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Leonard E. Greenberg  
999 Quaker Lane South  
West Hartford, CT 06110

January 29, 1986

Ms. Linda Chavez  
Assistant to the President  
Director for Public Liaison  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Linda:

First of all, let me extend my warm support and congratulate you for your decision to run for Senator from the State of Maryland. I certainly hope that we will have the pleasure of greeting Senator Chavez in the near future.

Let me call to your attention by means of this letter, what I feel is a paramount necessity regarding the Administration and Vice President George Bush. His recent comments of encouragement to the Moral Majority and his association with their programs brings great concern to the Jewish community regarding just where the Administration lies on these sensitive issues. This problem you know only too well.

I think it is incumbent that George Bush have a platform in which he can speak more "evenhandedly" and such a platform will exist in Hartford on Thursday, November 20, 1986 when the Jewish Theological Seminary will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary before the citizens of the Jewish community in the State of Connecticut. It should be a splendid, well attended event and an ideal opportunity to speak out on those issues to which I refer.

Furthermore, I personally will be honored there for a grant my wife and I made to a 10 year program at the Seminary dealing with sensitive social problems. Your help in encouraging his participation in that affair as our keynote speaker would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Leonard*

LEG/mam

XC: C. Gersten

*Map, See if VP has  
a schedule request on file - if not  
we should probably do one.*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 11, 1986

Dear Mr. Meed:

I did ask the Vice President's office if there was any chance of his attending the Statue of Liberty Island event. Unfortunately, he will be on the road, and, therefore, unable to participate.

Have you considered the Secretary of Interior Hodel? I think he would be appropriate for the occasion - both because of his position and his strong feelings about the issue.

I look forward to meeting you soon.

Sincerely,



Max Green  
Associate Director, Office of  
Public Liaison

Mr. Benjamin Meed  
President  
American Gathering/Federation  
of Jewish Holocaust Survivors  
122 West 30th Street  
Suite 205  
New York, N.Y. 10001

F.

Bryan Mead

Dear Mr. Mead,

I will <sup>ask</sup> ~~check with~~ the Vice President's  
office ~~to find out~~ if there was any change of  
~~the~~ his attending the State of Liberty  
Bldg. event. Unfortunately, he will be out of the country,  
therefore, unable to participate.

Have you considered the Secretary of Antislavery  
Hotel? ~~He would seem to be the most appropriate~~ ~~the~~ ~~frank~~  
~~strongly about the issue as the~~ ~~seems~~ I think he would  
be appropriate for the occasion - both because of his  
position and his strong feelings about the issue.

I look ~~forward~~ f.

I look forward to meeting you soon.

Sincerely,

gmc

AD



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON

July 16, 1986

Mr. Benjamin Meed  
President  
American Gathering/Federation  
of Jewish Holocaust Survivors  
122 West 30th Street  
Suite 205  
New York, New York 10001

Dear Mr. Meed:

Thank you for your letter of July 1, 1986 inviting the Vice President to attend the celebration of "Forty Years of our New Life" on September 7, 1986.

Unfortunately, prior commitments will prevent the Vice President from joining you. He would, however, like to take this opportunity to express his appreciation for your thoughtful invitation and to extend his best wishes for a memorable day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah J. Hutton".

Deborah J. Hutton  
Deputy Assistant to the Vice President  
for Scheduling



# TOGETHER

*Published by the*

**American Gathering and Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors**

אמעריקאנער צוזאמענקום־פעדעראציע פון דער שארית הפליטה

VOLUME 1, NO.2

AUGUST, 1985



The people of Philadelphia greeted the Inaugural Assembly with open arms and — bright lights.

*Sign and photo courtesy of the Philadelphia Electric Company*

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## TOGETHER — Published by

AMERICAN GATHERING AND FEDERATION  
OF JEWISH HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

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פֿון דער שארית הפליטה

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Solomon Zynstein  
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## JOIN US . . .

**We are now the unified  
major survivors' organization  
on a national level.**

**We urge you and your children  
to join us as members.**

Our dues are deliberately modest,  
so no survivor will be excluded from  
membership due to financial hardship.  
We need both your active and financial  
support to be a viable voice on behalf  
of Holocaust survivors.

**WE NEED YOUR  
SUPPORT TO  
CONTINUE OUR  
ACTIVITIES.**

We are all volunteers working for  
the organization full or part-time  
but we need your support  
to fund our programs.

**To send your tax-deductible  
dues and contributions, please  
use the envelope inserted  
in this issue.**

**IF YOU HAVE CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS...  
please notify us immediately.**

If you received more than one copy of this issue, please give it  
to a friend, but let us know — *we are trying to eliminate  
costly duplicate mailings.* Write to:

**AMERICAN GATHERING OF  
JEWISH HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS  
122 West 30th St. New York, N.Y. 10001**

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in this issue.**

לשנה טובה תכתבו ותחתמו

א געזונט און גליקלעך יאר

*Wishing you a  
Happy and Healthy New Year  
May we continue to be together  
And let us remember together.*



### American Gathering and Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors

אמעריקאנער צוזאמענקום פערדעראציע פון דער שארית הפליטה

national ceremony at Arlington Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

As the events of the past months are assessed and absorbed into our consciousness, it will become clear that there is much work for us to do. Only a forceful, united, national survivor organization could have summoned the moral courage and the determination to carry our message to the White House, Congress and the media.

In Philadelphia, for the first time, all survivors organizations were united under one umbrella — the American Gathering and Federation — a national organization with a democratically elected leadership, sustained by the enthusiastic backing of the survivors and the second generation as well as the community at large.

The American Gathering has become a membership organization. Each survivor and every child of

people.

Over the next few years, it will be a document the third stage of our journey from death and enslavement to new life. Only we can fulfill this obligation and the future.

Forty years have passed since our lives were difficult years of rebuilding our lives. Not all of us were fortunate enough to have the resources to prepare for retirement and the future.

We must develop plans for helping those in need. In the metropolitan New York area more than 2,000 survivors are on welfare and others in similar circumstances throughout the country.

On a personal note — In Philadelphia, I have been elected president of the American Gathering and Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors.



