

Yad Vashem Jerusalem

QUARTERLY MAGAZINE, VOL. 57, APRIL 2010

New Exhibition:
Virtues of Memory

Six Decades of
Holocaust Survivors'
Creativity

(pp. 6-7)



The Voice of the Survivors
The Central Theme for Holocaust Remembrance Day 2010

Published by:
Yad Vashem

The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes'
Remembrance Authority

Chairman of the Council: **Rabbi Israel Meir Lau**

Vice Chairmen of the Council:

Dr. Yitzhak Arad

Dr. Israel Singer

Professor Elie Wiesel

Chairman of the Directorate: **Avner Shalev**

Director General: **Nathan Eitan**

Chief Historian: **Professor Dan Michman**

Academic Advisors:

Professor Yehuda Bauer

Professor Israel Gutman

Members of the Yad Vashem Directorate:

Edna Ben-Horin, Chaim Chesler,

Mattityahu Drobles, Abraham Duvdevani,

Moshe Ha-Elion, Yehiel Leket,

Adv. Shelly (Shlomo) Malka, Linda Olmert,

Adv. Dov Shilansky, Effi Shtensler,

Baruch Shub, Dr. Shimshon Shoshani,

Amira Stern, Adv. Shoshana Weinsahl,

Eli Zborowski, Dudi Zilbershlag

THE MAGAZINE

Editor-in-Chief: **Iris Rosenberg**

Managing Editor: **Leah Goldstein**

Editorial Board:

Yifat Bachrach-Ron

Deborah Berman

Susan Weisberg

Cynthia Wroclawski

Estee Yaari

Editorial Coordinator: **Lilach Tamir-Itach**

Language Editor: **Leah Goldstein**

Proofreader: **Ezra Olman**

Translated by: **Hever Translators' Pool (Intl)**

Assisted by:

Alexander Avraham, Rachel Barkai,

Shaya Ben Yehuda, Richelle Budd-Caplan,

Annie Eisen, Limor Karo, Ayala Peretz, Dana

Porath, Sivan Shaechter, Amanda Smulowitz,

Orit Yaniv

Photography: **Yossi Ben-David, Israel Hadari,**

Isaac Harari

Production: **Keter Press**

Design: **Stephanie & Ruti Design**

This magazine was published with the
assistance of The Azrieli Group.



ISSN 0793-7199

©Articles appearing in this issue may be reprinted
with proper acknowledgement.

Yad Vashem's activities are supported by

the Ministry of Education



and the Claims Conference



Contents

The Voice of the Survivors ■ 2

The Central Theme for Holocaust Martyrs'
and Heroes' Remembrance Day 2010

Torchlighters 2010 ■ 3-5

New Exhibition ■ 6-7

Virtues of Memory: Six Decades of
Holocaust Survivors' Creativity

Education ■ 8-10

Israel Assumes Task Force Leadership ■ 8

Austria and Hungary Sign Agreements to
Strengthen Holocaust Education ■ 8

Launch of Gandel Holocaust Studies
Program for Australian Educators ■ 9

ICHEIC Forum Meets Israeli Students ■ 9

International Seminars ■ 9

Graduate Spotlight: Nicolás Paz Alcalde,
Spain ■ 10

New in the Virtual School ■ 10

"Dear Mutti..." ■ 11

Last Letters Between a Mother and Her
Children Donated to the Yad Vashem
Archives

27 January ■ 12-13

Highlights of International Holocaust
Remembrance Day

New Research ■ 14

Identifying Notes from the Warsaw Ghetto

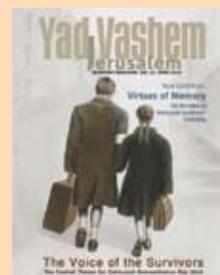
News ■ 15-20

"Gifted, Compelling and Humble" ■ 15
Yad Vashem Mourns Untimely Passing of
Prof. David Bankier

Friends Worldwide ■ 21-23

Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes'
Remembrance Day 2010 ■ 24

Program of Events at Yad Vashem



■ On the cover: *Martin Spett (b.1928, Poland),
My Sister and I, 1993. Oil on canvas.
Gift of the artist*

The Voice of the Survivors

The Central Theme for Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day 2010

■ The survivors of the Holocaust carried – and still bear – the weight of memory upon their shoulders. The presence of these eye-witnesses in our society, those who saw and experienced the events, provides this memory with an ethical power. The survivors are the very backbone of *Shoah* commemoration in the State of Israel and abroad. They were the first to document the years of terror, and they continue to relate their painful memories today. In their daily activities, their social volunteerism and their creative endeavors, each in his or her own way, the survivors honor the victims and strive to safeguard their memory and their legacy for the coming generations.

The voice of many Holocaust survivors still resonates today: they tell their stories to students, youth and soldiers, as well as to teachers in Israel and abroad; they take part in missions to Poland; they write memoirs and meet their young readers; they translate Holocaust-era documents and survivor testimonies so that the younger generations will be able to read and understand them; they safeguard the memory of their destroyed communities and the people that lived there through associations dedicated to this cause; and many fulfill their sacred mission through their unique works of art.

The voice of the survivors is the link that binds the painful and tormented history of the Jewish people during the Holocaust to the future, to hope and to rebirth.

Their voice, as expressed in the 2002 Survivors' Declaration, plays a crucial role in shaping the Jewish and human consciousness of future generations, of the State of Israel and of the Jewish people as a whole: "... We pass to the next generation the torch of memory, as well as a fundamental lesson of Judaism: that memory must be accompanied by action of ethical and moral intent. This must be the foundation and the focus of your energies toward the creation of a better world."

Torchlighters 2010



compiled by Ehud Amir

Leo Luster

■ **Leo Luster was born in 1927 in Vienna, Austria, to a traditional Zionist Jewish family.** He was the second child of Moshe, a textile merchant, and Golda. During the *Kristallnacht* pogrom Leo's father was arrested, but was released a few days later, beaten and bruised. Meanwhile, their neighbor had commandeered their apartment, forcing them to move to a tiny, mildewed apartment in the basement of their building. In 1940, Leo's sister, Haya, managed to emigrate illegally to Mandatory Palestine.

In 1942, Leo and his parents were deported to Theresienstadt. Leo worked in the kitchen distributing food, managing to pass his food coupons to his parents and friends. In September 1944 (Yom Kippur 5705), Leo and his father were deported to Auschwitz. His father was killed and Leo was sent to work repairing train cars.

In January 1945, Leo was forced on a death march. At the Blechhammer camp, when many

prisoners refused to attend roll call, the Germans set fire to the barracks and shot at anyone who fled. Luckily, Leo and his friends had been put in a shed storing bottles of seltzer, and they managed to put out the flames. A few days later, Leo went outside to look for food. In one bunk he came across an SS officer shooting anyone in sight. Leo saved himself by diving into a pile of bodies.

One day Leo and a friend dared to flee the camp. Hearing the sound of approaching vehicles, they escaped to the nearby woods. On one car, Leo noticed a red star. He emerged from the trees, pointed to himself and yelled, "*Zhid, Zhid!*" ("Jew, Jew!") A Russian officer stepped out of the car and answered in Yiddish, "I too am Jewish."

After the war Leo found his mother Golda in Theresienstadt. They returned to his childhood home in Vienna, but nothing remained. They then moved to the Deggendorf DP camp

in Bavaria, where he managed to track down his sister's address in *Eretz Israel*.

In 1949, Leo and Golda immigrated to Israel and were reunited with Haya. Leo started working as a driver, and later became an employee of the Austrian Embassy, where he worked until his retirement in 1991.

Leo is a founding member of the Association of Former Austrians in Israel. He helps Holocaust survivors claim entitlements from the Austrian government, and is also involved in the commemoration of Austrian Jews murdered in the Holocaust.

Leo and his wife Shoshana have a son, a daughter and three grandchildren.



Sara Israeli

■ **Sara (Kati) Israeli was born in 1937 in Pestszenterzsebet, Hungary (today Budapest), the daughter of Laszlo and Ilus Semjen.** With the invasion of Hungary by the Germans in March 1944, Sara's father was forced to sell his share of the pharmacy he owned to his partner when it became illegal for Jews to own any property.

At the beginning of May 1944, Sara and her family were forced to live in the town's ghetto. At the beginning of June, they were transported to a brick factory in Monor, a concentration camp whose inmates were sent to Auschwitz. However, instead of being taken on to Auschwitz, the Semjen family was put on a truck back to a camp on Columbus Street, Budapest. Although she still does not understand why their fate was not Auschwitz like all the other residents of the Pestszenterzsebet ghetto, many years later, Sara found out that her family was supposed to have been put on a train to Switzerland, similar to the so-called Kastner train, but the plan was

never carried out. At the beginning of October the camp was dismantled, and the Semjens moved into her grandmother's apartment.

A few days later Ilus, Sara's mother, was arrested and imprisoned in Hungary. The family's nanny Gizella (Gizi) Benkovits stayed with the family, bringing them medicines and food, and putting her own life at risk (in 2001, Gizi was honored as a Righteous Among the Nations). When she heard that the entire area was to become Budapest's central ghetto, Gizi moved Sara, her older brother Ivan, and their cousin Paul to an orphanage established by the Zionist underground movement and the Red Cross.

Meanwhile, Sara's father Laszlo was incarcerated in the ghetto. Ilus was sent to



Ravensbrück and then to Berlin-Schönholz. After liberation, she returned to Budapest. In September 1945, Laszlo was killed in an accident, making Ilus the family's sole provider.

With its borders closed by the communist authorities, Sara and Ivan left Hungary illegally as members of the Gordonia Youth Movement, arriving in Israel in December 1949.

Sara grew up and remained on kibbutz, working in various capacities before managing the Kibbutz Guesthouse Association. She also coordinated a group of volunteers who translate testimonies of Hungarian survivors into Hebrew. Today she volunteers with an American Jewish genealogy organization, helping preserve archival documents. In addition, she volunteers with Amcha, an organization dedicated to providing emotional support for Holocaust survivors, and visits survivors in their homes.

Sara's husband Betzalel died many years ago. She has two children and two grandchildren.

Torchlighters 2010

Eliezer Ayalon

■ **Eliezer (Lazer) Ayalon was born in Radom, Poland, in 1928.** His parents, Rebecca-Leah and Israel Herszenfis, were observant Jews and Zionists. In the 1930s, the family of six tried to get visas to Mandatory Palestine, but failed.

In April 1941, Eliezer and his family were incarcerated in the Radom ghetto. Eliezer lied about his age and was given work and residence in a German clothing warehouse outside the ghetto. He used to sing at work, and his employers liked his singing so much that he was asked to sing on their birthdays in exchange for sweets.

