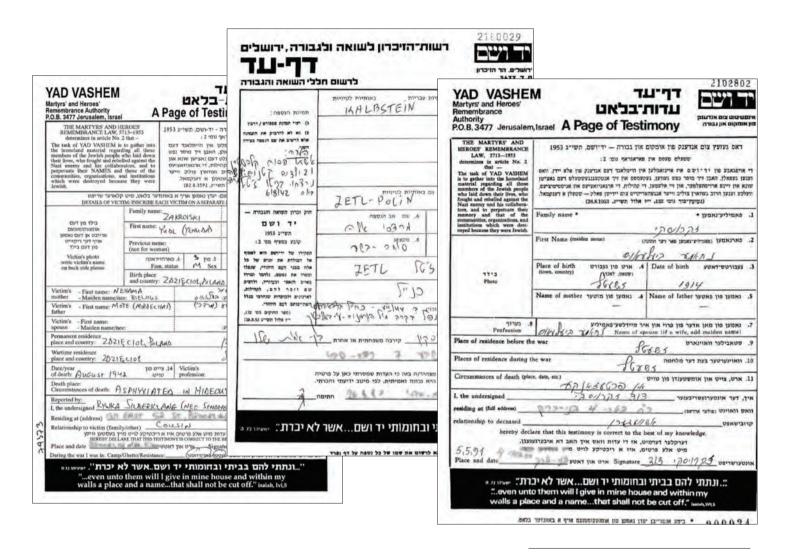
> The "Lenin" Partisan Brigade, active in the Zhetl region, Poland, during WWII Yad Vashem Archives



RESCUE BY JEWS

>>RESCUE AT A PRICE

DILEMMAS OF JEWS TRYING TO RESCUE FELLOW JEWS



to the "choiceless choices" they faced, such as whom to try to save and whom to abandon, to the fear of the oft-implemented threat of collective punishment for the actions of any individual and the uncertainty regarding the attitudes of their neighbors and countrymen, rescue by Jews remains a fraught subject.

The story of one family – the Bielous family in Zhetl (Zdzięcioł; Dyatlava) in today's Belarus – can serve as an illustration. Zhetl is

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Pages of Testimony for <u>Nehama Zakroiski</u>, <u>Yehuda Zakroiski</u> and <u>Zisl Kalbstein</u>

The circumstances created and controlled by the Germans and their partners dictated that rescue would be extremely limited at best

located near vast, dense forests that became centers of activity for Soviet partisans and to which tens of thousands of lews fled in 1942-1943. When the Germans occupied Zhetl on 30 June 1941, 3,500 people, some two-thirds of the population, were Jewish. The Germans murdered 120 communal leaders on 23 July, imposed numerous harsh decrees on the Jews, created a ghetto in February 1942, and shot 1,000 Jews on 30 April. During the spring and summer, Jews were constantly escaping to the forests, and many prepared hideouts in anticipation of further murder operations.

Yisrael and Hana Frieda Bielous (in their early 60s) and three of their grown children lived in the town - Chaim, a bachelor mechanic: Pesia, married to Zisl Kalbstein, with a four-year-old girl and a toddler boy; and Nehama, married to Mote Zakroiski, also with a toddler son. When German and Lithuanian troops surrounded the ghetto early in the morning of 6 August in anticipation of its liquidation, most of the Bielous family ran to their attic hideout, where several neighbors joined them. Chaim reported to the town square and was sent to the forcedlabor camp in Nowogródek.

In the attic, Pesia's and Nehama's toddlers began to cry, endangering everyone. Unable to calm them, the adults took the excruciating decision to suffocate the children in order to save the others. Nonetheless, they were discovered: Yisrael, Hana Frieda,

Pesia and her daughter were shot, while Zisl, Nehama and Mote all managed to flee to the Lipiczanska Forest and join partisan units.

Nehama was killed in action, while Mote was murdered a few days before liberation by a small band of Germans while guarding ailing fellow partisans hiding in a bunker. Zisl joined a different unit,

Jews were constantly
escaping to the forests,
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of further murder
operations

fought Germans, rescued Jews, was drafted into the Red Army after liberation, and fell in battle on 19 August 1944.

And Chaim? He was one of 1,000 Jews incarcerated in Nowogródek, and among the 250 still alive in the summer of 1943. Hearing about the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising on their clandestine radio in a barrack basement, they were inspired to action. Unlike Warsaw, where rescue was impossible in the spring of 1943 and hence was not

the main goal of the Uprising, the last Jews in Nowogródek sought collective rescue in the forests. They dug a 200-meter escape tunnel that extended beyond the perimeter fence; Chaim was one of the planners. On 26 September 1943, on an almost moonless night, they fled through the tunnel. More than half survived, but Chaim was killed as he ran from the exit.

The tragic story of the Bielous family includes multi-layered rescue attempts - preparing hideouts; hiding others; organizing escapes; helping Jews who reached the forests; protecting the wounded and ill, and tragic "choiceless choices." Yet the circumstances created and controlled by the Germans and their partners dictated that rescue would be extremely limited at best. Still, some of these rescue efforts yielded tangible results: half the 800 lews who fled Zhetl survived, as did more than half the Nowogródek tunnel escapees. Most owed their survival to the initiative, courage and dedication of other Jews. Their determination in the overwhelming maelstrom was remarkable, and in their grappling with inhuman and impossible choices they were, indeed, heroes.

The author is a Senior Historian at the International Institute for Holocaust Research.

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GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

LIAM CHARLES | AUSTRALIA



Seventy-five years after the liberation of Europe by Allied troops, and in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak worldwide, antisemitism is once again raising its ugly head, and Australia has not escaped this outpouring of hatred. In such a difficult environment, Holocaust education is more important than ever before.

Victorian government in Australia has responded to the recent wave of antisemitism in the state by announcing that from 2020, Holocaust studies will be mandatory at all public schools, for students in Years 9 and 10. This was a culmination of many years of work by Gandel Philanthropy, a longtime committed partner of Yad Vashem in Holocaust education and the principal supporter of the Gandel Holocaust Studies Program for Australian Educators, now in its eleventh year.

In May 2019, the Inaugural Gandel Holocaust Educational Conference was held in Melbourne for Gandel Program alumni, and was officially opened by the Premier of Victoria, The Hon. Daniel Andrews MP. The Premier was so impressed by the knowledge and commitment of the educators present that he announced his wish to find a way to make mandatory the teaching of the Holocaust statewide. John Gandel AC immediately took the lead on this vital initiative, and after several months of delicate work, Victoria made the announcement in February 2020, officially mandating Holocaust studies in the public school system.