# Challenges Facing the Survivor Community

By Benjamin Meed

The spectre of Bitburg hung over the Gathering in Philadelphia, but its dark clouds could not diminish the glow of our being together, nor obscure our achievements. From the opening event at the Holocaust Monument to the closing moment of the Assembly when survivors stood solemnly for a minute of silence — 10,000 of us and our children — surrounded by thousands of Philadelphians, were united in our feelings of dismay at the President's statements.

But in a way, the events surrounding Bitburg underscored the importance of our work and efforts. Survivors and their children took the leadership in protesting President Reagan's action and the Jewish community followed our lead.

The American Gathering has been in the forefront of the struggle and, on Bitburg day, as members of the second generation held a solemn demonstration at Bergen-Belsen, survivors gathered in military cemeteries throughout the country — culminating in the national ceremony at Arlington Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

As the events of the past months are assessed and absorbed into our consciousness, it will become clear that there is much work for us to do. Only a forceful, united, national survivor organization could have summoned the moral courage and the determination to carry our message to the White House, Congress and the media.

In Philadelphia, for the first time, all survivors organizations were united under one umbrella — the American Gathering and Federation — a national organization with a democratically elected leadership, sustained by the enthusiastic backing of the survivors and the second generation as well as the community at large.

The American Gathering has become a membership organization. Each survivor and every child of survivors will be asked to join and to support our program. The financial strength will enable us to continue our work effectively.

This summer, the American Gathering has sponsored and financed a Holocaust study program at Ghetto Fighters' House in Israel for 30 U.S. teachers. Upon their return, these teachers will convey to their students in the public schools what they learned in Israel. So, through our program, more than 5,000 students will receive a Holocaust education. It is our aim

to include in our intensive seminar a greater number of teachers each year, so that more children from all over the country will gain from this experience.

Another important project we are working on is the National Register of Jewish Holocaust Survivors which now contains some 55,000 names. It has become the foundation of a major archive on the life of the survivors. It will tell the miraculous story of our rebirth in the land of freedom and will document not only our sorrow, but what we have done with our new lives.

It is imperative that all survivors and their children have their names recorded in the National Register for history, documentation and research.

As living witnesses to a once rich, vibrant culture of European Jewry, we are committed to preserving the values of a world that is no longer. As to the Holocaust, we continue the work of commemoration, education and the recording of the destruction of our people.

Over the next few years, it will be our obligation to document the third stage of our experience — the journey from death and enslavement to a productive new life. Only *we* can fulfill this obligation to history and the future.

Forty years have passed since our liberation. These were difficult years of rebuilding our shattered lives. Not all of us were fortunate enough to have the resources to prepare for retirement. Many of us are alone and need help.

We must develop plans for helping those survivors in need. In the metropolitan New York area alone, more than 2,000 survivors are on welfare. There are others in similar circumstances throughout the country.

On a personal note — in Philadelphia, I was privileged to have been elected president of the American Gathering and Federation. I pledge to you that I shall spare no personal effort on behalf of the Gathering so that when we meet again in 1987, the survivors and their organizations will be at the core of the American Jewish experience.

Our voice can have its true power only when we speak collectively and each of us in our home community must act for the benefit of the entire community. We have an obligation to remember. Let us do it together!



*Vladka Meed speaking at ceremony near Monument. Seated: Mayor W. Wilson Goode and Marion A. Wilen.*

**T**he Inaugural Assembly of the American Gathering and Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors convened in Philadelphia for three days of memorable and exciting activities.

The Jewish community in Philadelphia never before experienced such a massive outpouring of survivors and their families, estimated at more than ten thousand. Although the primary purpose of the gathering was to formalize the unification of some major survivor groups into one national organization, the Bitburg affair added a historical urgency to the events.

The highlights of the first day of the action-packed Assembly included outdoor ceremonies of commemoration at the Monument of the Six Million, a mass procession through the streets of the city leading to Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell — America's symbol of freedom — culminating in a rally in Independence Park, where leaders of the survivors and the second generation, dignitaries, and members of the clergy addressed the

crowd of Philadelphians and thousands of survivors who came with their children and grandchildren from forty states of the Union.

The days were crowned with impressive evening stage shows and concerts at the huge Civic Center: "An Evening of Commemoration

Through the Performing Arts" presented on Sunday by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council and the Monday Heritage Concert "From Generation to Generation . . . We Live!"

**Sunday, April 21, 1985**

The day began with a major event — a solemn ceremony in front of the Monument to the Six Million Jewish Martyrs. The sculpture, created by the famous artist Natan Rapoport, is one of the first monuments to the Holocaust erected in this country.

The noontime ceremony, held outdoors under a bright spring sun, had been arranged by the organized Jewish community of Philadelphia and was conducted by Marion A. Wilen, Chairwoman of the Memorial Committee. Among the speakers were W. Wilson Goode, Mayor of Philadelphia; Bennett L. Aaron, President of the Federation of Jewish Agencies; Father Michael Picard, Director, Cardinal's Commission on Human Relations; Rabbi Max Hausen, President, Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia; Rev. C. Edward Geiger, Director, Metropolitan Christian Council.



*Children laying a wreath at monument to the Six Million Jewish Martyrs.*

The keynote speaker at the ceremony was Vladka Meed, author of *On Both Sides of the Wall*. Vladka's moving speech, in Yiddish and English, was greeted with enthusiastic applause. "Now, as world leaders gather to celebrate the end of World War II, we the survivors of the war against the Jews, think not only of military valor and of victory, but we think of our Jewish world that was cut down, of Jewish suffering and resistance. Yes, we will remember, with gratitude and respect, the decency of the few — of some righteous people and nations. We remember, above all, the six million. We carry their memory with us wherever we go. We search for ways to inscribe it into the consciousness of our people and the world around us so that twisted minds of Nazi historians should not dishonor their memory."

The symbolic six candles were lit by children of survivors and by former soldiers, liberators of the concentration camps, while thousands gathered in the Square joined in a collective Kaddish and El Mole Rachamim. The Partisans' Hymn was sung by Mrs. Bina Landau, a Philadelphia cantor and survivor of Nazi death camps.