In August 1942, the ghetto was sealed. Though anyone with a work permit could have left, Eliezer refused to part from his family. His family members spent two whole hours begging him to save himself. Finally, his mother said: "If there is anyone in the family with a chance to stay alive – it's you. *Azoy ist Beshert*

[This was meant to be]. May you have a sweet life." She accompanied him to the gate with a cup of honey. Eliezer was transferred to the Blizyn camp near Kielce, where he worked as a shoemaker. His mother, father, sister and two brothers were all murdered at Treblinka.



In the spring of 1944, Eliezer was moved to Plaszow, and then to Mauthausen and Melk in Austria. In April 1945, he was sent on a death march. Despite a previously broken leg, he made it to Ebensee. On 6 May 1945, the camp was liberated by American forces. "Soldiers from the Jewish Brigade took us from hell and prepared us for *aliyah*. I remember the joy, the dancing and the singing when we heard we had received visas for *Eretz Israel*."

Six months later, Eliezer arrived in Israel as part of a *Youth Aliya* group, and joined an agricultural school. During the War of Independence, he fought in the Etzioni Brigade until his discharge from the IDF in 1949. "For 37 years I didn't tell anybody what had happened to me; and then I understood that it was my duty. I became a witness."

In recent decades, Eliezer began speaking about his experiences at schools and army bases. He receives invitations to address Jewish communities in the US, and has traveled to Poland dozens of times with members of his own family and as a guide and witness for numerous delegations. His memoirs, *A Cup of Honey*, were published in Israel, the US, Mexico and Costa Rica.

Eliezer married Rebecca, and the couple has a son, a daughter, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Baruch Shub

■ **Baruch Shub was born in Vilnius, Lithuania, in 1924, the second child in a Hassidic family of six.** In 1939 the Soviets conquered Vilnius, and in June 1940 the city was annexed and Communist rule instituted. Consequently, the universities were opened to Jews, and Baruch went to study mechanical engineering.

In June 1941, the Germans conquered Vilnius and began murdering Jews in Ponary. Baruch found work at a German garage repairing military vehicles. In September the Jews of Vilnius were confined to a ghetto. Baruch and his older sister Zipporah hid in a truck travelling to Radoszkovice, where Baruch found work again in a German garage.

On 11 March 1942, the Jews were ordered to gather in the town square. From his hiding place in the garage, Baruch saw a huge line of people, including children, moving slowly towards a barn. The sound of shooting could be heard. At night, the barn caught fire and a thick stench filled the skies. Zipporah was among the 840 Jews murdered there that day.

After the ghetto was set up, the Jewish youth established an underground movement, bought weapons and prepared to escape to the forests to join the partisans. However, the Germans threatened death should anyone be found missing from the ghetto, and their activities ceased.

After hearing that his mother was alive in Vilnius, Baruch returned to his hometown, where he worked in German manufacturing plants. He established an underground movement with his friend Yaakov (Kuba) Koshkin, and later joined the FPO (United Partisans Organization). In September 1943, the Germans carried out a number of *aktionen* (roundups of Jews in preparation for their deportation to concentration, forced labor or death camps). Following an armed clash with the Germans, Baruch and some friends joined a group of partisans in the Rudnicki Forest. Two weeks later, the Vilnius ghetto was liquidated.

Baruch enlisted in a Russian paratrooper unit, participating in various military operations. In July 1944, the Red Army conquered Vilnius,

and Baruch discovered that his entire family had been murdered. After his army discharge, he decided to emigrate to *Eretz Israel*, finally arriving in October 1945. He was recruited to the Haganah, serving as an airplane technician during the War of Independence. Two years later he transferred to El Al, rising through company ranks to Chief Flight Engineer. After 33 years, he retired.

Baruch has been active in Holocaust commemoration for many years. He serves as Chairman of the Israel Organization of Partisans, Underground Fighters and Ghetto Rebels, and is a member of the Yad Vashem Directorate and the Claims Conference Board of Directors. He also lectures on antisemitism and Holocaust denial.

Baruch and his wife Nelly have two children and eight grandchildren.



"For 37 years I didn't tell anybody what had happened to me; and then I understood that it was my duty. I became a witness."

Eliezer Ayalon

Hannah Gofrit

■ **Hannah Gofrit was born in 1935 in the town of Biała Rawska, Poland, to Hershel and Zisel Hershkowitz.** With the Nazi conquest, Hannah was forbidden from attending school, and her parents tutored her at home. Hannah's family was allowed to live outside the ghetto established in the town, as her mother worked as a seamstress for the German forces. Hannah's parents arranged to hide her with a Polish family, but Hannah refused, and joined them in hiding in an underground potato shed.

At the end of 1942 the town's Jews were deported to Treblinka. The family's neighbor, Mrs. Moshalkova, managed to obtain forged documents just for Hannah and her mother. Her father's fate remains unknown.

For two years, the women hid in the Warsaw apartment of the Skowronek family (later recognized as Righteous Among the Nations), helping their rescuers as much as possible. They were forbidden to look out the window

or wear shoes, for fear of discovery. Hannah and her mother were saved during a Gestapo raid when one of the daughters hid them in the attic. On Christmas, when the Skowroneks had guests over, Hannah and her mother hid in a closet. Inside the dark closet, Hannah imagined herself flying into free, open spaces, like a butterfly.

After their documents were burned in the bombing of Warsaw, the women masqueraded as devout Polish Catholics. They were deported to the labor camp in Senftenberg near Leipzig, where they were employed in an AEG plant. As the Red Army approached, Hannah and her mother fled. They returned to their hometown, where they discovered they were the only survivors from their entire family. They left the



following day for Lodz, where Zisel married Yosef Kupershmid, a Holocaust survivor whose wife and daughter had been murdered. A year later, Hannah's brother Avraham was born.

In January 1949 Hannah emigrated to Israel, and settled in Tel Aviv. After attending nursing school, she worked as a public health nurse. For her devoted work, Hannah was awarded the Namir Labor Prize. She continued working as Head Nurse in Tel Aviv's Public Health Division until her retirement.

With the help of Naomi Morgenstern, Hannah wrote her memoirs, *I Wanted to Fly Like a Butterfly*. Translated into six languages, the book is read extensively in classrooms in Israel and abroad. Hannah corresponds and meets with the book's young readers from around the world.

Hannah is married to Yitzhak, is the mother of Ofer and has three grandchildren.

Jakob Zim

■ **Jakob Zim (Cymberknopf) was born in 1920 in Sosnowiec, Poland, to Herman (Zvi) and Gabriela.** With the German occupation, young people were rounded up for forced labor, but thanks to his artistic talent, Jakob was sent to work as a draftsman in the city's police station. In mid-1941, he was forced to leave, but a well-connected German who had heard about Jakob's skill asked him to set up an applied arts workshop. There, Jakob found temporary refuge, together with his two brothers and 120 youths, most of them friends from the Zionist Youth Movement. In the spring of 1943, the remaining Jews in the city were moved into the ghetto, including four of Jakob's family: Jakob, his father, mother and eldest brother. His younger brother, Nathan, had been sent to a forced labor camp, and their other relatives were deported to Auschwitz.

The liquidation of the ghetto began on 1 August 1943, nine days before Tisha B'Av. Jakob was sent to the Annaberg forced labor

camp in Silesia, where he reproduced from memory a painting by the artist Josef Budko called *No One Cries Like Me*, adapting it to his own situation. He was sentenced to 25 lashes and deported to the Blechhammer camp, which soon became an extension of Auschwitz. Several weeks later Nathan arrived, which Jakob viewed as the hand of destiny.

As the Red Army approached, the prisoners were taken on a death march. Jakob and Nathan trudged over snow-covered fields, one brother supporting the other. Suddenly, in the distance, they saw roofs and a church tower glowing gold in the winter sun. Taking such pleasure in the beauty of creation, Jakob realized that the artist within him was the source of his strength, and that he had to survive in order to tell his story in his own language – paint. The brothers made it to Buchenwald, where they were liberated.

After emigrating to Israel, Jakob continued his studies at the Bezalel Academy of Art and

Design in Jerusalem, where he met his future wife Ruth. He earned a name for himself as a graphic designer and artist, exhibited his work in Israel and abroad, and won many prizes, including an international competition to design a stamp to commemorate the Holocaust.

Jakob's memoirs, *Shards and Light*, describe his artistic creations, which express the events he experienced and his optimistic approach to life. Jakob summarizes by saying, "I've learned to live with the shadow and to create with the light."

Jakob and Ruth have four sons, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.



Yehudit Shendar



■ Marc Klionsky (b. 1927, Belorussia), *Waiting for the Train*, 1986. Oil on canvas. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Olidort, New York

recreate reality, but rather reality itself, both external and internal, tinted with the hues of personal experience.

The exhibition is arranged by thematic or visual categories of the works. Survivor testimonies, echoing the impetus of their creative expression, complement the exhibition's presentation.

These "virtues of memory" thus take their shape and form in a multi-faceted visual puzzle. Each work is the voice of an individual; combined they form a multi-voiced choir, powerfully reverberating throughout the exhibition space.

"Virtues of Memory: Six Decades of Holocaust Survivors' Creativity" opens at the Yad Vashem Exhibitions Pavilion on 12 April 2010.

The exhibition is supported by: Anonymous, Switzerland; the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki, Greece; in memory of Hanna Strauss Ricardo, z"l, The Netherlands; the Jerusalem Municipality, Israel; Ron and Dina Goldschlager, Australia; the Centre of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel; and Miriam Gertler, Germany.

The author is curator of the exhibition, Deputy Director of the Museums Division and Senior Art Curator.

Israel Assumes Task Force Leadership

Jane Jacobs-Kimmelman

Photo: Gorm K. Gaare/EUP-Images



■ New ITF Chairman Dan Tichon addresses participants at the official ITF Handover Ceremony at the Royal Norwegian Embassy, Berlin, March 2010.

■ In March 2010, the State of Israel assumed chairmanship of the prestigious Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (ITF). Founded in 1998 by Swedish Prime Minister Göran Persson, the ITF currently comprises 27 member countries: Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK and the US. Other countries are currently in the process of applying for ITF membership or to be official liasons and observers of the organization.

The ITF was established to raise awareness of Holocaust education and commemoration both in its member states and internationally. Its "Stockholm Declaration" (2000) solidified these goals via a comprehensive charter adopted by all participating countries. Each

ITF delegation includes representatives of governments and NGOs. Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev serves as co-chair of the Israeli delegation together with Aviva Raz-Shechter, Director of the Department for Antisemitism and Holocaust Affairs at the Israel Foreign Ministry, and many senior Yad Vashem staff members represent the State of Israel in ITF Working Groups. Prof. Yehuda Bauer, Academic Advisor to Yad Vashem, currently serves as Honorary Chairman of the ITF, and Prof. Dina Porat as its Academic Advisor.