But the job is far from over. Spearheaded by Gandel Philanthropy, a committee was created to implement the mandate with the participation of key senior Victorian Education Department staff, the International Holocaust

Gandel Program Graduate Liam Charles



Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) local Holocaust organizations, Gandel Program graduates and a representative of Yad Vashem – International Relations Department Director at the International School for Holocaust Studies Richelle Budd Caplan.

"According to the Victorian Ministry of Education, no longer will teaching the Holocaust be left to educators trying to find a way to incorporate it into their history syllabus," said Dr. Eyal Kaminka, Lily

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Safra Chair for Holocaust Education and Director of Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies, who was also present at the 2019 Conference. "Together with the local Jewish community, Gandel Philanthropy and our Australian Gandel alumni, we will work to adapt Yad Vashem teaching resources and lesson plans, as well as local resources from organizations like the Jewish Holocaust Centre. This comprehensive review will result in appropriate, relevant and userfriendly tools, resources and lesson plans, which will ensure that all Victorian secondary schools are teaching the Holocaust as it should be taught, in order to combat antisemitism and address broader issues of racism, prejudice and human rights."

While Holocaust education is not yet mandatory in the Catholic sector, Gandel Program Graduate Liam Charles will be leading the push at Mercy Regional College in Camperdown, Victoria, to create a specific Holocaust unit at Year 10 Level, entitled "Holocaust Studies: Making Jewish Life Visible."

"During my visit to Yad Vashem in January 2020, I was struck by the images at the start of the Holocaust History Museum," Charles explains. "There we encountered snippets of Jewish life before the Shoah, in all its rich diversity and complexity. It became clear to me that any Holocaust unit should first begin with an account of the varied Jewish communities that dotted Europe before the emergence of Hitler, rather than immediately positioning Jewish people as victims and nameless corpses."

The planned unit of the Gandel Program graduate will build on the work that has already been done at Mercy Regional College on twentieth century history. It will draw off the pedagogy of Yad Vashem, beginning with an exploration of prewar Jewish life



Participants of the Gandel Program Seminar at Yad Vashem listen to Holocaust survivor Yehudit Kleinman, January 2017

and the history of antisemitism, and then moving into Jewish acts of resistance, survivor testimony, and exploring the stories of those who rebuilt their lives in Israel, the United States and Australia – despite the terrible tragedies they endured.

"There is no doubt that there are many challenges in teaching the Holocaust in a rural area, notwithstanding the recent COVID-19 pandemic and move to remote learning," says Charles. "Despite the great changes that

have occurred in our major cities since the 1970s, most rural townships have relatively little exposure to ethnic diversity and either exhibit hostility or indifference to those who look and sound different. As children here have minimal exposure to Judaism and Jewish life, teaching the Holocaust becomes more than just events and stories from the early twentieth century; it is an investigation of what civilization lost when so many Jewish people were wiped out."

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"It became clear to me that any Holocaust unit should first begin with an account of the varied Jewish communities that dotted Europe before the emergence of Hitler, rather than immediately positioning Jewish people as victims and nameless corpses." Liam Charles

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NEW ONLINE LEARNING

ENVIRONMENT

"WAR AND THE HOLOCAUST:
QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PAST AND THE FUTURE"

Frederik Drachinsky



Prof. Christopher Browning, historian, USA



Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, former Chief Rabbi of Israel, Holocaust survivor



Prof. Eliezer Schweid, Israeli scholar, writer and Professor of Jewish Philosophy



Lyudmila Ulitskaya, writer, public figure, Russia

EDUCATION

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Vladimir Pozner, TV journalist, first President of the Russian Television Academy, Russia

From the online learning environment "The War and the Holocaust:
Questions about the Past and the Future"

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"The teaching of the Holocaust is first and foremost an act of ongoing mental arithmetic both within and for us. In such efforts, the answers must not come before the questions." Abba Kovner, Knesset, March 1981

n January 2020, the first part of a new online learning environment entitled "The War and the Holocaust: Ouestions about the Past and the Future" was launched on Yad Vashem's website. The environment, initially created for the Jewish Museum in Moscow and developed in Russian and English, allows online access to part of the educational platform at the Yad Vashem Learning Center -"The Center for Major Questions Arising from the Holocaust." The environment encourages discourse between educators and students from around the world centered on pivotal post-Holocaust issues.

"The new learning environment is in essence an online version of our Learning Centers in Jerusalem, Sydney and Moscow, which continue to serve as focal points for ongoing educational discourse," explains Masha Pollak-Rosenberg,

Director of the Educational Guiding Department at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies. "It facilitates familiarity with the different outlooks regarding the moral, historical, theological and philosophical questions that arise while learning about the Holocaust – questions such as why were the lews persecuted by the Nazis? Were there any differences between extermination policies targeting lews and non-lewish citizens under Nazi German rule? How can the collaboration of local populations in the persecution of Jews be explained? And what was the motivation for saving Jews?

The various approaches to the questions are presented by historians and intellectuals from Israel, Russia and the US, including Prof. Yehuda Bauer, Prof. Christopher Browning, Prof. Oleg Budnitsky, Prof. Eliezer Schweid, Vladimir Pozner, Lev Rubinstein, Ludmila Ulitskaya, Rabbi Israel Meir Lau and Rabbi Baruch Gorin.

The learning environment is designed for group work in formal and informal educational settings, as well as for individual study. Once an understanding of the different views is established, a discussion may be created that gives thought to questions that are rooted in the Holocaust but sadly remain relevant today.

The new learning environment was created with the support of the Genesis Foundation.

The author coordinates Genesis Programs in the Educational Guiding Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.

EDUCATION

Russian Television Ácademy, Russia

ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE LAW

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FOR POLICE OFFICERS

Leah Goldstein

Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies is now well-recognized for its creative, accurate and tailor-made programs for teachers of the Holocaust around the world. Lately, however, it has expanded its range to other professionals, including opinion-shapers, clergy, and members of the security forces.



In recent years, educators at the International School for Holocaust Studies have been working closely with the police forces in Germany as well as expanding programs for members of Israel's Police Force.

In Germany, explains Dr. Birte Hewera, who works in the German Section of the European Department, Yad Vashem staff work with state-level police colleges, which train police cadets – civilians studying for a BA in Public Administration in order to

become police officers, as well as active-duty police who are seeking promotion to the mid-level ranks – and the German Police University, a federal-level institution for police officers wishing to be elevated to higher ranks.

So far, following agreements made with a number of German states, the International School has conducted six full seminars for cadets from North Rhine-Westphalia and Schleswig-Holstein since 2016, as well as a recent special study day for high-

ranking police officers from the state of Baden-Württemberg, who serve as liaisons with local Jewish communities and institutions.