Following the service, the survi-



vors began their slow march under a hot sun, to the Liberty Bell, where each placed a flower to pay homage to America's symbol of freedom.

Sunday Afternoon, April 21, 1985

An overflow crowd of thousands filled Independence Park to attend the formal opening of the Inaugural Assembly. Chaired by Benjamin Meed, the assembly began with the U.S. Army Band playing American, Hebrew and Yiddish songs.

The speakers included S. Richard Thornburgh, Governor of Penn-

sylvania, Senator Arlen Specter (R-Pa.), W. Wilson Goode, Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, Cardinal John Krol and Menachem Z. Rosenhaft, Founding Chairman of the International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors.

One of the most impressive segments of the ceremony was the Trooping of Regimental Colors, a colorful procession of soldiers presenting flags of their U.S. Army units that liberated the Nazi concentration camps forty years ago. These flags will be permanently displayed in the future U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.



Mildred Dicker of New York among the thousands who placed a carnation at the Liberty Bell.

Benjamin Meed, ringed on the reviewing stand by community leaders and clergy of all faiths, conducted the proceedings with dignity. "We who came back from the pit of hell," said Meed, "transmit our memories of pain and suffering to our children because we believe that by remembering the past, we can build the future with integrity. Therefore, we want our national leaders — whom we respect and admire — to know that we are hurt and angered when they suggest that now is the time to forget, that amnesia should be the foundation of the German future."

Recalling the liberation of the Nazi death camps, Meed said, "Never shall we forget that American soldiers offered the ultimate sacrifice to defeat Nazism. American armies liberated many concentration camps and rehabilitated the survivors. America offered us a home and a haven when we had nowhere to go. America became for all of us a land of opportunity. Because of its commitment to freedom, America has stood by Israel in its moments of triumph and agony."

With the Bitburg affair hovering over the events of the day, most of the speakers skirted the issue, while some alluded to it briefly. However,



Menachem Rosensaft delivered an impassioned speech, devoted entirely to the Bitburg affair. Rosensaft's attack on Reagan's trip and its implications stirred the audience and evoked an enthusiastic response.

"Today," said Rosensaft, "let us — as proud Americans — say to President Reagan clearly and unambiguously that if he insists on going to Bitburg, we do not need him and we do not want him at Bergen-Belsen. If he intends to carry out his ill-conceived plan to lay a wreath at a cemetery where SS men are buried,

and persists in equating dead German soldiers with the victims of the Holocaust, his presence at Belsen would violate the sanctity of the mass graves.

"Moreover," Rosensaft continued, "if President Reagan refuses to cancel the visit to Bitburg, we must see to it that survivors, children of survivors and American veterans will be waiting for him at the gates of the cemetery. Let him pass in front of us *there* and look into our faces, and perhaps then, at last, he will understand the enormity of the outrage which he is perpetrating."



**Benjamin Meed addresses Inaugural Assembly at Independence Park.**



The solemn musical presentation was a highlight of the afternoon. The "Covenant to Remember," a cantata, was performed by the U.S. Army Band and Choir. This inspiring artistic interlude on strictly Jewish themes and the spectacular display of flags had a striking effect on the survivors, whose memories of a hostile Europe contrasted with this phenomenon — military honors accorded to the Jewish people and their memory.

The ceremony ended with six symbolic ringings of the Independence Hall Bell and the blowing of the Shofar.

### Sunday Evening, April 21

More than 10,000 people filled the Auditorium at the Civic Center for "An Evening of Commemoration Through the Performing Arts," presented by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

The evening's performers — artists, musicians and journalists — included many outstanding personalities. Among them were singers Jo Anderson, Martina Arroyo, Cantors David Bagley and Rosalie Gerut;



conductors Franz Bibo and Zalmen Mlotek; Barbara Walters, Marvin Kalb, Daniel Schorr and Mike Wallace, TV newsmen; and Holocaust scholar David Wyman. The artists also included Ellen Burstyn, James Earl Jones, Michael Moriarty, Marian Seldes, Joseph Wiseman and Michael York.

The meaningful program was introduced by Sigmund Strochlitz, Chairman of the Days of Remembrance Committee, and Sam E. Bloch, Senior Vice President of the American Gathering and Chairman of the Board of Advisors of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

Bloch emphasized "the world of goodness and beauty, culture and eternal universal values, a heritage which we try so hard to uphold in honor of our dear ones whose lives have been cut short so brutally."

"Remembrance," Bloch said, "means keeping memories alive, guarding against denials, detractions and defamation of our experience;

"Remembrance means commitment to the spiritual values of our perished martyrs;

"Remembrance means action, to translate the commitment into practical endeavors;

"To work for the welfare of our people, with the State of Israel in its center, the cherished dream of the six million, which they did not live to see become a reality.

"Remembrance means giving our fullest unflinching support to the ef-



Philadelphia young leaders of Second Generation carrying torch.





fort of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council to establish in our nation's capital the Holocaust Memorial Museum and its educational center."

Miles Lerman, Co-Chairman of the Campaign Cabinet, appealed for financial support for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum being constructed in Washington, D.C. The museum represents the commitment of the American people and the government of the United States to honoring the memories of the victims of the Holocaust through commemoration, education and research.

A Campaign to Remember, the fund-raising arm of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, is seeking funds from individual Americans who understand the importance of building this museum in the nation's capital and especially from survivors, those living witnesses who are the link to the world and people who were destroyed.

Elie Wiesel, Chairman of the Council, repeated to the hushed au-

dience his impassioned appeal to President Reagan not to go to Bitburg: "That place, Mr. President, is not your place. Your place is with the victims of the SS." Wiesel expressed his fears that the Bitburg affair may pave the way to rehabili-

tation of the SS.

The evening of music and drama ended with the premiere showing of the film "The Final Solution," a documentary by Academy-Award winning producer, Arthur Cohn.



**"From Generation  
to Generation . . ."**

**". . . You Shall Teach  
Your Children . . ."**



## Together

by Inge Auerbacher

Let us be together for all the world to see,  
Let us gather today, let us be, let us be.  
Hear our voices speak as one; united we stand,  
Let us share the joys; let us reach out our hand.