At an official ceremony in Berlin this March, former Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon assumed the role of ITF Chairman from his Norwegian counterpart, Ambassador Tom Vraalsen. In his speech, Tichon praised the achievements of the Norwegian chairmanship, and outlined many of the goals of the Israeli chairmanship, mentioning in particular its aim to increase the reach of the ITF across all global media to raise awareness

of its mission: "The antisemitic extremists are using new and innovative technologies, and their activities and messages have reached alarming levels. The ITF must act to prevent this."

In line with the ITF goals, the Israeli chairmanship is planning an intense year of diverse programs. Yad Vashem will be hosting events, working groups and academic symposia throughout 2010. The arrival of some 300 ITF delegates in Israel, many of whom have never visited Israel before, will enable them to learn first-hand about Yad Vashem's wide-ranging initiatives. From 12-13 June, the 7th International Conference on Holocaust Education entitled, "The Role of Shoah Education and Remembrance in Hindsight and in Foresight: Text and Context" will be geared specifically to ITF delegates who will be participating in Working Group meetings over the following days; and on 19-21 December an academic conference of the International Institute for Holocaust Research entitled "Hiding, Sheltering and Borrowed Identities as Avenues of Rescue During the Holocaust" will take place.

"During our chairmanship, Israel intends to work towards more systematic Holocaust education in ITF member states, and to build new, relevant frameworks for educators, the media and incoming political leaderships," says Avner Shalev. "We aim to emphasize the worldwide imperative to grapple head-on with the memory of the Holocaust and its implications."

For more information about the ITF, please visit www.holocausttaskforce.org

The author is Director of the International Relations Department at the International School for Holocaust Studies.

Hungary and Austria Sign Agreements to Strengthen Holocaust Education

■ The International School for Holocaust Studies has recently taken steps to fortify its partnerships and identify common objectives with governmental bodies in Europe. On 24 January, Nathan Eitan, Director-General of Yad Vashem, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Gergely Arató, State Secretary on behalf

of the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Hungary, acknowledging the strong professional working relationship of the parties since 1997. In addition, in recognition of the ten-year close working relationship between the Austrian Ministry of Education and Yad Vashem, a Memorandum of Understanding

was signed on 16 March by Claudia Schmied, Austrian Federal Minister for Education, the Arts and Culture and Avner Shalev, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate.

The author works in the European Department at the International School for Holocaust Studies.

Leora Brothman

Launch of Gandel Holocaust Studies Program for Australian Educators

Leora Brothman

■ “This experience exceeded every expectation – such wonderful, passionate, inspirational staff. I am so very thankful to have been given this opportunity and look forward to continuing this work better informed, and with much more to offer my students and school.” So remarked a participant of the first-ever tailor-made seminar for Australian educators held in January at the International School for Holocaust Studies. The Gandel Program, funded by the Gandel Charitable Trust as well as some scholarships funded by the Adelson Family Foundation, is a unique program resulting from the cooperation between professional staff at the International School and Australian experts in Holocaust education.

After a competitive selection process, 19 participants were chosen to take part in the seminar. The dynamic group of teachers represented various regions across Australia, including New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Southern and Western Australia.



The participants came from diverse religious and professional backgrounds, and teach a wide range of students at junior high and high schools, universities, juvenile detention centers and acting troupes.

The seminar was launched with a poignant ceremony and reception. H.E. Mr. James Larsen, Australian Ambassador in Israel; Emeritus Professor Louis Waller AO, Professor of Law at Monash University and Chairman of the Gandel Program Advisory Committee (pictured); Avril Alba, Director of Education at the Sydney

Jewish Museum; and Dorit Novak, Director of the International School, honored the group with their attendance and remarks.

“The primary objective of the seminar was to provide historical knowledge of the Holocaust as the foundation for the didactic development of the participants,” explained Richelle Budd-Caplan, Director of the School’s European Department. “The seminar succeeded in not only providing a broader historical context, but also in introducing interdisciplinary and age-appropriate approaches. Many of the participants expressed how privileged they felt to attend a program of such a high caliber.” The enthusiastic participants all agreed that they looked forward to the continuation of the program and learning experience back in Australia. One noted, “I hope we can honor the legacy you have left us. In conjunction with the Sydney Jewish Museum and the Melbourne Jewish Holocaust Center, we aim to cement a place for Holocaust education in Australia.”

ICHEIC Forum Meets Israeli Students

■ On 15-17 February, strategic partners from fifteen countries convened at the annual ICHEIC (International Commission for Holocaust Era Insurance Claims) Forum held at Yad Vashem.

Together with the staff from the European Department of the International School for Holocaust Studies, participants exchanged ideas and discussed the status of Holocaust education throughout Europe, new educational programs being developed at Yad Vashem, and

projects produced by seminar graduates. During the forum proceedings, participants and staff also visited the Paul Himmelfarb High School in Jerusalem (pictured), to meet with students preparing to take part in an educational visit to Holocaust sites in Poland.

Leora Brothman



International Seminars

Stephanie McMahon-Kaye

■ 2010 began with a 19-day **International Winter Seminar for Educators from Abroad**. Of the 31 participants, 12 were non-Jewish Australian educators awarded Pauline Glass Study Grants by the B’nai Brith of Melbourne. B’nai Brith’s representative Phil Symons participated in a full day of the seminar: “I was impressed with the caliber of the lecturers. Seeing them at work has confirmed that having teachers from all backgrounds participating in this educational experience will bring to hundreds – and eventually thousands – of students a sound and genuine knowledge of this dark period of history.”

■ Running concurrently at the International School for Holocaust Studies was an eight-

day **seminar for “Echoes and Reflections,”** a comprehensive ten-part multimedia curriculum on the Holocaust for college professors in schools of education across the USA (co-sponsored by Yad Vashem, the ADL and the Shoah Visual History Foundation, and funded by Dana and Yossi Hollander). Eighteen participants from 10 states attended this intense and rewarding seminar.

■ In February, “**Facing History and Ourselves,**” an innovative program of tolerance-based education focused on the Holocaust, brought 29 of its staff members to Yad Vashem for a two-week seminar. The event marked the first step in cementing a partnership between Yad Vashem and this important initiative.

■ Also in February, the European Department held its **third seminar for Polish clergy**, in cooperation with the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum. During the seminar, the participants – 19 Catholic priests – held discussions pertaining to Holocaust memory, interfaith dialogue and theology with leading experts in the field.

■ From the Spanish and Portuguese-speaking world, a group of 33 educators came for a **first-ever seminar for Brazilian educators** at Yad Vashem. A second seminar hosted a group of 32 **educators from nine different countries across South America.**

Stephanie McMahon-Kaye is the Coordinator of the Desk for International Seminars in English at the International School for Holocaust Studies.

Graduate Spotlight

Every year, the International School for Holocaust Studies holds hundreds of seminars and conferences, in dozens of languages, for over 300,000 educators, students and soldiers in Israel and around the world. Featured here is one of the School's graduates, and what he has achieved since:

Leora Brothman

■ An original and imaginative new Holocaust-related production is receiving great acclaim in Spain. The play, *Los Dilemas del Profesor Heyman*, composed by Nicolás Paz Alcalde, is a fictional story – inspired by actual events and testimonies – which explores the ethical dilemmas faced by a professor in the Warsaw ghetto.

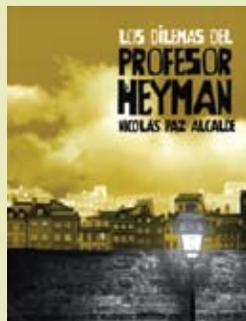
Alcalde was motivated to write the script after studying at a teacher-training seminar for Spanish educators at the International School for Holocaust Studies. During the seminar, Alcalde learned about the School's range of interdisciplinary and age-appropriate learning aids. He was also exposed to its unique



■ Scene and poster from the play, “*Los Dilemas del Profesor Heyman*”

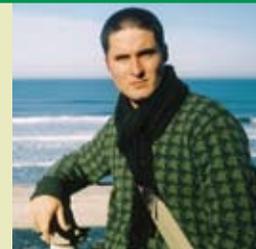
pedagogical approach, which focuses on the personal stories of those who witnessed the *Shoah* first hand. “When I was at Yad Vashem, I met with survivors, which left me with a lasting impression that the *Shoah* was not only an historical event, but one that involved real people with real lives. The only way of transmitting this ‘living experience’ without actual survivors was through theater. On stage you see real people that feel, that can make mistakes, and that you can even touch if you get close enough.”

At the course's conclusion, Alcalde returned to his home village of Jerte in southwestern Spain and began formulating the play. Local students expressed interest in partaking in the production. Alcalde understood that the young people needed to learn about Holocaust history for the characters to become more tangible. Working with extraordinary



Nicolás Paz Alcalde Spain

dedication, the students – as well as their families and schools – soon became very enthused with the project, as well as the subject matter.



■ Nicolás Paz Alcalde

Together with the student actors, Alcalde and his wife Maria Jesús Barrantes, who run a small private school teaching Spanish to foreign students, have turned the production into a successful educational experience for their peers and local communities. So far, it has been performed for over 1,000 people in Spanish high schools, town halls and theaters, and has been featured on numerous news stations and websites. “I would never have believed that so many people in my neighborhood would be talking about the *Shoah* and life in the ghetto, people who didn't know anything about it before. It's unbelievable!” Alcalde remarked. “My next goals are to broaden the audience of *Los Dilemas del Profesor Heyman* across Spain and Europe, and to translate the play into English.”

New in the Virtual School www1.yadvashem.org/education

New Subsite for Holocaust Remembrance Day

■ The International School for Holocaust Studies website has launched a new educational subsite ahead of Israel's Holocaust Remembrance Day. In accordance with this year's theme, “The Voice of the Survivors,” the focus is on survivors' personal stories – their lives before, during and after the Holocaust, their contributions to the State of Israel, contemporary interviews, and thoughts on the future.

The interviews include a variety of speakers from a range of perspectives: Walter Zwi Bacharach, Professor Emeritus of General History, discusses his postwar experiences immigrating to Israel; Miriam Ron recalls witnessing the 1938 *Kristallnacht* pogrom in Germany; Michael Goldman-Gilad reflects on his experience as investigative officer for the Eichmann trial;

Hedi Solzbach (Schlanger), survivor of Auschwitz-Birkenau, tells her Holocaust-period story from the familial perspective; and Eliezer Ayalon, survivor of five concentration camps, speaks of his absorption in Israel and participation in its War of Independence.

Additional material includes a feature on thoughts and experiences from seven Israeli survivors, an interactive activity on survivors' choices and dilemmas following liberation, and an animated exhibition on the Bricha, the postwar efforts to assemble survivors for immigration to pre-state Israel. Featured lesson plans cover the life stories of Uri Orlev, the award-winning Israeli children's author and translator, and of Chava Wolf, who grapples with her experiences through her vivid, colorful

artwork. All materials are accompanied with relevant historical references, primary and secondary sources, photographs, documents and more.