In Israel, Yad Vashem staff have held over 43 seminars to date for some 3,350 police cadets and officers, including staff at the Police Commissioner's office. "Every Holocaust-related activity conducted by the police is part of the value-based educational outlook of the Israel Police Force," states the Israel National Police Academy's Guiding Division. "The

EDUCATION

>> ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE LAW. HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FOR POLICE OFFICERS



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"Dealing with the Holocaust raises questions of identity, human dignity and the protection of individual rights, as well as mutual assistance, cameraderie, responsibility, restraint and tolerance for the other – all of these are intrinsic to the police force in any country." Israel National Police Academy

Israel Police views the Shoah as a central event in human history, with vital national and universal ramifications. Dealing with the Holocaust raises questions of identity, human dignity and the protection of individual rights, as well as mutual assistance, cameraderie, responsibility, restraint and

tolerance for the other – all of these are intrinsic to the police force in any country."

Police seminars in Germany, of course, take on a special responsibility given the notorious history of the German police during WWII. During these sensitive training sessions, cadets

Israeli police officer in the Yad Vashem Learning Center

and officers learn about everyday between interactions enforcement officers and lewish people during the Holocaust, as well as discussing concepts of free choice, professional dilemmas, and responsibility to the public, regardless of ethnic background. They are also provided with tools on how to deal with antisemitism on the street. However, warns Dr. Hewera, "Police aren't teachers, so we have to tailor our approach to fit with their tasks and outlook. Participants are from many different ranks and age levels, some with more specialized background knowledge than teachers, particularly regarding the involvement of the police in the Holocaust. And most importantly, while participants in European teachers' seminars don't usually meet Israeli educators as part of the program, German police usually visit the National Police Academy in Beit Shemesh as a way to consolidate their learning and build mutual ties with their contemporaries in the modern lewish state."

Back in Israel, activities organized by Yad Vashem for police officers range from tours to workshops, as well as study days focusing on remembrance projects. "One



particular challenge, as in every other country worldwide, is that those serving in the Israel Police Force come from a range of backgrounds, including non-Jewish ones," points out Yael Assaraf, Head of the Security Forces Section in the International School's IDF and Security Forces Department. "We are sensitive to this, and our use of Kolchem Shamati, an anthology of writings and music from the Holocaust we created last year for the security

forces, greatly assists participants to connect to the Holocaust in a more personal manner, regardless of their backgrounds."

In the near future, the International School plans on expanding the initiative to police forces in France and Austria, as well as further across Europe. And as the survivor generation continues to diminish, the challenge to keep Holocaust memory relevant is one that Yad Vashem is already embracing. "Our task in passing

German police officers visit the Hall of Names in the Holocaust History Museum

on the meanings of the Holocaust is only growing," reads a portion in "Kolchem Shamati." "The Israel Police Force is committed to internalizing the fact that Holocaust remembrance is not only the responsibility of those who lived through it, but of all of us, who wish to safeguard both the present and the future."

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NEW MOBILE EDUCATIONAL UNIT ON HOLOCAUST-ERA RESCUE

Keren Barbash

fter she was hidden with a family of six, including four children, Genia Zavoiner, a seven-year-old Jewish girl from Belarus, raised the question of what it must have taken to intervene and risk one's life for another person.

This question in particular, and the discussion of the issue of rescue during the Holocaust in general, lies at the heart of a new mobile educational unit developed by the International School for Holocaust Studies. Created for middle-school

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classes, the students are invited to touch, read, research and discuss the stories it comprises.

Yad Vashem has been running mobile educational programs for over fifteen years," explains Masha Pollak-Rosenberg, Director of the International School's Educational Guiding Department, which created the unit. "This is an experiential activity that is brought into the schools, breaks up the students' daily routines, and creates a more meaningful and atypical learning

experience in the classroom than the students are familiar with."

The new mobile activity opens with a short animated film developed specially for the unit. The film discusses the concept of rescue, and enables the construction of the historical axis and the relevant context for understanding the complexity of these kinds of acts during the Shoah.

During the activity, students access "investigation suitcases," which contain pictures, documents,

testimonies and artifacts. Through clues that appear in each suitcase, they must put together each rescue story and then try to understand the common denominator for all of the narratives they encounter. They are also invited to characterize the challenges and motivations the rescuers and survivors faced in various aspects of rescue: as part of organizations and the underground movements, or as private individuals. One section is dedicated to Rescue by Jews the central theme for this year's Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Students are exposed to rescue attempts – from the point of view of both the rescued and from the rescuer – such as the books Jacob van der Hoden from the Netherlands drew for his daughter Lieneke. Through these books, students learn about the choice of one man, Dr. Henry Kuipman, to save Lieneke and her sister. There is also the moving story of the Tashchiyan family that decided to hide Jewish children after surviving the Armenian genocide.

The new mobile unit has been operating since September 2019 in classrooms across Israel. On International Holocaust Remembrance Day at the end of January 2020, the unit was taught at Yad Vashem to National Service volunteers who come from a variety of groups and minorities in the country: Jews, Muslim Arabs,

Christian Arabs, Bedouins and Druze. A youth group coordinator who participated in the seminar explained that the power of the unit lay in the plenary discussion surrounding the question of what lay at the heart of the human act of rescue during the Holocaust – whether it was another person in danger or survival until the unprecedented period finally came to an end.

The new mobile educational unit on Rescue during the Holocaust is supported by Steven Baral, USA.

Yad Vashem Mobile Education Unit Programs have also been supported by the Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation; the Jazdia B. Gertner Hesed and Zedaka Charity Foundation; the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany; and the Municipality of Jerusalem.

The writer is the Mobile Educational Development Coordinator in the Educational Guiding Department, International School for Holocaust Studies.

Students use the new mobile educational unit on Rescue during the Holocaust

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E D U C A T I O N

A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TO REMEMBER

Lucila Gleicher and Dr. Yohai Cohen

The Yad Vashem Twinning Program was developed in order to instill the memory of Holocaust victims among Jewish youth in Israel and around the world. The young adults take part in the program at the symbolic stage of leaving childhood behind and becoming an adult – when they celebrate their Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

n June 2018, the Maskin and Stark families from Phoenix, Arizona, came to visit Yad Vashem to mark the Bat Mitzvah of Ava – a talented dancer, and fourth generation to Holocaust survivors. At the presentation of the certificate marking her "twinning" with

Holocaust victim Eva Kotzover z"/l from Germany, Ava Maskin chose to perform a special dance she created for the occasion together with choreographer Albert Blaise Katafi. Ava has since performed the dance in many places, winning awards in New York, Florida,

Arizona and California.