We followed the bright beam of freedom's light,  
Ours was a journey out from the night.  
With empty hands we arrived on this shore,  
Our hearts full of hope, our bodies still sore.

Here we gained strength and renewed our worth,  
Seeing the miracle of our rebirth.  
God bless this great land for its embrace,  
We made a new home; we found our place.

Together . . . let us remember our tragic past,  
We escaped the flames and are free at last.  
Let us be together and we will survive,  
Yes, we are here, we are strong and alive.

Let us go forward for all the world to see,  
We rejoice in our freedom and liberty.  
Hear the sound of the shofar and its cry,  
We love this land and our roots AM YISROEL CHAI.



Inge Auerbacher, a graduate of Queens and Hunter Colleges of the City University of New York is one of the 100 children who survived the Terezin concentration camp — a remnant of 15,000 who had been imprisoned there. She wrote the lyrics for "We Shall Never Forget," an original song presented at the 1981 World Gathering in Jerusalem, and for other songs included in "Jewish Memories," a record album by Cantor Sol Zim. A book of her memoirs, written for children, will be published soon.

The poem "Together," commemorating the 40th anniversary of liberation, is dedicated to the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors.

Monday, April 22, 1985

**I**t was the busiest day of the Inaugural Assembly. A multitude of events and activities, all interesting and exciting — how does one choose between at least a dozen workshops and seminars, art exhibits on the Holocaust, book stalls that one would need days for browsing at, or an exhibition depicting the liberation 40 years ago? One eases the problem, by skipping breakfast or lunch — or both — in order not to miss the most important events.

## Senate Committee Hearing

The day began early — at 8:00 A.M. with the special subcommittee hearing of the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary to examine the



*Neal Sher, Director of the Office of Special Investigations, Ernest Michel and Dr. Hadassah Rosensaft at the Senate Hearing*

### OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAN GATHERING AND FEDERATION OF JEWISH HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS:



*Benjamin Meed, President*

United States' role in search of Nazi criminals, particularly Josef Mengele. Chaired by Pennsylvania Senator Arlen Specter, the committee included N.Y. Senator Alfonse D'Amato, Senator Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey, and Senator Howard Metzenbaum of Ohio. Auschwitz survivors and leaders of Holocaust groups testified on Nazi concentration camp atrocities.

Six Auschwitz survivors told the panel in horrific detail of their encounters with Dr. Mengele. Dr. Hadassah Rosensaft recalled a day in November 1943 when a young woman was late for roll-call outside her barracks.

Dr. Mengele "ordered her to come forward," said Dr. Rosensaft.



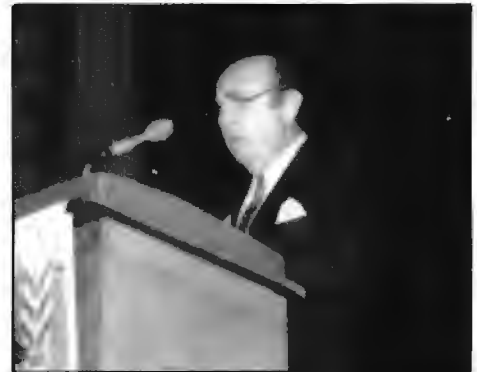
*Sam Bloch, Senior Vice President*

"He knocked her down with his booted foot," the witness said, and then placed the foot over her chest.

He hummed an "aria from Madame Butterfly and kept his foot there until the woman was dead," Dr. Rosensaft recalled. "He showed the SS men a new way of killing."

Pearl Herskovic, who testified along with her twin sister, Helen, said that in one of Dr. Mengele's experiments they were injected with drugs and viruses that threw their senses into a frenzy.

The physical condition of Dr. Mengele's subjects had to be nearly perfect, she said. "If they had a little pimple or a little scar, Mengele would write their numbers down, and they would be sent immedi-



*William Lowenberg, Senior Vice President*

ately to the gas chamber." The Senators were addressed by Ernest Michel who called for procedural simplifications so the trials and prosecution of war criminals could be expedited.



*Norbert Wollheim, Treasurer*

## "Shofar of Freedom" Award to Denmark

The American Gathering and Federation presented the "Shofar of Freedom" award to Danish Ambassador Eigil Joergensen in gratitude to the Danish people for the rescue of the Jews of Denmark during World War II.

Roman Kent, Chairman of the Executive board of the American Gathering and Federation, praised the Danes for their "Courage and moral integrity in showing the world how to act in order to save innocent children, men and women from their inevitable death."

"The heroism and solidarity of your people has entered the domain of legend," Kent told the Ambassador. "When we teach our children the meaning of compassion, we retell the story of how the Danish people all wore the yellow star of David. Their deeds have renewed our faith. They serve as an example of what could have been done, as an indictment of what was not done and as a moral torch in a world of tyranny and darkness."

Joergensen accepted the award



*Ambassador Eigil Joergensen of Denmark accepting Shofar of Freedom award. He is flanked by Roman Kent and Benjamin Meed.*

on behalf of the Danish people and government "in a spirit of humility and gratitude. Rarely in my life have I felt so honored and so moved as I do now," he said.

## Mass Participation Of Second Generation

To an observer, the most exciting aspect of the Assembly was the participation of literally thousands of young people, a phenomenon that exceeded all expectations. One could not help but marvel at their enthusiasm and their eagerness to participate in the Assembly, together with their parents.

There were great numbers of professionals and experts in the field of Holocaust research and education who shared their expertise at the seminars and workshops that were filled beyond capacity.

An impressive exhibition, organized by art historian Jean Bloch Rosensaft, consisted of works of art by survivors and members of the second generation.

The displays and activities on the floor of the Convention Hall offered much to see and hear, to grasp and learn.