Finally, the International School's collection of contemporary testimony films, part of the series “Witnesses and Education: Recorded Experiences of Holocaust Survivors,” are also accessible online. The project, in which survivors recount their life stories at the locations in which the events transpired, is produced with the generous support of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany and the Adelson Family Foundation.

The author heads the English Division of the Internet Department at the International School for Holocaust Studies.

Jonathan Clapsaddle

“Dear Mutti...”

Last Letters Between a Mother and Her Children Donated to the Yad Vashem Archives

Lital Beer

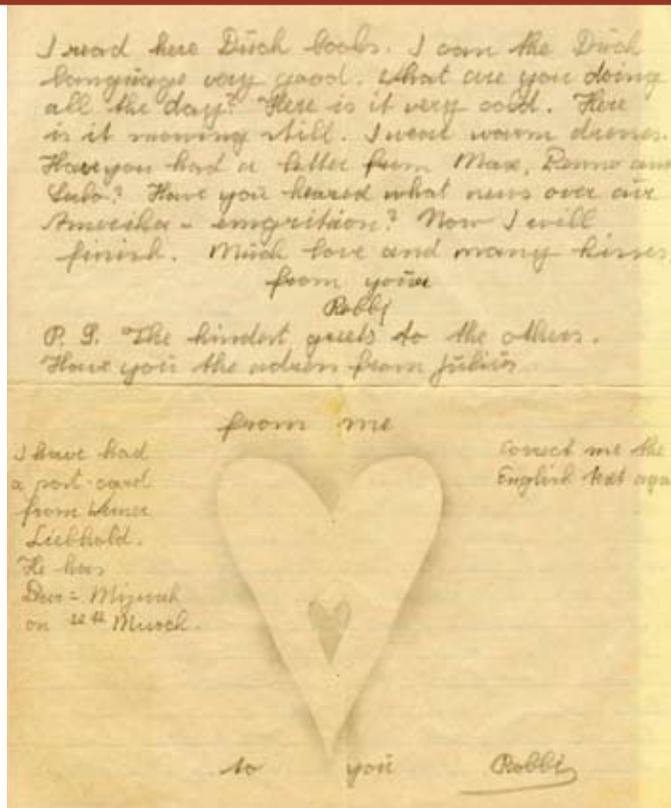
■ Before the Second World War, the Weil family lived in Manheim, Germany. The father, Eugene, was taken to the Dachau concentration camp the day after the *Kristallnacht* pogrom, in November 1938, where he died after six weeks. Immediately following their weeklong period of mourning, their children – Marianne (Nanna), 16 and Robert (Robbi), 11 – were sent by *Kindertransport* to Holland. Selma also managed to leave Germany, ending up in the UK.

While the children were in Holland, shunted from one institution to another, they made sure to maintain contact with their mother. The letters they wrote describe the ongoing events, along with their troubles and hopes, and repeatedly express their desire for all three to receive immigration papers to the US where they could all be together once again.

The letters vividly reflect the personalities of the two children. After Robbi, a gentle, considerate boy, comes down with diphtheria, he is concerned that he is still carrying the disease: “Dear Mother, Happy birthday! I wish you all the best and that in the future you will not be beset by so many worries [...] We’re all hoping that by your next birthday I’ll be ‘negative [disease-free].’ That would certainly be the best birthday present you could hope for.” (6 February 1940)

Robbi’s illness meant isolation from other healthy children. Over and over he describes doctors’ visits, his quarantine, and the various treatments he undergoes. Despite the fact that his sister, grandmother and uncles are in Holland, essentially he struggles alone to regain his health.

Marianne seems like a lively young woman, with an appetite for life and a well-developed sense of humor. When telling her mother of the hepatitis she has contracted, she adds: “When the yellow reached its peak (I felt like a butterfly or a canary) I started to get better.” (24 April 1940). In a letter a month earlier, she describes with great zest the spring cleaning that took place at the institution: “... And so the great battle begins. The enemy is the dirt, already advanced to the most secret, hard-to-reach corners. We crawl after it on all fours, and are able to catch it... by 3.30 pm we are done, the dining room is sparkling and we are pitch



■ Letter from Robbi Weil to his mother Selma, 20 February 1940. Robbi wrote in English in preparation for emigration to the US. He was murdered at Sobibor.

black. The ‘sister’ in charge inspects our work, though she needs four or five pairs of spectacles to find anything!” (17 March 1940)

At first, Marianne and Robbi include a few sentences in English at the end of every letter. They ask Selma to help them improve by correcting them, thus preparing for the reunification that will surely take place in the US. The English seems to be part of the children’s effort to maintain their mother’s status as a figure of authority. It is also an expression of the optimism they feel in the early stages of their life in Holland. However, as time passes, the sentences in English cease, and the subject of emigration is dropped. In most of the letters, the children and their Aunt Rosel focus on descriptions of the daily struggle to survive, and the attempt to maintain contact with other family members. Their concern for relatives and friends grows ever more frantic.

The last correspondence between Selma and her relatives in Holland are telegrams sent

through the Red Cross, in which Rosel Elk reports on the children’s condition to her sister. Some of these telegrams reach Selma after Marianne has died in Auschwitz. In the final one Rosel writes, “Robert is learning how to print and writes beautiful cards.” Shortly after writing this message, Robbi and the other relatives are murdered in Sobibor.

Selma, who lost her husband and children, her mother, sister and two of her brothers in the Holocaust, emigrated to Israel in 1949, living at first in her brother’s home. Her niece, Hannah Meyuhas (née Elk), recalls her aunt crying a lot. Hannah received Marianne and Robbi’s letters, and translated them with the help of a family friend. A year ago, a Dutch researcher, Miriam Mijatovich-Keesing,

made contact with Hannah and Oded Meyuhas, and with her assistance they were able to piece together a clearer picture of the children’s lives in Holland until their tragic deaths.

Hannah and Oded Meyuhas recently donated the completed research, as well as the letters, photographs and translations to the Yad Vashem Archives. “I had a desperate need to know these children,” said Oded. “I wanted to commemorate them, to give their names a human form, with all their wishes, talents and aspirations. I feel I have performed a *mitzvah*; anyone with the will and ability must do the same, so that the victims’ stories will never be forgotten.”

Members of staff at the Yad Vashem Archives seek any kind of document, photograph or original Holocaust-related artifact, so that these objects – and the stories behind them – are preserved for generations to come. Please contact the Registrar, tel: +972-2-6443702/3.

The author is Head of the Outreach Section in the Archives Division.

27 January

Highlights of International Holocaust Remembrance Day



■ As part of a symposium for the diplomatic corps in Israel, the new exhibition “Architecture of Murder: The Auschwitz-Birkenau Blueprints” opened at Yad Vashem on 25 January. On display were original architectural blueprints of Auschwitz-Birkenau, given to Yad Vashem for safekeeping last summer by the German newspaper *Bild*, published by the Axel-Springer Publishing House.

Diplomats representing some 80 countries were addressed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Minister of Education Gideon Sa’ar, Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Israel H.E. Henri Etoundi Essomba, Holocaust survivor

Ruth Bondy, Prof. Shlomo Avineri, Prof. Moshe Halbertal, *Bild* Editor Kai Diekmann, Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum Director Dr. Piotr Cywiński, Historical Advisor to the exhibition Dr. Daniel Uziel, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau and Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. Also present were Minister Yossi Peled, Deputy Minister of Pensioner Affairs Dr. Lea Nass, dozens of Holocaust survivors, a delegation of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem led by National Chair Fran Sonshine, and Chairwoman of the German Society for Yad Vashem, Hildegard Müller.

Following the symposium, the audience viewed the new exhibition, which was curated by Director of the Museums Division Yehudit Inbar, designed by Pnina Friedman and generously supported by the Greg Rosshandler and Dr. Harry Perelberg families (Australia). Along with the blueprints, the exhibition included the photo album of the construction of Auschwitz, an aerial photo of Auschwitz from the RAF, excerpts from the Vrba-Wetzler Report (written by two Jewish escapees from Auschwitz in 1944), a copy of the poem “Death Fugue” by Paul Celan, and quotes from SS men and Jewish prisoners describing the site and its murderous purposes.

■ On 25 January, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau participated in a special Israeli government cabinet session marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

■ Yad Vashem’s “Auschwitz Album” traveling exhibition opened at Detroit’s Holocaust Memorial Center on 27 January, marking 65 years since the liberation of Auschwitz. Speakers at the opening reception included survivor Rose Bohm (center), Event Chairman Hannan Lis (right), American Society for Yad

Vashem Director of Development Shraga I. Mekel (left) and Executive Director of the Center, Stephen M. Goldman.

■ On 24 January, Yad Vashem’s traveling exhibition “BESA – A Code of Honor: Albanian Muslims Who Rescued Jews in the Holocaust” (photographer Norman Gershman) opened at the Museo Ebraico di Bologna, Italy. Honored guests included President of the Museo Ebraico Foundation Emilio Campos, President of the Jewish Community of Bologna Guido Ottolenghi, Vice-Minister of the Albanian Ministry of Culture Suzana Turku, Albanian Ambassador in Italy H.E. Mr. Llech Kola, and Andrea Cascone of the Italian Foreign Ministry. Michele Sarfatti, Director of CDEC (The Center of Contemporary Jewish Documentation), Milan, addressed the audience on the topic of “The Jews in Albania during the *Shoah*.”

■ The President of the Parliament of Lower Saxony, Hermann Dinkla, Yad Vashem and its German Friends invited more than 500

guests to the Parliament in Hanover to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Among the audience were ministers, members of parliament and representatives of the Jewish community as well as students from several public schools.



President Dinkla and Hildegard Müller, Chairwoman of the Management Board of BDEW and Chairwoman of the German Society for Yad Vashem (pictured addressing the state parliament), welcomed the guests. The keynote speaker was Bishop Margot Käßmann, Chairwoman of the Protestant Church in Germany. The event also marked the opening of the Yad Vashem traveling exhibition, “Private



“The Holocaust was born out of warped morals in addition to cultural and ideological breakdowns. Viewing the Holocaust from this perspective can help us understand how much responsibility each person has for his or her own thoughts and actions.”

Director of the Museums Division Yehudit Inbar, at the opening of the Yad Vashem exhibition "Architecture of Murder" at the UN

Leah Goldstein

■ On 26 January, a traveling version of the Yad Vashem exhibition “Architecture of Murder: The Auschwitz-Birkenau Blueprints” opened at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Guests at the launch included UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon (pictured right), Israel’s Minister of Information and the Diaspora Yoel-Yuli Edelstein, US Ambassador to the UN Susan Rice, Israel’s Ambassador to the UN Prof. Gabriella Shalev, Chairman of the American Society for Yad Vashem Eli Zborowski, supporters of the exhibition at the UN Michaela and Leon Constantiner, community leaders, ambassadors, and members of the diplomatic corps.