The Maskins and Starks represent hundreds of families that take part every year in the <u>Yad Vashem Bar/Bat Mitzvah Twinning Program</u>. The young person and his/her family participate in a special tour of the Holocaust History Museum



COMMEMORATION

>> A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TO REMEMBER THE BAR/BAT MITZVAH TWINNING PROGRAM

and the Yad Vashem Campus, which focuses on children and youth during the Holocaust. The tour emphasizes in particular the challenges faced by the Jewish family unit during WWII, and the meaning of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah in Judaism and during the Shoah. As part of the Twinning Program, a search is conducted in Yad Vashem's Online Database of Shoah Victims' Names to find a "twin" - a lewish girl or boy murdered

From the twinning ceremony at Yad Vashem marking Ariella Gross's

during the Holocaust, who shares a biographical element with the celebrant or his/her family, such as first name, last name, birthday or place of birth.

At the end of the tour at Yad Vashem, a respectful and sensitive ceremony is held, during which the celebrant is presented with a Twinning kit, which comprises a certificate confirming their participation in the program, historical materials connected to their "twin," and a study pamphlet. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebrant also takes it upon themselves to

remember their "twin" as they leave their childhood behind to become a fully-fledged member of the Jewish community.

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah Twinning Program has been warmly received by the general public, and the demand for these special tours has risen yearly. Since 2017, Yad Vashem has also allowed families that cannot come to Israel to participate in the program. The kit is sent to wherever they are in the world, and the commemoration of Holocaust victims in the framework of Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebrations is conducted within the local community. This is especially true today,

as the Coronavirus pandemic

continues to restrict international

travel and Jewish parents the world over are seeking creative ways to celebrate their child's coming of age. The Wells family, from London, UK, decided to mark Aron's Bar Mitzvah with a Zoom-style venture, in which the young man was twinned with Aron Gotlib z"/, who was born in Radom, Poland in 1933, and was murdered with his mother at the age of nine. After the online ceremony, Adam Wells publicized the important occasion and Yad Vashem's Twinning Program in a series of heartwarming tweets, calling it "A Tale of Two Arons." "Aron Gotlib's name and beautiful face do not deserve to be forgotten to history," wrote Adam. "He deserved to have his Bar Mitzvah and celebrate with his family, like millions of others. On 'my' Aron's Bar Mitzvah we will celebrate on his behalf, too."

"Since 2014, over 1,000 young men and women have participated in the program, taking an active role in passing the torch of remembrance to the next generations," says Inbal Kvity Ben-Dov, Director of the Commemoration and Community Relations Division at Yad Vashem. "Over the years, Yad Vashem has received much correspondence

Since 2017, Yad Vashem has allowed families that cannot come to Israel to participate in the program within their local community

from families that tell of the enormous influence the program has made on the Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebrant, and about the special and poignant ways the children continue to remember their 'twin."

During her Bat Mitzvah preparations in the summer of 2019. Ariella Gross from New York decided to take part in the Yad Vashem Twinning Program. Due to her great interest in the project, she investigated the history of her family during the Holocaust, and found out that her grandmother had a cousin, Ester Wurman z"l, who was murdered during the Holocaust as a child. "That is her she is my twin," explained Ariella, "I want to give her the Bat Mitzvah she never had." However, the commemoration of a "twin" who was related to her did not suffice. and, with the assistance of Yad Vashem's International Relations Division and the American Society for Yad Vashem, Ariella decided to embark upon a <u>fundraising</u> campaign to support Yad Vashem's efforts to teach children of her age group about the Shoah.

"I wanted to raise money so that Yad Vashem can continue its amazing work teaching about the Holocaust around the world," she said.

"It is plain to see the Yad Vashem Twinning Program allows participants to take an active part in the memory of Holocaust victims, and make that memory relevant to their own lives as they strengthen their own lewish identity," says Shaya Ben-Yehuda, Managing Director of the International Relations Division. "The Program also enables family members to be part of this collective memory, and to pass it on to other communities, as well as to deepen their own ties with Yad Vashem - which all contributes to continuation of the lewish faith and culture."

Dr. Yohai Cohen is Director of the Guiding Department in the Commemoration and Community Relations Division. Lucila Gleicher is Head of the Division's Official Visits Section, and led the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Twinning Program from 2014 to 2019.

twinning with Ester Wurman

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RIGHTEOUS

"SHF WAS DFFPIY LOVED"

Coby Blom-de Groot (center) with Israel's Ambassador to the Netherlands H.E. Mr. Naor Gilon (right) and Friends of Yad Vashem in the Netherlands Chairman David Simon (left).

Courtesy: Embassy of Israel, Netherlands



Ruth Joaquin

DIARY KEPT BY TEENAGE DAUGHTER OF DUTCH RIGHTEOUS FAMILY

"In spite of the difficult circumstances, Moeke looks good, all credit to Mom and Dad, who cared for Moeke like they cared for me. They have been a father and mother to her."

o wrote Coby Blom-de Groot in the diary she kept while her parents gave refuge to Ria Gurfein, the infant daughter of Markus (Max) and Zilla Gurfein.

Max Gurfein was born in Poland in 1913. On his father's advice, he went to Holland in 1931. After working for some time in a factory in Eindhoven, he started a hosiery merchandise business, which soon became successful. On a business trip to Leipzig, Germany, he met Zilla (née Miodezky), originally

from Chemnitz, Germany, and in 1938 they married.

Markus and Zilla settled in Eindhoven, where in the summer of 1942, during the German occupation of Holland, Zilla gave birth to premature twins: Robert (Robby) and his sister Ria. Immediately after giving birth, Zilla went into hiding with her parents. Nuns cared for the twin babies in the hospital in Eindhoven. When they were strong enough, the twins were hidden separately by

the resistance in January 1943. Ria was taken in by Cornelis (Kees) de Groot and his wife Hendrieka (Riek) de Groot (née Barelds). The de Groot couple had a fifteen-yearold daughter, Jacoba (Coby). Riek de Groot's sister was active in the resistance and also hid lews from their German persecutors. She was the one who asked Riek and Kees de Groot to hide baby Ria.

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RIGHTFOUS

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RIGHTEOUS

>>"SHE WAS DEEPLY LOVED"

DIARY KEPT BY THE DAUGHTER OF DUTCH RIGHTEOUS

A page from Coby de Groot's diary marking the wartime development of Ria (Moeke) Gurfein

It was not easy bringing a baby during the war years, and the danger of betrayal made it very dangerous as well. During the war, Coby de Groot kept a moving diary for Ria's parents, as a memento of the time their precious daughter had spent in hiding. The de Groot family called Ria "Moeke." The diary contains many pictures and anecdotes about Moeke and her development as a baby and toddler. Coby took much of Moeke's care upon herself, regarding her as her little sister. Moeke grew up in a warm and loving family, unaware of the war that was raging around her, or of her biological parents, who were in hiding far away.