*Children are eager to learn the story of Raoul Wallenberg.*



## Unified Survivors' Organization Approved

The morning assembly approved the unified American Gathering and Federation as a national umbrella organization of all Jewish Holocaust survivors and unanimously elected Benjamin Meed as its President and Elie Wiesel as Honorary President. Also elected were Senior Vice Presidents Sam Bloch and William Lowenberg, Treasurer Norbert Wollheim, Chairman of the Executive Board Roman Kent, Honorary Chairman Eli Zborowski, and Honorary Chairman of the Board Ernest Michel. Other members of the elected leadership include Joseph Tekulsky, Solomon Zynstein, Abraham Foxman, James Rapp, Abe Resnick, Sam Halpern, Menachem Rosensaft, Jerzy Warman, Sigmund Strochlitz, Miles Lerman, Sol Goldstein, Kalman Sultanik, Rabbi Arthur Schneier, Israel Singer and Vladka Meed. In addition, Vice Presidents and Regional Vice Presidents from around the country were elected.

In accepting the Presidency, Meed stressed the survivors' obligation to remember the legacy of the Holocaust and to expand the National Registry as a historical record of our experience and rebirth.

"Survivors represent a unique moral dimension of Jewish life and our collective voice must be heard in the councils of our people," Meed said. "The survivors' unique sensitivity serves as an early warning system to peril and danger, and there are things which we, and perhaps no one else, have the moral right to say."

Solomon Zynstein, President of the American Federation of Jewish Fighters, Partisans and Camp Inmates expressed satisfaction on the unification of the Federation with the American Gathering.

"Unity is a quintessential ingredient of Judaism," said Zynstein. "In our long history of martyrdom, we suffered together and struggled together for survival and dignity. When we founded the American



*Participants at Inaugural Assembly applaud unification vote.*

### OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAN GATHERING AND FEDERATION OF JEWISH HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS:



*Jerzy Warman, President of the International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors.*



*Roman Kent, Chairman of the Board.*



*Joseph Tekulsky, Parliamentary Secretary*



*Solomon Zynstein, Chairman of the National Executive Committee*

Federation 15 years ago, our purpose was to coordinate our activities, to perpetuate the memory of our Holocaust martyrs and not to let mankind forget the tragedy that befell our people. The unified organizations will be instrumental in fulfilling our goals.

"Some of us repeat the fallacious

statement that the Jewish state has been created out of the ashes of Auschwitz and Treblinka. No, the opposite is true: There would have been no Holocaust had we had the state of Israel.

"Israel is our only hope for tomorrow and for the survival of the Jewish people."



# "From Generation to Generation . . . We Live!!" A Heritage Concert



## Monday Evening

The evening was devoted to a cultural event that will be remembered for a long time. Organized by the Cultural Commission of the American Gathering, under the chairmanship of Vladka Meed, it featured the cast of the

Yiddish Musical "The Golden Land" and outstanding performers, including Mike Burstyn, Giora Feidman, Tova Feldshuh, Hadassah Kestin, Robert Merrill and Misha Raitzin.

The Symphony Orchestra, con-

ducted by Zalmen Mlotek, and the Youth Chorale of the Beth Sholom-Forman Hebrew Day School, as well as the Beth Sholom Adult Chorale, gave outstanding renditions of Yiddish songs and music as part of the Heritage Concert.



Photo credit for  
'Philadelphia Diary' section:  
Mark Seidenfeld



# Holocaust survivors swear 'n

Victims of Nazi persecution gathered at the Philadelphia Civic Center to tell their stories and to make sure that the world never forgets their pain

By TRICIA OBESTER  
Yorktown H.S.  
Arlington, Va.

Sami Shatz's voice resounded deep and clear when he sang the lively Yiddish folk songs, as he stood on the stage in the middle of the survivors' village.

Accompanied by a guitar and tambourine, his song over the heads of the dozen elderly people who were before him clapping their hands and nodding their heads to a familiar tune from their younger days.

But when he sat down at the yellow cloth-covered table, he began to speak, his smile faded and his eyes moistened. He pushed his blue baseball cap, with an embroidered Israeli flag on the front, out of his eyes and began to speak with a slow, soft Polish accent.

Holocaust survivors march to Liberty

Cancel Bitburg, Survivors Urge

By STEVEN A. MARQUEZ  
Daily News Staff Writer

## The Washington Post

### Decline and Send No Regrets

President Reagan cannot go to Bitburg. It is out of the question for the leader of the western world to lay a wreath in a war cemetery where Nazi storm troopers are buried.

As Elie Wiesel, the most eloquent voice among Holocaust survivors, told him at the White House: "That place, Mr. President, is not your place. Your place is with the victims of the SS."

It is no longer important if Reagan "offends" the German people or "insults" his host, Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany.

"The issue," Wiesel said, "is not politics, but good and evil."

The reason that Reagan must not go was put, in powerful terms, by Gideon

Hausner, prosecutor of Adolf Eichmann, the fiend who presided, enthusiastically, over the extermination of millions of European Jews. The visit, Hausner said, "will be a victory for Adolf Hitler from beyond the grave."

No apology is needed. Explanations would be superfluous. Reagan should simply say he has cancelled the visit because it is wrong.

It is wrong, because as Menachem Z. Rosensaft of New York, chairman of the International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, stated: "The visit will be exploited by revisionist historians, neo-Nazis and their sympathizers."

Jill Porter: Page 45  
Can it happen again?: Page 47

survivors will take further  
If Reagan does not  
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Memory of Nazi Terror

The New York Times  
Reagan Cemetery Visit Criticized  
At Holocaust Survivors Ceremony

By WILLIAM K. STEVENS  
Special to The New York Times

PHILADELPHIA, April 21 — Survivors of the Holocaust cheered loudly and lustily today as one of their most prominent children called for an intensified campaign to persuade President Reagan to cancel a visit to a German cemetery containing the graves of Waffen SS troopers.

"The time for soft-spoken words and appeals is over," said Menachem Z. Rosensaft of New York, a son of concentration-camp victims who is chairman of the International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors. "For the sake of history, we must prevent him from going to Bitburg." He argued that the visit next month would be exploited by "revisionist historians, neo-Nazis and their sympathizers."

If Mr. Reagan visits the military cemetery at Bitburg, West Germany,

he went on, "we must see to it that survivors, children of survivors, American war veterans will be for him at the gates of that cemetery."

He said that his plea, one of the strongest statements yet made against the visit, was designed to ignite efforts to force Mr. Reagan to cancel the Bitburg visit or substitute another cemetery. There was no immediate response as to what response would be drawn from other Jewish leaders.