Curator of the exhibition and Director of Yad Vashem’s Museums Division Yehudit Inbar



Tolkatchev at the Gates of Hell,” displayed in the foyer of the parliament until 8 February.

■ For the first time, Yad Vashem and its Austrian Friends organized an International Holocaust Remembrance Day event in Kärnten, the southernmost federal state of Austria. The ceremony was held in the city hall of Wolfsberg and the 200 guests included students from Kärnten’s capital city, Klagenfurt, thanks to an initiative of two members of parliament.

Mayor Dr. Gerhard Seifried hosted the event, at which Arik Rav-On, Director of the German-Speaking Countries Desk (right), and



(pictured, left) reminded the distinguished audience that the Nazis and their collaborators were “not much different from ordinary people. Their leaders were, for the most part, intelligent, well-educated, and steeped in Western culture... The Holocaust was born out of warped morals in addition to cultural and ideological breakdowns. Viewing the Holocaust from this perspective can help us understand how much responsibility each person has for his or her own thoughts and actions.”

■ For the state ceremony at the site of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp in Poland on 27 January, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev joined Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Polish President Lech Kaczyński and Prime Minister Donald Tusk, Head of the European Parliament Jerzy Buzek, some 150 former inmates of the camp and numerous dignitaries from around the world to mark the 65th anniversary of the camp’s liberation.

During the ceremony, President Kaczyński presented Avner Shalev with the Officer’s Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland (pictured). The decoration was awarded “for

eminent services in educational and museum work commemorating the victims of the Nazi German labor camps, concentration camps, and extermination centers, and for their accomplishments in the development of the Polish-Jewish dialogue.”

Avner Shalev and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau also participated in the European Jewish Congress Third International Holocaust Forum that took place in Krakow earlier that morning. In a speech to the approximately 700 participants, including EJC President Dr. Moshe Kantor, Shalev said, “At Yad Vashem, we believe in the power of education to shape our future... Only truthful Holocaust remembrance befits the eternal legacy of the victims.”



Ulrike Schuster of the Austrian Friends of Yad Vashem (center, next to her husband, Chairman of the Austrian Friends Günther Schuster, left) reported on recent Yad Vashem activities. The Yad Vashem “No Child’s Play” traveling exhibition, displayed until mid-February, was opened with a speech by university professor Dr. Peter Gstettner. Government representatives pledged to continue commemorating 27 January with official ceremonies in the coming years.

■ Hundreds of members of the next generations in Israel marked 27 January with a special tribute to the Righteous Among the Nations. Held at Beit Hatefutsoth, the Nahum Goldmann Museum of the Jewish Diaspora, the event was initiated by the “Dorot Hemshech” (Generation to Generation) Organization. Guest speakers included: Minister Yossi Peled, Dorot Hemshech President Shmuel Sorek, Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies Dorit Novak, Director of the Polish Institute in Israel Joanna Stachyra, Beit Hatefutsoth

Director-General Avinoam Armoni, Chair of the Israel-Poland Friendship Association Dr. Ilona Dworak-Cousin and Chair of the Amcha Association Arye Barnea.

■ The International School for Holocaust Studies again joined forces with the Neri Bloomfield WIZO Academy of Design and Education in Haifa, encouraging third-year graphic design students to create a series of five postcards inspired by universal aspects of Holocaust remembrance.

The resulting exhibition, “Postcards: Students Design Memory,” was opened at the International School and on the Yad Vashem website for International Holocaust Remembrance Day, and will remain on display throughout Israel’s Holocaust Remembrance Day. Said student Maayan Hitush: “I tried to tell five stories of the six million who had to pack their entire lives into a single suitcase, and within a number of minutes were on their way to the death camps [...] Their choices tell the story of their lives.”

New Research

Identifying Notes from the Warsaw Ghetto

Dr. Lea Prais



■ Page from an unknown chronicle of Rabbi Shimon Huberband, May 1942

■ The end of the war saw the gathering of an astounding yield of personal documentation written by Jews under Nazi occupation.

Entire archives, alongside chronicles of events, personal diaries, notes and witness reports all created under the most unusual circumstances were revealed and, as time passed, became an essential basis for Holocaust study. In addition to their historic importance and literary value, the discovery of these writings was itself intriguing: the fascinating, emotional tales of their endurance when often the authors themselves did not survive.

Astonished by the impact of these manuscripts, historians and archivists joined together to publish them. Their sense of obligation was fueled in part by their understanding that they were fulfilling the moral legacy and wishes of the writers. The last line in the diary kept by Chaim Aharon Kaplan in the Warsaw ghetto, written on the evening of 4 August 1942 at the height of the hunt to deport him to Treblinka, reads: "If my end is nigh – what will become of my diary?"

Some of the writings were published as early as the late 1940s. The Jewish Historical

Institute of Warsaw, where some Polish Jewish historians who had survived gathered, had one of the most valuable documentary treasures – the underground archive known as *Oyneg Shabbos* (Oneg Shabbat) – and, in its periodicals, published selected documents from the repository. However, the tremendous scope of the documentary material, the precarious state of some of the documents, the difficulties in deciphering the handwriting and in identifying the writers, in addition to various political and other constraints, made publication of these documents a complex,



■ Rabbi Shimon Huberband

drawn-out and incomplete affair.

At the end of the 1950s and especially in the 1960s, a greater number of writings from the Holocaust started to appear.

The importance of the texts so far unearthed lies in their contents and the time and place in which they were written

In 1961, *Notes from the Warsaw Ghetto* by Emanuel Ringelblum, founder and director of *Oyneg Shabbos*, was published in Warsaw. The same year, YIVO in New York published an edited Yiddish version of a Vilna ghetto diary kept by Herman Kruk, and in 1966, Yad Vashem published *The Scroll of Agony* by Chaim Aharon Kaplan from the Warsaw ghetto. Around the same time, the Zachor Publishing House put out *Kiddush Hashem: Jewish Religious and Cultural Life in Poland During the Holocaust* (1969), a collection of the Holocaust-era writings of Rabbi Shimon Huberband, one of the notable contributors to the *Oyneg Shabbos* archive. These and many other books were a supremely important element in the formation of the Jewish narrative of the Holocaust.

However, it later became clear that they did not include all that had been written by their authors during the war; upon new study of the collections, additional chronicles or notes are sometimes discovered. Recently, previously unknown pages were found in the Hersch Wasser Collection at YIVO, later identified as Rabbi Huberband's writings. These chronicles, as well as sections left out of *Kiddush Hashem* (in both its Hebrew and English editions), will soon be published in an article by the author of this article in the upcoming volume of *Yad Vashem Studies* (38:1).

Historians and archivists joined together to publish them. Their sense of obligation was fueled in part by their understanding that they were fulfilling the moral legacy and wishes of the writers

The importance of the texts so far unearthed lies in their contents and the time and place in which they were written – May-June 1942, the period of terror in the Warsaw ghetto – and in the writer himself, Shimon Huberband, an unusual figure among the *Oyneg Shabbos* archivists, in part because of his association with Orthodox Judaism. In his writings, Huberband looked at the world of the religious Jew in the ghetto, though he did not ignore other issues. After Huberband's murder on 18 August 1942, Emanuel Ringelblum emphasized his noble character, his meticulousness and his extensive knowledge, calling him one of the pillars of the archive. "Only some of the material he collected was preserved. Most of it disappeared with him," Ringelblum wrote in Huberband's memory. Any document from Huberband's pen, any additional piece of information from his own hand, is a real historic find.

The author is Project Manager at the International Institute for Holocaust Research.

“Gifted, Compelling and Humble”

Yad Vashem Mourns Untimely Passing of Prof. David Bankier

■ At the end of February, Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research and Incumbent of John Najmann Chair of Holocaust Studies, Prof. David Bankier, passed away after a lengthy and grueling illness.

David Bankier was born in Germany in 1947. He attended the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where he earned his doctorate in Jewish History. His doctoral thesis dealt with German Society and Nazi Antisemitism, 1933–1938. Over the years, Prof. Bankier served as visiting professor at universities in London, the United States, South Africa and South America, and was involved in developing centers of Jewish studies in Latin America. In 2000, he was appointed Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem.

Prof. Bankier was an esteemed scholar with a distinct approach to Holocaust research. The majority of his studies dealt with perpetrators and bystanders – an area of research previously studied mainly by Germans and other nationals – but from the viewpoint of a researcher of Jewish history seeking to understand the Jewish dimension within wider developments. Among his topics of interest was how antisemitism became the most central and efficient tool used by the Nazi regime to sustain the flame of its ideology, both in internal regime struggles and in efforts to recruit the masses. He published numerous scholarly studies, including his notable book, *The Germans and the Final Solution: Public Opinion Under Nazism*. A recent publication, *Hitler, the Holocaust and German Society: Cooperation and Awareness*, collates a selection of his articles that reflect his principal scientific approach.

“Prof. Bankier was one of the most important and most cited scholars in the research of Nazi Germany. His publications in this field constitute a cornerstone of modern academic research,” eulogized Chairman of Yad Vashem Avner Shalev. He added that Prof. Bankier was a gifted and compelling lecturer, a human being of exceptional integrity, brilliant, sharp, and focused in his approach to research. “David was a great friend, exceptionally humble, and a *mensch*, who fought his illness with valor, refusing to cease his regular activities and continuing to work until his final day.”



Prof. Dan Michman, Yad Vashem’s Chief Historian, spoke of his long-standing relationship with Prof. Bankier. “Our partnership was such a pleasure... because of your professional expertise, the breadth of your knowledge, but above all, because you wore no mask: you firmly stated what you believed... while remaining open to the opinions of others, students and colleagues alike.”

Since Prof. Bankier’s death, Yad Vashem has received an outpouring of condolences from dozens of countries around the world – researchers, academics and students honoring the man and his work. “He was a friend of the Germans, though one who, as good friends are supposed to, often asked uncomfortable questions,” wrote German historian Prof. Goetz Aly. “He scrupulously searched for the answer to general human failure.”

“Prof. Bankier was one of the most important and most cited scholars in the research of Nazi Germany. His publications constitute a cornerstone of modern academic research”

Yad Vashem Chairman,
Avner Shalev

Nationwide Radio Campaign Bolsters Names Recovery

Deborah Berman

■ In mid-February, the *Shoah* Victims' Names Recovery Project launched a nationwide radio campaign calling on the Israeli public to commemorate the names of any *Shoah* victims they may remember. In the recorded message, aired widely on national radio, Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev reminded the public that to date, Yad Vashem has collected less than four million names. "Only with your help will we be able to complete our mission," he implored, and offered the services of project volunteers to anyone requiring assistance in submitting Pages of Testimony.