Coby's diary is full of anecdotes and loving descriptions of the development of baby "Moekie," such as the following: "She is a little rascal, who can say 'Pappa,' 'Mamma,' 'Tate' [Aunt] and 'Co' (Coby) if she is in the mood for it. And when she sees my aunt's dog she shouts, 'Sakka!' (instead of Saska). She repeats everything. She climbs on everything, even on the table. She walks holding only one hand. And her slice of bread in the morning – she eats all by

Met alle nandacht staat as now 't vogeltje nit Sototoestel te hijken angustus 1944.

herself. If she gets cheese on it, she first eats the cheese and then the bread."

Liberation came in May 1945, and the de Groot couple learned that Moeke's parents had survived the war in hiding, as had her twin brother, Robby. Ria was returned to her parents. In order to make the transition a little easier for the infant, Coby lived with the Gurfeins for a while. Later, Ria and Robby went to live in an institution due to their disabilities from their

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"In the midst of darkness and chaos, we see that some people can rise up, and show true humanity from within their core." Sonja Hemple

premature birth. Markus and Zilla had two more children after the war: Murry in 1947, and Sonja in 1949. The diary Coby wrote for Ria remained with the Gurfein family. Ria died at the young age of 27 years, and the diary came into possession of her sister Sonja, who cherished it her whole life.

In 2017, Sonja Hemple restored contact with Coby de Groot and applied for the de Groot family to be recognized as Righteous Among the Nations for saving her sister's life.

"That precious diary confirmed for me that Ria was not only provided food, shelter and protection, but in the arms of Cornelis, Hendrieka and Coby, was deeply loved," said Sonja Hemple in a recent correspondence with Yad Vashem. "In the midst of darkness and chaos, we see that some people can rise up, and show true humanity from within their core... Despite the grave danger of their altruistic acts, they are steadily driven to do what they believe is simply right. Cornelis



Cornelius, Hendrieka and Coby de Groot, after liberation

and Hendrieka de Groot, and their daughter Coby Blom-de Groot, belong to that extraordinary group of human beings and for that, my family is eternally grateful."

On 18 June 2019, Yad Vashem recognized the late Cornelis and Hendriekade Groot (Barelds) and their daughter Coby as Righteous Among the Nations. Nonagenarian Coby Blom-

de Groot received the certificates and medals in March 2020 in Drenthe, the Netherlands, in the presence of Israeli Ambassador to the Netherlands H.E. Mr. Naor Gilon and Chairman of the Friends of Yad Vashem in the Netherlands David Simon.

The author is a researcher in the Righteous Among the Nations Department.

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RESTORATION THROUGH INVESTIGATION

THE "WHITE BUS"

The "White Bus" at Yad Vashem stands as tangible testimony to the rescue story of the Red Cross during the Holocaust. It recently underwent vital restoration work based on thorough investigation efforts by dedicated Museum staff.

he "White Bus" is one of dozens of military buses made by Volvo that were converted into ambulances in a Red Cross operation headed by Swedish Red Cross Vice President Count Folke Bernadotte. During this operation, Bernadotte managed to ensure the release of Scandinavian citizens from German concentration camps – resulting in the convoy into

Germany of dozens of such buses, in which stretchers, wide benches and medical equipment had been installed. Tens of thousands of prisoners – mostly women, and among them many thousands of Jews – were brought from Germany to Sweden in this so-called "Bernadotte Convoy," accompanied by medical staff as well as a large team of volunteers from the Swedish army, who brought with

them food and medical supplies.

At the end of the war, most of the buses were returned to their original use, but a few were conserved as ambulances, in order to tell this unique story of rescue. One of them, bus no. 38, was donated to Yad Vashem in 1991, aided by the Israel-Swedish Friends Association and in cooperation with Volvo and the Swedish Red Cross. The bus was

displayed for the visiting public in an open-air space on the Mount of Remembrance. Over the years, however, with weather damage and time, the bus began to show signs of rust, cracks and fractures.

Recently, it was decided to renovate the bus. The Conservation Section of Yad Vashem's Museums Division led the project. The work on reconstructing its outer casing was led by the Tesra Company

(Victor Uziel and Amir Levy) in a workshop in Jerusalem, accompanied and supervised by Conservation Section Head Noga Schusterman and Conservator Alexandra Borovok.

"The restoration work on the bus relied on investigative research that describes its historical story, and includes the exact study of the different materials that made up the original item, an assessment of how it was used, and the methods of

treatment over the years," explains Schusterman. "All of these gave us what we required for a professional conservation process."

Thanks to the thorough investigation conducted by Evgeny Rozin from the Museums Division Artifacts Department, important archival information was discovered which was relevant to the restoration of the "White Bus." At the conclusion of an investigation of the Yad Vashem,



COLLECTIONS

>> RESTORATION THROUGH INVESTIGATION THE "WHITE BUS"





Danish policemen next to a convoy of white Red Cross buses used in the rescue operation. First on the right is bus number 38, the one currently displayed at Yad Vashem, Jerusalem.

Credit: Swedish Red Cross Archive

Transport of women prisoners from Ravensbrück during a stop in Lübeck,

Photo: Heinz Ahrens. Courtesy: Marzio Mari Ahrens

Swedish Red Cross and Swedish Royal Archives, and with the generous aid of Karin Sjoberg of the Malmo Municipal Archives photographs, Sweden, documentary films and other documents related to the rescue operation were located, including sketches of the buses that were converted into ambulances as well as lists of the bus drivers and timetables of the exit of the buses. All these played an important

role in the conservation work. For example, an article in a Swedish newspaper from the 1990s reported on the discovery of an "abandoned ambulance". From the article, it was understood that the bus had undergone widescale restoration attempts before it was donated to Yad Vashem.

During their inquiries to identify materials to be used for the restoration work, professionals were successful in recreating a

model bus in all its parts: the chassis, sideview mirrors, hinges and screws. Additionally, the team managed to discover the accompanying accessories, such as the stretchers made of wood and fabric, and the Masonite (hardboard) used to cover its walls. In fact, every part of the museological piece is an important element in the story it tells.

"One of the most complex challenges of this project was

"The restoration work on the bus relied on investigative research that describes its historical story." Noga Schusterman

comprehensive restoration work is

an example of the critical dialogue

between the efforts of curators

the reconstruction of the colors. symbols and texts appearing on the bus," adds Schusterman. "In order to thoroughly treat the skeleton and casing of the bus, we had to remove every layer of paint and treat the vehicle thoroughly to protect it. Before the paint layer was removed, however, the bus was documented from every angle, paint samples were taken, Swedish flags and Red Cross symbols were measured and sketched exactly, and writing fonts and the exact location of the texts were copied. We also based the restoration on photos and archival film clips from the time, in order that at its conclusion, the bus would be reconstructed in perfect faith to the original."

"In this project, we managed to restore the Swedish ambulance -'White Bus' – as close to the original as possible," says Museums Division Director Vivian Uria. "The accuracy of the restoration was aided by an archival photograph featuring bus no. 38 - the bus donated to Yad Vashem. This combination of historical investigation with

responsible for their collections

with dedicated conservators. This combination allows us to create an accurate visual experience for the historical events – and therein lies its power. This is, in fact, the heart of museological work."