But one of them, Benjamin M. Rosensaft, president of the American Jewish Congress and Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, the group of survivors gathered here, told the crowd: "I can hear your heartbeats, and the message is coming through."

is what we're fighting against," Rothberg said. "We're fighting against the Holocaust."

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Neue Zürcher Zeitung  
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in Philadelphia

MARY MCGRORY

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For President Reagan  
be no difference  
between the murderers  
million," Rosensaft said, "between the number of Jews killed by the Nazis from 1933 to 1945."

Computers help in search

By Steve Stecklow  
Inquirer Staff Writer

Regina Orbach Penner had not seen her Aunt Esther since 1939. The two had been separated ever since Regina was taken by the Nazis from her home in Poland and sent to a concentration camp in Germany.

Yesterday, Regina, now 66 and a resident of Huntingdon Valley, Montgomery County, attempted to track down her aunt. And she did it in a way that probably would have seemed like science fiction back in the days of World War II — she used a computer.

A bank of computer terminals was set up inside the Philadelphia Civic Center, the site of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors. Visitors were invited to submit information about a friend, relative

or neighbor that could be fed into the terminals in the hope that the person could be located from the names in the system. Since the gathering began Sunday, hundreds of Holocaust survivors have tried their luck with the computer.

The project is known as the National Registry of Jewish Holocaust Survivors. The names of about 55,000 families, or about half of the Jewish Holocaust survivors believed to be living in America, are contained in the massive data bank, which is stored in a mainframe computer in New York. The system has been activated during each of the three survivor gatherings to date.

Organizers of the project are reluctant to discuss how successful the computer system has been in facilitating reunions.

"We are careful matches," said Larry Rothberg, gathering's chief, "all kinds of words maybe, possible. You against putting people on a national roller coaster." Amy Rothberg, wife of the registry's executive director, said the system has been successful because it has many people who go back on whether the report back on whether the information was accurate.

Nevertheless, she confirmed that there are success stories — hundreds of them. Unfortunately, Rothberg said, she had not yet received a report back on whether the information was accurate.

14 "To go to that place... means that in a few years it would be acceptable

# 'Never again' Children lead thousands in Holocaust observance

able and med. He blem of

"I never find a person who should tell me where they are — what happened to them," he said. "It's very tragic to think about I'm running around to every convention like this, in m. in Washington. Now I'm here because I can't rest. I'm 59 years old now."

— I'm 59 years old now.

— I'm 59 years old now.

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Children bearing placards with the names of Jewish communities wiped out during World War II led thousands of people in a march Sunday as American survivors of the Holocaust remembered their dead.

— I'm 59 years old now.

computer containing the names of 55,000 Holocaust survivors living in the United States, to help people find those lost during World War II.

The marchers first gathered at the Monument to the Six Million Jewish Martyrs, a twisted, black stone sculpture that reaches to the sky with limbs protruding and hands with knives ready to strike.

Although about 6,000 people were packed in a one-block area, the crowd was silent as it moved off walls of nearby

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— As Elie Wiesel of the Nazi Holocaust on Sunday — he was on an arm — he was awarded a her of Philadelphia. in a computerized tained by the Na Jewish Holocaust ater terminals link- ak, which has infor- people, were used merican Gathering aut Survivors in

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## All States to Commemorate End of the Holocaust

### Reagan's Trip Dismays Survivors of Holocaust

Canceling Visit to German Cemetery Urged

By Kathy Sawyer  
Washington Post Staff Writer

PHILADELPHIA, April 22 — "For Ronald Reagan, I want to say only one thing," said Emil Farben, 83, in halting English. "When I wake up in the night, I still see the blood running down my son's face, where the SS shot him before my eyes."

The annual gathering of Holocaust survivors is always an "emotional kaleidoscope," as one called it today. For Farben and many others here, it is complicated this year by their anguish over the president's planned trip to the cemetery in Bitburg, West Germany, where some Nazi SS soldiers are buried.

Signs printed hastily in Magic Marker appeared around the Survivors Village at the Civic Center today, urging: "Call the White House. Tell President Reagan, 'Bitburg is not his place.' No honor to S.S. Make one phone call. Tell a friend."

But the gathering's sponsors distanced themselves from such organized protests aimed at the president and said that they had sent a telegram today thanking him for his recent help in evacuating Ethiopian Jews to Israel. They said that they did not want the controversy over Reagan's planned visit to the cemetery to obscure the gathering's purpose or their love for America.

"I am not a man of threat," said Benjamin Meed, president of the American Gathering and Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors. "I personally am not going to lead this organization to threaten anybody . . . We will never be a political organization."

But Menachem Z. Rosensaft, who helped found the International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, called Sunday for death-camp survivors, their children, and American war veterans to "be waiting" for the president at the gates of Bitburg.

Dr. Bass also subscribes to the view "when you come to a crisis situation and scratch that veneer of civilization people revert back" to "the dog-eat-dog level of animals." Germany, where, Mr. Wiesel's turn was to come. For Mr. Wiesel, it brought "a strange awakening from a totally enveloping nightmare to a totally enveloping freedom."

Dr. Bass, a black who entered Buchenwald with members of an all-black company of combat engineers, does not see himself as a liberator. Most other liberators, he says, probably felt the way. They were merely witnesses.

## Thousands march as U.S. survivors recall Holocaust discovers two aunts

DALLAS (AP) — For 42 years, Max Glauken thought he was the only member of his family who had survived the Jewish Holocaust.

His father, mother, brother and grandparents all perished in German concentration camps.

and his father's name, and that what it is. It's him," she said. Glauken, owner of a business,

## Survivors of Hitler's death camps united by need to be at Gathering

### or relatives

because they went there Monday, April 22, 1985

## Holocaust survivors honor dead, criticize Reagan

By Jim Galloway  
Staff Writer

PHILADELPHIA — President Reagan's decision to visit a West German war cemetery next month was explained, but mostly derided, Sunday before 4,000 survivors of the Holocaust who gathered outside Independence Hall to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the liberation of the World War II concentration camps.