The successful campaign helped bring names collection to the forefront of public consciousness. Thousands of calls were received by volunteers (pictured), who sent out Pages of Testimony and offered help filling them out to those who requested it.

"Collecting names of Holocaust victims is an ongoing project," explained Hall of Names Director Alexander Avraham, "but as time goes

on, there are fewer survivors, and their memories fade." According to Avraham, the added element of empathy provided by project volunteers – some survivors and many more children of survivors – helps potential submitters access long-buried memories, and eases the emotional difficulties associated with commemoration of their lost loved ones.

For the duration of the campaign, volunteers fielded questions regarding the submission of Pages of Testimony, and also explained the importance of related commemorative efforts by Yad Vashem, including the filming of video testimony and the submission of artifacts, documents or photographs from the *Shoah* period.

Volunteer Linda Gallant described the strong public response to the campaign, and the importance of names collection as "our heritage, our history and ultimately what connects us all." Eliezer Lev-Yonah, another volunteer, believes that the act of commemorating family members

often provides survivors with a sense of closure: "They really pour out their hearts – for so long they have kept the memories of their loved ones inside, when they finally tell their story it gives them tremendous relief. As for me," he continues, "I am not helping just individuals, I am helping the Jewish people."

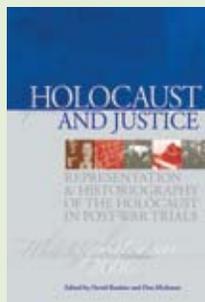


New Publications from the International Institute for Holocaust Research

David Bankier, Dan Michman (eds.), *Holocaust and Justice: Representation and Historiography of the Holocaust in Post-War Trials*

Yad Vashem Publications, in association with Berghahn Books
\$51 (airmail included)/ NIS 174

■ The historical significance of the Nuremberg Trials is widely acknowledged, and it is equally agreed by most people today that the murder of European Jewry was the greatest crime committed by the Third Reich. So why wasn't the Holocaust a central issue in any of the 13 trials of the International Military Tribunal conducted in Germany between 1945 and 1949? This book addresses this and related questions discussing the place of the Holocaust and its coverage by the media in the postwar trials of Nazi criminals conducted in various European countries.



Neomi Izhar, Chasia Bornstein-Bielicka: *One of the Few – A Resistance Fighter and Educator, 1939-1947*

\$29 (airmail included)/ NIS 110

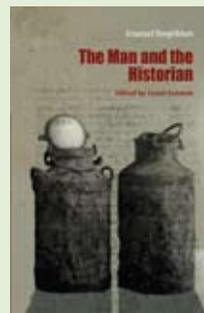
■ Chasia Bornstein-Bielicka grew up in Grodno, Poland. During the German occupation, she enlisted in the combat resistance and was sent to Białystok. There she became a liaison with the partisans, moving ammunition, medicines, food and information to the Białystok forests. When the war ended, Chasia embarked on a new chapter in her life: opening the first children's home of the Coordination for the Redemption of Jewish Children in Liberated Poland. For a year-and-a-half, she migrated with the children along the route of the Bricha to Germany, France and then to *Eretz Israel*.



Israel Gutman (ed.), Emanuel Ringelblum: *The Man and the Historian*

\$36.00 (airmail included)/ NIS 98

■ This publication comprises articles presented at the international research conference held at Yad Vashem in March 2004, on the 60th anniversary of the murder of the renowned historian. The articles focus on Ringelblum's life and activities, addressing the private man, the intellectual and the universal humanist. They incorporate his worldview, his writings, his social activities and the momentous venture he founded in the Warsaw ghetto – the *Oyneg Shabbes* (Oneg Shabbat) Archives. The 2010 edition contains the complete text of the previous bilingual edition translated into English.



To order these and other Yad Vashem publications:
Tel. 972-2-6443511, Fax 972-2-6443509, publications.marketing@yadvashem.org.il
Or purchase through our online store: <http://secure.yadvashem.org/store/>

New on www.yadvashem.org

Dana Porath

Monastir: The Story of a Sephardic Community in Macedonia

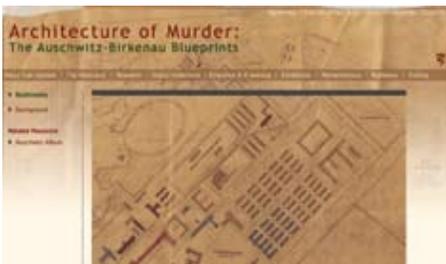


■ As part of the project “Here Their Stories Will Be Told,” the history of the Jewish community of Monastir, Macedonia is now viewable as an online exhibition.

This presentation relates the chronicles of the centuries-old community, the devastating events of the *Shoah*, and the postwar commemorative efforts of the few survivors in Israel and Macedonia.

Online Exhibition: “The Architecture of Murder”

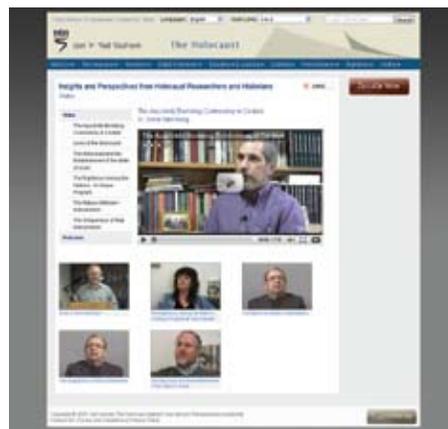
■ A new multimedia presentation provides background text to the recent Yad Vashem exhibition of the Auschwitz-Birkenau blueprints, as well as links to photos and architectural drawings.



Insights and Perspectives: Video Lecture Series

■ A new section on the Yad Vashem website and a playlist on Youtube now provide a visual learning environment for visitors. “Insights and Perspectives” features short lectures on a range of topics, including: Icons of the Holocaust; The Holocaust and the Establishment of the State of Israel; The Auschwitz Bombing Controversy in Context; The Righteous Among the Nations Program at Yad Vashem; and The Nature of Modern Antisemitism. More topics will be uploaded in the upcoming months.

“Here Their Stories Will Be Told” and “Insights and Perspectives” are supported by the Claims Conference.



Mini-site for Holocaust Remembrance Day

■ In advance of Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yad Vashem will upload a special site

with extensive related resources and an online presentation of the new exhibition “Virtues of Memory” (see pp. 6-7). The mini-site will be continuously updated with photos of events before, during and after Holocaust Remembrance Day, as well as the complete opening ceremony.

Updated Facebook Page Continues to Spark Interest



■ Yad Vashem updates its Facebook page regularly, with statuses ranging from links and relevant content from the website to specially prepared photo galleries of recent Yad Vashem activities and visits. The responses have been very positive. One visitor wrote: “I have known Yad Vashem for some time, and I’m glad to be part of this forum where I can read information and opinions and take part in discussions.” Said another: “Seeing footage like this never fails to horrify and move me. It is beyond belief what happened to these innocent men, women and children. We must not forget them; we must carry their memory on for future generations, which I intend to do with my own four children.”

The author is Director of Yad Vashem’s Internet Department.

  Stay Connected: Join Yad Vashem on Facebook: www.facebook.com/yadvashem and visit “Insights and Perspectives” – the Yad Vashem Blog: www.yad-vashem.blogspot.com

Council Members View Auschwitz Blueprints

■ At its annual meeting held on 12 January, Yad Vashem Council members heard a presentation from Dr. Haim Gertner, Director of the Archives Division, on the Auschwitz-Birkenau blueprints recently exhibited at the Exhibitions Pavilion and the UN Headquarters in New York. Participants were also addressed by Chairman of the Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, and Chairman of the Committee for the Designation of the Righteous Among the Nations, Justice Yaakov Türkel. Chairman of the Directorate Avner Shalev presented an outline of Yad Vashem’s activities for 2010.



Over the months of January, February and March 2010, Yad Vashem conducted some 150 guided tours for over 2,000 official visitors from Israel and abroad. These guests included heads of government, foreign and other ministers, ambassadors, governors and the families of Righteous Among the Nations. Following is a small selection of our honored guests over the past three months:



■ **US Vice President Joe Biden** (center) visited Yad Vashem on 9 March, accompanied by his wife, Dr. Jill Biden (right), and Nathan Eitan, Director General of Yad Vashem. They were guided through the Holocaust History Museum by Senior Historian and Editor of *Yad Vashem Studies* Dr. David Silberklang (left). The Vice President also participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance and visited the Children's Memorial. At the end of the visit, the Vice President remarked: "All you have to do is walk through Yad Vashem to understand how incredible the journey has been, and how Israel plays a central part in that journey."



■ **Prime Minister of Italy Silvio Berlusconi** (second from right) visited Yad Vashem on 1 February. He was accompanied by Italian government ministers, Israeli Education Minister Gideon Sa'ar (second from left), and Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev (right). Prime Minister Berlusconi visited the Holocaust History Museum and the Hall of Names, guided by Dr. Iael Nidam-Orvieto, Editor-in-Chief of Yad Vashem Publications (left). Throughout the visit the Prime Minister stopped to study numerous exhibits, particularly those related to the stories of individuals and children emphasized in the Museum. At the end of the visit, he said: "I was here already in 2000, but this time the visit was like a punch to the stomach, a moving visit of particular power."



■ **Admiral Michael G. Mullen** (center), **Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff**, and **Lt. General Gabi Ashkenazi** (right), **IDF Chief of the General Staff**, toured Yad Vashem on 16 February, guided by Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries Dr. Robert Rozett (left). The visit began with a moving greeting by Israeli soldiers and students visiting Yad Vashem. Adm. Mullen and Lt. Gen. Ashkenazi visited the Holocaust History Museum and the Hall of Names, as well as the new exhibition "Architecture of Murder: The Auschwitz-Birkenau Blueprints." They participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance and visited the Children's Memorial. Adm. Mullen signed the Visitors' Book: "... This is a wonderful and tragic place simultaneously to remember those who suffered and sacrificed so much and those who saw hope and created a bright future."



■ **President of Brazil, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva** (front, second from right), visited Yad Vashem on 16 March, accompanied by the First Lady Marisa Leticia Lula da Silva (front, second from left), Israel's President Shimon Peres (front, left) and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau (front, right). At the end of his tour, President da Silva said that a visit to the Holocaust History Museum should be mandatory for all national rulers. "I take back with me to Brazil the knowledge of what can happen when irrationality rules human beings. We can never allow something like the Holocaust to happen again."