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THE DAVID AND FELA SHAPELL FAMILY COLLECTIONS CENTER

ENSURING HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

In May 2020, a formal agreement was signed between Yad Vashem and The David and Fela Shapell Family Foundation to secure the Founding Gift for the new David and Fela Shapell Family Collections

Center, which is currently under construction.

The David and Fela Shapell Family Foundation is a longstanding partner of Yad Vashem. Over several decades, the Shapell

family have been active members of the American Society for Yad Vashem, supporting important developments on the Mount of Remembrance in Jerusalem, including the establishment of

the Visitors Center and The David and Fela Shapell Family Shoah and Heroism Study Center for Youth in Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies.

In 2013, the Shapell family, together with Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev and International Relations Division Managing Director Shaya Ben Yehuda, discussed a vision of Yad Vashem's future that included a new home for the conservation and preservation of its invaluable Holocaust-era collections. Since this initial vision, the project grew and expanded into a landmark endeavor with the Shapell family at its helm, thus conceiving The David and Fela Shapell Family Collections Center - part of the new Moshal Shoah Legacy Campus to be completed by 2023.

As Holocaust survivors, David z"l, originally from Wolbrom, Poland, and Fela, originally from Oswiecim, Poland, were acutely aware of the urgent need to protect the memory of the Shoah. Indeed, this has been a driving force of the family's longstanding philanthropic relationship with Yad Vashem: to ensure the meaningful history of the Holocaust, the everlasting memory of its victims, and the legacy of its survivors. This mission is so integral to the family's values, its message is engraved in stone at the entrance to the Visitors Center with the biblical words: "Has the



like of this happened in your days or in the days of your fathers? Tell your children about it, and let your children tell theirs, and their children the next generation" (loel 1: 2-3).

In all of their endeavors, the Shapell family has kept the mission of Holocaust education and remembrance, as well as Jewish continuity and commitment, clearly in focus. The David and Fela Shapell Family Foundation has supported other Jewish and Holocaust-related institutions in the US and Israel, as well as initiatives geared towards the strengthening of Jewish identity.

The David and Fela Shapell Family Collections Center will enable Yad Vashem to look steadily into the future of worldclass Holocaust documentation, conservation, curation, education and much more. With construction expected to be complete by 2022, The David and Fela Shapell Family Collections Center will comprise approximately 6,000 square meters (65,000 square feet) of new conservation and storage spaces for Yad Vashem's unrivalled and invaluable growing of Holocaust-era art, artifacts and archival materials. The Center will also provide optimal conditions

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>> THE DAVID AND FELA SHAPELL FAMILY COLLECTIONS CENTER:

ENSURING HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



to the dedicated professionals, conservationists and archivists taking care of these items each day, as well as designated work spaces for researchers.

In order to provide visitors with an opportunity to see and learn from the treasures preserved in the Center, a gallery open to the public will display a rotation of some of the art, artifacts and archival materials as well.

Especially with the passing of the first generation of survivors witnesses to the horrors of the Holocaust - the preservation of their stories and memories, as well as those of the six million Jewish victims, must be ensured for generations to come. In this way, Yad Vashem will be able to continue reaching out to the world with Jewish and universal values, helping to shape a more just society, a more tolerant humanity and a brighter future free from prejudice, antisemitism, hatred and xenophobia.

David z"I passed away in 2015, and today, his wife Fela and their children carry on the family's sacred legacy. This Founding Gift towards the new David and Fela Shapell Family Collections Center stands as a testament to their years of dedication and support,

Architectural rendering of the entrance to the new David and Fela Shapell Family Collections Center

Courtesy: Skora Architects Rendering: Gilad Lan

their commitment to Yad Vashem, and their shared vision of the future of Holocaust remembrance.

"The signing of this vital agreement evokes meaningful memories for me of the many years of warm friendship and close bonds that I forged with David z"l and Fela Shapell," said Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. "Knowing that their children have taken on the commitment of their parents is profoundly encouraging."

USA



On 8 January 2020, the Young Leadership Associates (YLA) of the American Society for Yad Vashem hosted a screening of Etched in Glass: The Legacy of Steve Ross at the Tribeca Screening Room in New York City. The film tells the story of Holocaust survivor Steve Ross z"l, who went on to become a social worker and spent his life helping atrisk youth in Boston. The screening was followed by a Question and Answer session with Writer, Producer and Director Roger Lyons (center) and Co-Producer **Tony Bennis** (left), moderated by YLA Director Jill Goltzer (right).



On 10 February, **Chani Herman** (center) along with her daughter **Maya** (right) participated in a guided tour of the Holocaust History Museum at Yad Vashem.



This winter, the American Society launched its new educational speaker series in both New York City and Los Angeles, designed to explore the most pressing and timely topics through the unique lens that only Yad Vashem can provide.

In Los Angeles, the series began on 30 January, when award-winning filmmaker Roberta Grossman screened her documentary Who Will Write Our History – the story of Emanuel Ringelblum and the secret "Oneg Shabbat" archive of the Warsaw ghetto. On 27 February, USC history professor **Steven** J. Ross (center) discussed his book Hitler in Los Angeles: How Jews Foiled Nazi Plots Against Hollywood and America, and participated in a discussion with Frank Mottek (left) of KNX 1070AM and American Society Western Regional Director William Bernstein (right). Attendees included Holocaust survivors and Yad Vashem Benefactors Susanne Czuker and Maria Herskovic.





The series launched in New York City on 3 February, when over 100 people attended "Antisemitism 2020: Is History Repeating Itself?" featuring Dr. Robert Rozett, Senior Historian at Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research, in conversation with Andrew Silow-Carroll, Editor-in-Chief of The lewish Week. Series Chair Goldie Hertz and Vice-Chairs Michelle Bernstein and Michelle Taragin led this program. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the two remaining Inaugural Speaker Series programs were presented to the American Society community as online programs.

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USA



On 18 February, Avi and Raluca **Katz** (second from left and second from right) participated in a guided tour of the Holocaust History Museum together with friends.



On 22 February, the American Society for Yad Vashem hosted its Young Leadership Associates (YLA) Annual Winter Gala at the Prince George Ballroom in New York City, with over 350 attendees. The enthusiasm and spirit of this year's Gala, which was chaired by **Deborah** Abiri, Avi Felberbaum and Lauren **Zborowski**, was a testament to the younger generation's commitment

to Holocaust education and remembrance. A special Yad Vashem traveling exhibition, titled "The Anguish of Liberation as Reflected in Art 1945-1947," was displayed at the event. Guests also participated in the "Remembrance Wall," on which they were encouraged to write the name of a Holocaust victim whose Page of Testimony they received prior to the event.