Most of them old, many of them

"If he insists on going to Bitburg, we do not need him and we do not want him in Bergen-Belsen."

— Menachem Rosensaft  
Holocaust survivor's son

Mark brought her to the gathering as a way of making real the stories Taya has heard since childhood. "I guess what I really want to do is in some way make my experiences real for her, to give it over to her," Mrs. Friedman said.

"I think my children and grandchildren

represented one of the first times able to share the central event of her es.

don't not know about it. When you're a sk where your grandparents are, your as and cousins, the question must be said Toby Kansagor, 38. "But when I the room Sunday, all I felt like was God, the suffering.

day went on, I wasn't crying any shed them. They were happy and I

was seeing that the generations have gone on. To the extent that this was something mother and I were able to share, it was very satisfying."

"I had a very definite purpose in coming here," said Deborah Hilsenrath of Highland Park, the only member of her family to survive the death camps. "I came here to show the world that we are alive, that we are real and that we are not

# A Response By Elie Wiesel

(Excerpts)

"... Today is April 19, and on April 19, 1943, the Warsaw Ghetto rose in arms against the onslaught of the Nazis. They were so few and so young and so helpless. And nobody came to their help. And they had to fight what was then the mightiest legion in Europe. Every underground received help except the Jewish underground. And yet they managed to fight and resist and push back those Nazis and their accomplices for six weeks. And yet the leaders of the free world, Mr. President, knew everything and did so little, or nothing, or at least nothing specifically to save Jewish children from death. You spoke of Jewish children, Mr. President. One million Jewish children perished. If I spent my entire life reciting their names, I would die before finishing the task.

"... A few days ago, on the anniversary of the liberation of Buchenwald, all of us, Americans, watched with dismay and anger as the Soviet Union and East Germany distorted both past and present history.

"Mr. President, I was there. I was there when American liberators arrived. And they gave us back our lives. And what I felt for them then nourishes me to the end of my days and will do so. If you only knew what we tried to do with them then. We who were so weak that we couldn't carry our own lives, we tried to carry them in triumph.

"Mr. President, we are grateful to the American Army for liberating us. We are grateful to this country, the greatest democracy in the world, the freest nation in the world, the moral nation, the authority in the world. And we are grateful, especially to this country for having offered us haven and refuge, and grateful to its leadership for being so friendly to Israel.



"... I belong to a traumatized generation. And to us, as to you, symbols are important. And furthermore, following our ancient tradition, and we are speaking about Jewish heritage, our tradition commands us "to speak truth to power."

"So may I speak to you, Mr. President, with respect and admiration, of the events that happened?

"... May I, Mr. President, if it's possible at all, implore you to do something else, to find a way, to find another way, another site? That place, Mr. President, is not your place. Your place is with the victims of the SS.

"Oh, we know there are political and strategic reasons, but this issue, as all issues related to that awesome event, transcends politics and diplomacy.

"The issue here is not politics, but good and evil. And we must never confuse them.

"For I have seen the SS at work. And I have seen their victims. They were my friends. They were my parents.

"Mr. President, there was a degree of suffering and loneliness to the concentration camps that defies imagination. Cut off from the world with no refuge anywhere, sons watched helplessly their fathers being beaten to death. Mothers watched their children die of hunger. And then there was Mengele and his selections. Terror, fear, isolation, torture, gas chambers, flames, flames rising to the heavens."

## Beth Hatefutsoth Exhibition: 'The Survivors: Return to Life'

To mark the 40th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camps, the Beth Hatefutsoth in Tel-Aviv opened a large exhibition depicting the life of Holocaust survivors in the years 1945-1950, their rehabilitation in displaced persons camps in Germany, their vital contribution in the struggle for a Jewish state, the period of the illegal Aliyah and the breaking of the British blockade of Palestine.

The exhibition, augmented with material on the life of survivors in the U.S. and other countries, will in due course be shown in the United States. The American Gathering and Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors is among the sponsors of the exhibition.

## World Assembly of Holocaust Survivors Held in Israel

The World Assembly to commemorate 40 years since the defeat of Nazi Germany and its satellites convened in Jerusalem May 5-9, 1985. The Assembly was organized by the Israeli Government under the patronage of Prime Minister Shimon Peres with the collaboration of many survivors' organizations throughout the world, including the American Gathering and Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors.

The World Federation of Jewish Fighters, Partisans and Camp Inmates held its Congress in conjunction with and as an integral part of the World Assembly.

The week-long ceremonies, seminars, mass rallies and parades left an indelible impact on thousands of participants. The program also included visits to historical sites connected with the valiant role played by Holocaust survivors in Israel's War of Independence.

# Children of Survivors Protest At Bergen-Belsen

## *Reagan Visit Condemned As Desecration*

**O**n Sunday, May 5, 1985, immediately after President Ronald Reagan and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl had left the Memorial site of Bergen-Belsen for the Bitburg cemetery, some 50 American Jews gathered at the Jewish monument of Bergen-Belsen for a somber memorial service in protest against President Reagan's laying of a wreath at Bitburg. The protest demonstration was organized by the International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors.

The Network delegation was led by Founding Chairman Menachem Rosensaft and President Jerzy Warman, and included Network leaders Rositta Kenigsberg of Miami, Michael Korenblit of Washington, D.C., Sarah Ducorsky of Long Island, Rebecca Knaster, Joyce Celnik, Eva Fogelman, Tom Teicholz, Jack Halpern and Ritalynne Brechner of New York City, Stephen Tencer and Jeanette Friedman-Sieradski of New Jersey, Esther Fink of Chicago, Charles Silow and Bernard Kent of Detroit, Mark Tykocinski of Cleveland, and Lee Kagan of Los Angeles. The delegation also included survivors Kalman Sultanik, Vice-President of the World Jewish Congress; Jack Eisner, President of the Holocaust Survivors Memorial Foundation; and Professor Henry Friedlander of Brooklyn College.