■ During his visit to Yad Vashem on 5 January, **Macedonian Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski** (left) was guided through the Holocaust History Museum by Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries Dr. Robert Rozett (center). After visiting the Children's Memorial, Prime Minister Gruevski inscribed in the Visitors' Book: "This museum is unique because the tragedy that happened was unique. Never to be repeated."



■ **Prime Minister of Bulgaria Boyko Borissov** (center), visited Yad Vashem on 11 January. He was guided through the Holocaust History Museum by Senior Historian and Editor of *Yad Vashem Studies* Dr. David Silberklang (left).

Events: January-March 2010

■ At the end of December 2009, Yad Vashem hosted almost 500 Holocaust survivors during special visits organized in cooperation with the Center of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel and supported by the Ministry of Pensioner Affairs.

The visitors received a special guided tour of the Holocaust History Museum, a lecture by Na'ama Galil, Director of the Guiding Department of the Commemoration and Public Relations Division, a complimentary meal and a copy of the *Album of Holocaust Survivors in Israel*.

21 February ■ Memorial ceremony for the 769 victims on the illegal immigrant ship Struma that was sunk 68 years ago. The event took place at the Struma Martyrs' Synagogue in Be'er Sheva, in the presence of Minister for Minority Affairs Avishai Braverman; Romanian Ambassador to Israel H.E. Mr. Edward Iosiper; Mayor of Be'er Sheva Ruvik Danilowitz; Chairman of the Struma Martyrs' Museum and Synagogue Arieh Reiter; Chief Rabbi of Modiin Rabbi David Lau; Honorary Consul of Romania in Israel Richard Armon; and Chairman of the Israel-Romania Friendship Association Moshe Nagor. Vice-Chairman of the Struma Museum Baruch Tarkatin spoke on behalf of the bereaved families, and Na'ama Galil, Director of the Guiding Department of the Commemoration and Public Relations Division, recounted the ship's fateful journey.

28 February ■ Reading of Megillat Esther at the Yad Vashem Synagogue in the presence of dozens of former residents of Krakow and students from the Hartman Boys High School in Jerusalem. On display in the Synagogue is an ancient and very beautiful copy of the megillah, found during the war in a trash heap in the courtyard of a Jewish school in the Kazimierz quarter of Krakow and brought to Yad Vashem for safekeeping. Director of the Shaarei Tzedek Hospital in Jerusalem Prof. Yonatan Halevy (right) read the megillah, and Rabbi Shazar Rachmani (left) hosted the event.



7 March ■ Ceremony honoring the late Michalina Jasko of Poland as Righteous Among the Nations. During the war, Jasko found a hiding place for members of the Guter family and saw to all their needs. Left to right: Holocaust survivor Halina Guter, Chairman of the Commission for the Designation of the Righteous Among the Nations Justice Yaacov Türkkel, granddaughter of the Righteous Ela Grove (USA)



11 March ■ Holocaust survivor Benvenita (Betty) Azuri from Skopje relates the story of how she was saved by Righteous Among the Nations at the annual memorial service marking the 67th anniversary of the deportation of the Jews of Macedonia. Also speaking at the event were: Chairman of the Next Generations of Macedonian Jews Moshe Testa; Chairman of the Association of Immigrants from Former Yugoslavia Moshe Ben Shazar; Macedonian Ambassador to Israel H.E. Mr. Pajo Avirovic; and Holocaust survivor Miriam Aviezer. The same day, Yad Vashem launched a new online exhibition, "Monastir: The Story of a Sephardic Community in Macedonia." At the ceremony, Yona Kobo of Yad Vashem, who researched the history of the community, spoke about the exhibition.



24 March ■ The Leipzig Choir, conducted by Musical Director Helmut Klotz, sang at the Yad Vashem Synagogue. The choir, whose purpose is to preserve and disseminate the musical heritage of the Jews though none of the singers is Jewish, sang synagogue music as it was performed in Germany in the 19th and early 20th centuries until the Holocaust, as well as arrangements of Yiddish and Hebrew folk songs and compositions by contemporary composers.



■ During their tour of the Holocaust History Museum on 21 January, President of Micronesia, H.E. Mr. Emanuel Mori (second from right), and President of Nauru, H.E. the Hon. Marcus Stephen MP (center), were guided by Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries Dr. Robert Rozett (second from left).



■ President of Panama Ricardo Martinelli visited Yad Vashem on 2 March, and toured the Holocaust History Museum, guided by Senior Historian and Editor of *Yad Vashem Studies* Dr. David Silberklang. The President also participated in a memorial ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance.



■ The Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Revd. Dr. Rowan Williams toured Yad Vashem on 22 February, accompanied by the Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem, the Rt. Revd. Suheil Dawani, Director-General of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel Oded Wiener, and other respected Anglican and Jewish clergy. Orit Margaliof of the International School guided the distinguished group.

Visual Center Receives Artur Brauner Film Collection

Liat Benhabib and Mimi Ash

■ German film producer Artur Brauner has made more than 260 feature films during his 60-year career, including 22 feature films – some iconic – about the Holocaust. The latter include the Golden Globe and Oscar-winning *The Garden of the Finzi Continis* (1970, Vittoria DeSica), *The White Rose* (1982, Michael Verhoeven) and *Europa Europa* (1990, Agnieszka Holland).

Brauner recently donated copies of all of his Holocaust-related films to the Visual Center, and in honor of his special contribution to the field of Holocaust Cinema, on 24 March the Center inaugurated the Artur Brauner Research Station in the presence of Brauner and his family, some 50 of whom live in Israel.



■ Film producer Artur Brauner

Brauner first fell in love with film as a young man in his native Lodz. Born to a timber merchant in 1918, he was a student at Lodz Polytechnic when the Germans invaded Poland in 1939. Forty-nine of his relatives were murdered by the Nazis, but he and his immediate family escaped to the Soviet Union, where they found refuge for the duration of the war. Brauner's parents and three of his siblings emigrated to Israel after the war.

Brauner, however, made his way to Berlin to pursue a film career. He launched CCC Film GmbH in September 1946, and his first

production, *Morituri* (1948, Eugen York), was intended as a memorial to the victims of German racial hatred. However, the film was a financial and personal fiasco for the young Brauner, who quickly realized that the German public was not yet ready to face its past. In response, he turned to more popular endeavors, and during the 1950s achieved commercial success through a series of films inspired by the “Dr. Mabuse” character, as well as Karl May’s popular tales of the American Old West. The CCC Film Studios were among the busiest in Western Europe at the time.

Artur Brauner’s activities as a major producer of popular West German films eventually afforded him the financial base to create more personal films, rooted in his individual concerns as a Holocaust survivor. In addition to those mentioned above, some of his most outstanding Holocaust-related films are Oscar nominees *Angry Harvest* (1985, Agnieszka Holland), *Hanussen* (1988, István Szabó) and *Babijar* (2003, Jeff Kanew).

Brauner was awarded the Golden Camera for Lifetime Achievement at the 2000 Berlinale. He is a prominent member of the Berlin Jewish community, having received the 1993 *Bundesverdienstkreuz* (Federal Cross of Merit). Brauner has been married to Maria (Theresa) since 1947. They have four children and seven grandchildren.

Liat Benhabib is the Director of the Visual Center. Mimi Ash is the Center's Acquisition and Projects Coordinator.

Continuing the Legacy: Mark Moskowitz

■ Mark Moskowitz, 48, is the son of Rose Moskowitz and the late Henry Moskowitz, both Holocaust survivors who immigrated to the United States in 1951.



Mark and his siblings, Sonia, Jacob and Dan,

were raised on the Upper West Side and educated at Ramaz School. After attending Columbia Business School, he joined the family real estate and hotel business, Argo Real Estate LLC, established by Henry in 1952, in which he currently serves as President and CEO.

Over the last few years, Mark has continued and expanded his family’s involvement in Yad Vashem’s activities. “Yad Vashem is the ultimate authority for Holocaust commemoration and remembrance. On behalf of my family, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to honor my late father with the dedication of the Square of Hope at Yad Vashem.”

Mark has attended the official state Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony at Yad Vashem for the past five years, representing the American Society for Yad Vashem’s “Young Generation” at one such event.

“Spots of Light” Opens in Granada, Spain

■ On 16 February, Yad Vashem’s traveling exhibition “*Spots of Light: To Be a Woman in the Holocaust*” (in Spanish) opened at the magnificent Museo De la Memoria De Andalucia in Granada. The guest of honor at the packed opening was the exhibition’s curator, Director of Yad Vashem’s Museums Division Yehudit Inbar. Addressing the audience of dignitaries, journalists and honored guests, Inbar spoke of the legacy of Jewish women during the Holocaust: “They were not interested in honors, nor in being the subjects of ‘three lines in a history book,’ nor did they think in terms of bravery. Instead, they focused on trying to save lives, especially those of children... This is the message that these women gave to the world, and it is a positive message.”



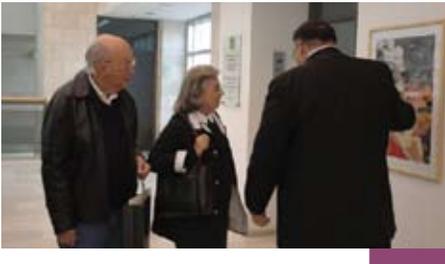
Friends Worldwide

USA

■ Yad Vashem Trustee **Selma Gruder Horowitz** (center) toured the Mount of Remembrance in December together with her extended family. During her visit she met with Chairman of the Directorate **Avner Shalev** (right) and Chairman of the **American Society for Yad Vashem Eli Zborowski** (left).



■ **Marilyn and Henry Taub** recently visited Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies, accompanied by Managing Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (right).



■ In December, **Israel Roizman** (left) toured the Holocaust History Museum together with **Robin Wiessmann, Ken Garon** and their children.



■ Three generations of the Wilf and Frieder family gathered at Yad Vashem on 15 March to mark the bat mitzvah of **Rachel Wilf**. Included among the guests were Rachel's grandparents, Yad Vashem Benefactors **Elizabeth and Joseph Wilf** and **Lois and Richard Frieder**, Rachel's parents, **Jane and Mark Wilf**, and her aunt and uncle, **Audrey and Zygi Wilf**.

The extensive tour included a visit to the Valley of the Communities and the Holocaust

History Museum, and a moving ceremony in the Synagogue, during which Yad Vashem Chairman **Avner Shalev** presented Rachel and her twin cousins **Julia and Emily Conn** each with a bat mitzvah certificate and the *Gurs Hagadah*.

Pictured: The extended family standing in front of the plaque honoring their munificent contribution towards the construction of the Holocaust History Museum



■ During a recent visit with his grandson, Yad Vashem Builder **Harvey Krueger** (second from left) met Chairman of the Directorate **Avner Shalev** (left) and Managing Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda**. (right)



■ Yad Vashem Builders **Rachel Landau Gottstein** and **Barnard J. Gottstein** and their family (pictured by the Donors Wall in the Square of Hope) toured the Holocaust History Museum with Managing Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda**.