Left to right: Managing Director of Yad Vashem's International Relations Division Shaya Ben Yehuda, Steven Wilf, Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, Mark Wilf, Daniel Wilf and American Society for Yad Vashem Executive Director Stanley Stone



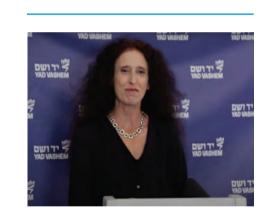
Michael Morgan and his wife participated in a wreath-laying ceremony along with their group YPO Gold in the Hall of Remembrance on 21 February.



Arielle Sinensky (center, with certificate) commemorated her Bat Mitzvah with a <u>Twinning Ceremony</u> in the Yad Vashem Museum of Holocaust Art, together with members of the Blumenthal and Sinensky families on 21 February.



Dr. David Silberklang, Senior Historian at the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem, visited South Florida for a week in March, which included private donor meetings, a "lunch and learn" at B'nai Torah Synagogue in Boca Raton, a lecture for the Latin-American Friends of Yad Vashem in Miami (pictured), and a Scholar-in-Residence lecture at the Palm Beach Synagogue.



On 29 March, the American Society for Yad Vashem held its 22nd annual Barbara G. Arfa Conference, entitled "Never Again Means Now: Confronting Antisemitism in a Post-Holocaust World," organized by American Society Director of Education Marlene W. Yahalom, PhD. Keynote speaker, Dr. Na'ama Shik (pictured), Director of the e-Learning Department at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies, shared remarks about Women in the Holocaust.

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Beth Kean (left) together with her mother Helen Rakoszynski **Isaacson** (center) and daughter Jenny Kean (right) took a guided tour of the Holocaust History Museum at Yad Vashem on 9 March.



On 27 February, Josef and Natalie Shehebar visited the Holocaust History Museum, followed by a special tour of the "Flashes of Memory: Photography During the Holocaust" exhibition.



From 1-3 March, former Chief Rabbi of Israel and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council, Holocaust survivor Rabbi Israel Meir Lau

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(center), attended the AIPAC Policy Conference in Washington, DC, along with a group of Yad Vashem supporters.

FRIENDS WORLDWIDE FRIENDS WORLDWIDE

USA



Yad Vashem mourns the passing of **Cecile Mosberg (née Storch)** *z"l,* beloved wife of Yad Vashem Benefactor Edward Mosberg, and grandmother of American Society for Yad Vashem Executive Committee Member Barry Levine and YLA Board Member Alexander Levine.

Cecile was born in July 1927 in Krakow, Poland. She and her father Leib were the only Holocaust survivors from her family. After the war, Cecile returned to Krakow, where she met Edward. The couple moved to Belgium where they were married, and immigrated to the United States in 1951

Yad Vashem extends its heartfelt condolences to Cecile's husband Edward and her children Louise and Stuart Levine, Caroline and Darren Karger and Beatrice Mosberg, grandchildren and great grandchildren. May her memory be for a blessing.



Yad Vashem mourns the passing of **Hedy Orden (née Adler)** *z"l*, beloved wife of Ted Ordentlich *z"l*.

Hedy was born in April 1926 in Reteag, Romania, the younger of two children in a prominent Jewish family. Her life was cruelly interrupted by WWII, when she was sent to Auschwitz at the age of 18. Her parents and grandmother were murdered during the Holocaust.

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After the war, she met and married Ted, also a Holocaust survivor. The couple was married for 69 years, until Ted's death in 2015. The couple and their two young daughters immigrated to the United States in 1959, where their third daughter was born.

Hedy and Ted built a highly successful oil business and became leading philanthropists, supporting many local, national, and international institutions including the American Society for Yad Vashem. Yad Vashem extends its deepest condolences to Hedy's family. May her memory be for a blessing.



Yad Vashem mourns the loss of Yad Vashem Builder, **Alan Cornell** *z"l*.

Alan was the son of Ernest and Frida Cohn (later changed to Cornell) z"l, both of whom survived the war in the Netherlands thanks to selflessness of Righteous Among the Nations Jan Spreij and his family, who hid the couple beginning in 1942. From 1940-1945, Spreij and his wife were credited with saving over 30 Jews.

Alan credited his parents' legacy of surviving the Holocaust with shaping the way he lived his life: a positive attitude, and a deep commitment to family, Israel and Jewish causes.

Yad Vashem expresses its deepest condolences to Alan's wife Jane, his children Michael Cornell and Lauren Lazar, and his grandchildren. May his memory be for a blessing.



Yad Vashem mourns the passing of **Jack Gora** *z"l*, beloved husband of Paula Gora, father of Mona and Bonnie, grandfather of Jonathan, Sam, Rachel, Sofia and greatgrandfather of Abraham and Benjamin.

Jack was born in 1920 in Warsaw, Poland. During the Holocaust, he fled to Lvov. There he was arrested and sent to Rybinsk, Russia, where he spent seven years in hard labor, working in lumber camps in Siberia, and was then conscripted into the Russian army. After the war, Jack was reunited with his mother, and learned that his father and sister were murdered during the Shoah. He moved to New York, where he met and married Paula, who was also from Poland.

Yad Vashem sends its deepest condolences to the Gora family, generous philanthropists who are dedicated to the mission of Yad Vashem and supporters of Holocaust education and remembrance. May his memory be for a blessing.

CANADA



On 17 February, **Tom** and **Sasha Weisz** (fourth and sixth from left) visited the Holocaust History Museum with a group of deans from McMasters University in Ontario. Following the tour,

they met with Lily Safra Chair of Holocaust Education and Director of the Yad Vashem International School for Holocaust Studies **Dr. Eyal Kaminka** for a session about antisemitism in education.



On 13 March, **Jonathan Wener** and his grandson **Jonah** visited the Valley of the Communities and the Holocaust History Museum at Yad Vashem. Jonah participated in a meaningful <u>Bar Mitzvah Twinning</u> Ceremony in the Hall of Names.



On 9 March, **Patricia** and **Richard Fogler** (left), toured the Holocaust History Museum and the <u>Children's</u> <u>Memorial</u> along with their son **Joshua** and a group of his friends.

GERMANY



On 3 March, **Edda Fels** (left) and **Karoline Kirchner** (right) paid a memorable visit to Yad Vashem. They toured the Holocaust History Museum and the Museum of Holocaust Art with Yad Vashem guide **Jana Marcus** (center).

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FRIENDS WORLDWIDE

MEXICO



Yad Vashem warmly welcomes

Nina Medrez as incoming

President of the Mexican

Association for Yad Vashem.

Nina was born in Tel Aviv, and attended a French high school. After completing her IDF service, she studied French and English literature at Tel Aviv University, receiving a degree in Education.