■ During their visit to Yad Vashem, delegates from the Combined Jewish Philanthropies

Mission to Israel toured the Holocaust History Museum and attended a behind-the-scenes tour of the Archives.



■ Over 800 people gathered for the **American Society for Yad Vashem Young Leadership Associates Annual Winter Gala** held on 4 February at the Metropolitan Pavilion in New York. The Young Leadership Associates, a group of dedicated future leaders and highly motivated young professionals, are an integral part of the American Society's efforts to commemorate the Holocaust through educational programs, social events and other activities. Left to right: American Society Chairman **Eli Zborowski**, Cultural Director **Elizabeth Mundlak-Zborowski**, Chair of the Young Leadership Associates **Caroline Massel**, and Event Co-Chairs **Jaci Paradis, Rebecca Hanus** and **Barry Levine**.



■ During her tour of the Yad Vashem campus, **Pamela Mars Wright** (second from left) visited the Holocaust History Museum and Holocaust Art Museum, and laid a wreath in the Hall of Remembrance. She was accompanied by **Joseph Ciechanover, Howard-Yana Shapiro** and **Joseph Toledano**.



Friends Worldwide

UK

■ Yad Vashem Supporter **Scott Saunders** attended a seminar at Yad Vashem in January and participated in the opening of the exhibition “Architecture of Murder: The Auschwitz-Birkenau Blueprints.” He also attended an exclusive presentation by Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council **Rabbi Israel Meir Lau**.



CANADA

■ Addressing a crowd of more than 400 at the Fifth Annual “Dinner of Miracles” in Toronto, **Canadian Society for Yad Vashem** National Chair **Fran Sonshine** (center), Azrieli Foundation’s Chair and Executive Director **Dr. Naomi Azrieli** (second from right) and Canadian Society Executive Director **Yaron Ashkenazi** (right) presented the Yad Vashem exhibition album *Spots of Light: To Be a Woman in the Holocaust* to New Leadership Division and Dinner Co-Chairs **Sherri Rotstein** (left) and **Shawna Samuel** (second from left). The Dinner of Miracles is a special evening of dialogue between young adults and Holocaust survivors that marks both the miracle of Hanukkah and the miracle of survival during the *Shoah*.



■ Yad Vashem hosted a delegation of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem for a five-day visit to Yad Vashem in January. Pictured: delegates from the group led by the Society’s National Chair **Fran Sonshine** (third from right)

with Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council **Rabbi Israel Meir Lau** (fourth from right)



■ **Fran and Ed Sonshine** met Israel’s Deputy Prime Minister **Dan Meridor** (center) at a special dinner arranged for the delegates of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem.



AUSTRALIA

■ **Dr. Harry Perelberg** of Melbourne is the generous donor (with **Greg Rosshandler**) of Yad Vashem’s new exhibition, “Architecture of Murder: The Auschwitz-Birkenau Blueprints.” Left to right, on the eve of the opening of the exhibition in January: Mayor of Jerusalem **Nir Barkat**, Dr. Harry Perelberg, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate **Avner Shalev**, Director of Yad Vashem’s English-Speaking Desk **David Metzler**



■ **Paul and Sharon Bassat** of Melbourne recently joined Yad Vashem’s Circle of Supporters by contributing to the project “Survivor Testimonies: A Race Against Time.” This ongoing project videotapes testimonies of Holocaust survivors in Israel in their own homes. In February, the Bassats came to Yad Vashem for

a special tour with their children **Joel, Jasmine** and **Jeremy**, and viewed their plaque in honor of Paul’s grandmother **Hadassa Teicher**.



■ **Esther and David Frenkiel** of Melbourne (second and third from left) came with their family and **Joey Borensztajn** (left) for a behind-the-scenes tour of Yad Vashem in January. Yad Vashem’s Senior Art Curator **Yehudit Shendar** (right) gave the group a special presentation of Yad Vashem’s unique art collection.



■ In January, **Phil Symons** of B’nai B’rith’s Raoul Wallenberg Unit in Melbourne came for a tour of Yad Vashem’s Holocaust History Museum and the International School for Holocaust Studies. The Raoul Wallenberg Unit has awarded Pauline Glass Study Grants to Australian educators over the past decade, enabling them to participate in teacher-training seminars at Yad Vashem.



HONG KONG

■ Yad Vashem friends **Sylvain Gilbert** (left) and **Sabine Wolf-Gilbert** (right) were joined by **Sara Pecenac** of Yad Vashem's Archives and Director of Yad Vashem's English-Speaking Desk **David Metzler** at the official ceremony marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day in Hong Kong.



VENEZUELA

■ **Ariel Zisman** and his son **Gabriel** met with Director of the Iberoamerican, Spanish and Portuguese Desk **Perla Hazan** (right) during their visit to Yad Vashem for Gabriel's bar mitzvah.



SPAIN

■ **Deborah** and **Aaron Benoliel** visited Yad Vashem with their baby daughter **Keren**.



MÉXICO

■ México City Governor **Enrique Peña Nieto** (center) visited Yad Vashem with leaders of the Jewish Community **Oscar** and **Jeannette Gorodzinsky** (fourth and fifth from left), **Vivian** and **Rafael Zaga** (left), President of the Mexican Association for Yad Vashem **Eva Lijtszain** (fifth from right), and **Renee Shabot** (sixth from right).



■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of **Eugenia Halbreich, z"l** of Brazil. May her family be comforted among the mourners of Zion.

■ Yad Vashem mourns the passing of **Siza Schwartz, z"l** of Panama. May her family be comforted among the mourners of Zion.

CHRISTIAN DESK

■ A ceremony was held at the International School for Holocaust Studies to mark a recent donation to Yad Vashem by German Christians, received through the offices of the ICEJ (International Christian Embassy Jerusalem) German branch. This generous donation will enable the first international seminar for Christian leadership to take place this April. Pictured left to right: Managing Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda**, Yad Vashem Director-General **Nathan Eitan**, ICEJ Executive Director **Rev. Malcolm Hedding**, ICEJ International Director **Dr. Jurgen Buehler**, Director of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen**



■ Former Governor of Arkansas **Mike Huckabee** (right) visited Yad Vashem in February, hosted by the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem. He was joined by 150 tour participants, including Congressman **Bob McEwen** (Ohio), Founder and Chairman of Liberty Counsel **Mathew Staver** and singer and performing star **Pat Boone**. The guests were accompanied throughout their visit by Managing Director of the International Relations Division **Shaya Ben Yehuda** (left) and Director of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem **Dr. Susanna Kokkonen** (center).



Yad Vashem Needs Your Support!

In these difficult times of financial uncertainty and a worrying rise in antisemitism around the world, Yad Vashem is redoubling its efforts to commemorate the Holocaust, disseminate its universal implications and strengthen Jewish 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:

USA: American Society for Yad Vashem
500 Fifth Avenue, 42nd Floor
New York, NY 10110
Tel: 1-800-310-7495 or 1-212-220-4304

CANADA: Canadian Society for Yad Vashem
970 Lawrence Avenue West, Suite 211
Toronto, ONT M6A 3B6
Tel: 1-416-785-1333

UK: British Friends of Yad Vashem
6 Bloomsbury Square
London, WC1A 2LP
Tel: 020-7543-5402

■ For information on societies in other countries, or to donate online, please visit: www.yadvashem.org and click on "Donate Now."

Donations may also be sent to: International Relations Division, Yad Vashem, PO Box 3477, Jerusalem 91034, Israel.

Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day 2010

Program of Events at Yad Vashem

Eve of Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day: Sunday 11 April

- 20:00** **Opening ceremony marking Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day**, in the presence of Israel's President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the Knesset and President of the Supreme Court—**Warsaw Ghetto Square**
Admission by personal invitation only
- 22:00** **Symposium on "Identity in Transit: The Individual and the Community Through the Lens of Time"**—**Auditorium**
Registration only in advance, tel: 02-6443631/19

Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day: Monday 12 April

Educational activities for groups from Israel and abroad, including meetings with survivors, will take place across the country, in schools, absorption centers and community centers.
For details, tel: 02-6443630

- 10:00** **Siren**
- 10:02** **Wreath-laying ceremony** with the participation of Israel's President, Prime Minister, Deputy Speaker of the Knesset, President of the Supreme Court, Chairman of the Jewish Agency, Chief of General Staff, Chief of Police, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Mayor of Jerusalem, public figures, representatives of survivor organizations, school children and delegations from throughout the country—**Warsaw Ghetto Square**
- 10:30 – 12:30** **"Unto Every Person There is a Name"** Recitation of Holocaust victims' names by members of the public—**Hall of Remembrance**
- 11:00** **"Unto Every Person There is a Name"** Recitation of Holocaust victims' names in the presence of the Speaker of the Knesset and public figures—**Knesset**
- 13:00** **Main memorial ceremony**—**Hall of Remembrance**
- 15:30** **Opening of the new exhibition, "Virtues of Memory: Six Decades of Holocaust Survivors' Creativity"**—**Exhibitions Pavilion**
Admission by personal invitation only. (The exhibition will open to the public on Tuesday 13 April.)
- 16:00** **Memorial ceremony for former members of the Jewish Resistance in France**—**Auditorium**
- 17:30** **Ceremony for youth movements** in conjunction with the Youth Movement Council and the Ministry of Education's Youth and Social Administration and in the presences of the Director-General of the Ministry of Education, hundreds of youth movement members, Holocaust survivors and members of their families—**Warsaw Ghetto Square**
- ■ ■
- 18:30** **Assembly of the "Generation to Generation-Bearers of the Holocaust and Heroism Legacy" organization** with the participation of Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev. Program: Special Concert, "Vienna to Auschwitz – A Tribute to Alma Rose," performed by the Ra'anana Symphony Orchestra—**Tel Aviv "Tzavta" (Tzavta Chazan Hall 3), 30 Rehov Ibn Gvirol, Tel Aviv**
For registration and details: dorot.hahemshech@gmail.com or tel: 02-6443822

Tuesday 13 April

- 20:30** **Special Screening of Berlin 36** in cooperation with Yad Vashem's Visual Center, with an opening address by Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries Dr. Robert Rozett and Director of the Visual Center Liat Benhabib—**Rebecca Crown Auditorium, Jerusalem Theater**
For tickets: 02-5605755



Yad Vashem

The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes'
Remembrance Authority

Yad Vashem Jerusalem Magazine
P.O. Box 3477, Jerusalem 91034, Israel
Tel: 972-2-644-3400, Fax: 972-2-6443409
yv.magazine@yadvashem.org.il
www.yadvashem.org