In 1971, following her marriage, she moved to Mexico, where she worked in public education in various positions, and volunteered in the local children's hospital. With three children and nine grandchildren, her firm focus is to

further Holocaust educational programming in Mexico.

"I would like to thank the administration and friends in Yad Vashem for their care, confidence and guidance," Nina said in her welcoming speech. "Education is the most powerful weapon in our hands. It is our obligation not just to never forget, but also always to remember."

On the occasion of the eighteenth ("Chai") anniversary of the Mexican Association for Yad Vashem, a gala dinner was held on 11 March at the Mount Sinai Social Center in Mexico City.

As part of the moving program for the evening, outgoing Mexican Association President Dr. Eva Liitszain and Director of the Latin America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk in Yad Vashem's International Relations Division **Perla Hazan** addressed the Yad Vashem supporters attending the dinner. Unfortunately, due to the travel restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, special guests such as Former Israeli Air Force Commandant Brigadier General Amir Eshel, Managing

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Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda**, and Israeli Ambassador to Mexico **H.E. Mr. Tzvi Tal** were unable to attend the event, although a recorded message from Amir Eshel as well as a video from Yad Vashem were screened.



Front, left to right: Anette and Nahum Gorodzinsky, David and Malke Gorodzinsky, Jacobo Bayon; back: Perla Hazan, Alberto and Raquel Cohen



Left to right: Rebeca Escapa, Linda Buzali, Pepe Chisikovsky, Nina Medrez, Eva Lijtszain, Perla Hazan, Orly Beigel and Moshe Hazan



Left to right: **Rolando** and **Sarah Uziel**, Perla Hazan, **Rebeca** and **Elias Harari**

MIAMI SPANISH-SPEAKERS



Anny and Samuel Kleiner (second from left and second from right) visited Yad Vashem for a ceremony in the Yad Vashem Synagogue on the occasion of the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson Daniel (third from left). They were joined by Anny's mother Marcela

Bauman (right) and Director of the Latin America, Spain, Portugal and Miami Spanish-Speaking Desk in Yad Vashem's International Relations Division **Perla Hazan** (left) and **Moshe Hazan** (third from right).



Valeria Aisenberg and Adrian Socolsky (left) from Argentina-Miami visited Yad Vashem with their family to unveil a plaque dedicated to Adrian's parents Mary and Leo Socolsky z"l in Yad Vashem's Memorial Cave, as well as a plaque in honor of the Socolsky Family on the Yad Vashem Builders Wall. They received a memento of their visit from Perla Hazan (right).

SPAIN



A group of Bnei Mitzvah from Spain visited Yad Vashem in February for a collective Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony. They were joined by Chief Rabbi of Madrid Rabbi Moshé Bendahán (back row, center).

friends worldwide 53

CHRISTIAN FRIENDS OF YAD VASHEM WITH ICEJ



Yad Vashem was the focus of "Envision 2020," a conference commemorating 75 years since the liberation of Auschwitz, in which church leaders and directors of Christian organizations were

hosted by the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem under the leadership of **Dr. Jürgen Bühler**. The participants, many of whom are friends and supporters of Yad Vashem, took an exclusive guided tour on the Yad Vashem campus, listened to a survivor testimony and concluded the visit with a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance.



Director of the Christian Desk in Yad Vashem's International Relations Division **Sara Granitza** (second from right) visited the offices of ICEJ USA during her trip to the US in February 2020. There she met with some of the ICEJ USA team, including (left to right): **Bram Maas**, **Kesley Bufkin Olguin**, **Daryl Hedding** and **Liesl Hedding Maas**.

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In January 2020, **Gottfried Bühler** (fourth from right),
National Director of ICEJ Germany,
hosted **Sara Granitza** (center,
left) in Germany. During the
events marking International
Holocaust Remembrance Day,
Granitza spoke at several church
services, participated in a March
of Remembrance in Stuttgart,

and lectured at the Johanness-Kepler-Gymnasium Leonberg in the presence of Johanness-Kepler-Gymnasium Principal Roman Peters (left), the Mayor of Leonberg Martin Georg Cohn (fourth from left), Vice President of the Parliament (Landtag) Sabine Kurz (right), Auschwitz survivor Eva Erben (center, right), and 200 students.

GERMANY RENEWS ITS SUPPORT FOR YAD VASHEM ENDEAVORS

On 10 June 2020, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas and Israeli Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi jointly signed an agreement between the Federal Republic of Germany and the State of Israel, renewing for an additional ten years Germany's previous decade-long commitment to preserve and strengthen Holocaust remembrance by supporting archival and educational activities of Yad Vashem. The renewal will commence in 2022 and remain in effect until 2031.



Ad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev was present for the signing of this agreement at Israel's Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, together with Israel's Ambassador to Germany H.E. Mr. Jeremy Issacharof and German Ambassador to Israel H.E. Dr. Susanne Wasum-Rainer.

"The State of Israel and the Jewish people appreciate the commitment of the German government to preserving the memory of the Holocaust," Israeli Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi said. "This support of Yad Vashem will facilitate continued research and educational activities, and for this we are very grateful."

"Germany has a special responsibility to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive," remarked German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas. "The signing of this agreement is an important step in ensuring Germany's commitment to the work of Yad Vashem. The Coronavirus epidemic has shown us that preserving memory and making it accessible to the public digitally must be increased. Additionally, Germany pledges to support the establishment of the new Moshal Shoah Legacy Campus at Yad Vashem."

"The German government has once again substantively declared and demonstrated its recognition of Yad Vashem as the world center for Holocaust documentation, research and education, and highlights its special meaning for both the Jewish people and humanity," said Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. "This agreement, and similar alliances that Yad Vashem has secured with various governments and agencies around

Left to right: German Ambassador to Israel HE Dr. Susanne Wasum-Rainer, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, Israeli Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi and Israeli Ambassador to Germany HE Mr. Jeremy Issacharof

the world, fortifies the relevance of Holocaust remembrance and awareness in our global society."

"It is the perpetual responsibility of Germany's government and people to support accurate and meaningful Holocaust remembrance," stated Kai Diekmann, Chairman of the Society of Friends of Yad Vashem in Germany. "The messages of the Holocaust remain relevant to society today, and must be passed on from generation to generation – in order to bear witness even once survivors are no longer in our midst."

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FRIENDS WORLDWIDE

YOUR SUPPORT HELPS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

he activities, projects events which you have just read about are made possible in large part thanks to the generous support of our donors. In these difficult times, when there is a worrying rise in antisemitism and Holocaust denial around the world, Yad Vashem is doubling its efforts to commemorate the Holocaust, disseminate its universal implications and strengthen lewish continuity. Yad Vashem is deeply grateful for your generosity in supporting its vital work and welcomes both new friends and established supporters as partners in our shared mission.

To make tax-deductible donations:

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