Before leaving New York, Jerzy Warman explained the reasons for the protest at a press



**Menachem Rosensaft at the Jewish Monument of Bergen-Belsen.**  
(Photo: Esther Fink)

conference at Kennedy Airport. "As sons and daughters of Jews who were miraculously saved from the Nazi Genocide," he said, "we want to demonstrate our outrage against equating the killers with their victims. We hope that our gesture will in some measure compensate for the shame the President is going to inflict on our country by rehabilitating the murderers. Our demonstration is neither political nor partisan, and our protest is not aimed against the government of the United States, the government of West Germany, or the alliance between our countries. We will be at Bergen-Belsen to make a moral statement, to declare as forcefully as we can that we shall never forget and that we will never let the world forget."

The members of the International Network had wanted to conduct an orderly, nonviolent demonstration at the gates of Bergen-Belsen as President Reagan and Chancellor Kohl entered the Memorial Site. However, hundreds of West German policemen, with American Secret Service agents at their side, kept the camp sealed off for all but 400 or so invited guests until after the departure of the American President and the West German Chancellor. Leaders and representatives of Jewish organizations throughout the world had refused to accompany President Reagan to Belsen because of his decision to go from there to Bitburg.

The Second Generation's memorial service began with the laying of roses at the foot of the



*The Second Generation's demonstration at Belsen on May 5 was the most powerful response to President Reagan's Bitburg visit. The extent of its impact and significance is reflected in the following lead editorial published in The Boston Globe on May 7, 1985:*

## Reagan's desecration . . .

Minutes after President Reagan's helicopter had lifted him out of Bergen-Belsen, about 50 people were allowed to enter the grounds. They were survivors of the death camps and the children of survivors. While Reagan and Chancellor Helmut Kohl were making their visit and giving their speeches, the unofficial delegation had been kept out of sight of the cameras.

When they were finally permitted to visit the place where their mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers had perished, they had to reconcile the past and the present, the old memories of corpses strewn the earth and the new experience of having the White House staff prevent them from praying for their murdered families in the presence of the President.

Menachem Rosensaft, chairman of the International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, spoke to the small cluster of mourners. He said: "Never, until today, has anyone dared to prevent survivors and children of survivors from standing beside these mass graves and this monument, while two politicians violate their sanctity and every principle of decency by coming here on their way to honoring the memory of the SS."

If Reagan and Kohl spoke for their governments and were motivated by the cold calculations of politics, then Rosensaft was speaking for all the men, women and children who were shot or starved or gassed by the Nazis.

Rosensaft said that the visit to Bitburg by Reagan and

Kohl was "a desecration of the six million dead." He was right; it was a desecration.

Kalman Sultanik, a survivor of the Belsen camp and now vice president of the World Jewish Congress, expressed the hope that Reagan would "correct his repugnant comparison of Nazi murderers with their victims." He was right; it was a repugnant comparison.

Serge Klarsfeld, who tracked down Klaus Barbie, the Nazi official responsible for torturing and murdering French Resistance fighters and for deporting Jewish children to the concentration camps, took exception to Reagan's saying that one man — Hitler — was responsible for murdering millions of Jews, Poles, Czechs, Russians, Gypsies, homosexuals, socialists, Christians and democrats. He was right; the Holocaust was not the crime of one man.

Reagan in Germany spoke about reconciliation and remembrance, and he concluded his talk at Bergen-Belsen with the reverberating phrase, "Never again." The people who have his ear should now try to make him understand the difference between reconciliation with killers and reconciliation with the victims.

They should remind him of the shameful behavior of US officials who turned Jewish refugees away from sanctuary in America after the truth was known about the Final Solution. They should tell him about the Nazi criminals who went on the payroll of the US government after the war — for reasons of state . . .

### BERGEN-BELSEN *Cont. from page 17*

Jewish monument and the singing of Ani Maamin. Then, Menachem Rosensaft — whose father, the legendary Josef Rosensaft, had been the leader of the survivors of Bergen-Belsen from the day of liberation in 1945 until his untimely death in 1975 — addressed the group in both English and Yiddish.

"Never, until today, has anyone dared to prevent survivors and children of survivors from standing beside these mass graves and this monument," Rosensaft said, "while two politicians violate their sanctity and every principle of decency by coming here on their way to honoring the memory of the SS.

"President Reagan and Chancellor Kohl know very well that the SS were the ultimate personification of Hitler's nightmarish regime, the ultimate embodiment of evil, and still they insist on honoring their memory.

"Today we say to Chancellor Kohl that his attempt to describe the Waffen SS as simple soldiers is a perverse rewriting of history, and we say to President Reagan that his comparison of the SS or any German soldiers to the victims of the Holocaust is morally repugnant.

"President Reagan and Chancellor Kohl have embarked on a macabre tour, an obscene package deal, of Bergen-Belsen and Bitburg. Today we say to them that they can either honor the

memory of the victims of Belsen, or they can honor the SS. They cannot do both. And by entering Bitburg, they desecrate the memory of all those who were murdered by the SS, and of all those whom they pretended to commemorate here at Belsen."

Rosensaft's speech was followed by remarks by Kalman Sultanik and Jack Eisner. Sultanik observed that "President Reagan did for one hour what has not been done in forty years. He made Bergen-Belsen 'Judenfrei.'" Stephen Tencer, who, like Rosensaft, was born in Bergen-Belsen, recited the El Mole Rachamim, and the ceremony concluded with the saying of Kaddish and the singing of the Partisan Hymn.



**ANNUAL DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY HELD AT CAPITOL ROTUNDA.**

*Seated from left to right: Miles Lerman, Sigmund Strochlitz, John Marsh, Secretary of the Army, Elie Wiesel, Chairman, U.S. Holocaust Council, Secretary of State George P. Shultz, Sam Bloch, Chairman of the Board of Advisors of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, and Rabbi Mitchell Wohlberg. Benjamin Meed and Sigmund Strochlitz are Co-Chairmen of the Day of Remembrance Committee.*

## U.S. Liberators Honored at Arlington Cemetery

Sunday, May 5, 1985, while President Regan was in Bitburg and Jewish survivors and the Second Generation held ceremonies at Bergen-Belsen and Dachau, American Jews, together with veterans groups, assembled in hundreds of cities throughout the United States to pay tribute to American servicemen killed during World War II.

One thousand people gathered at Arlington National Cemetery in the nation's capital for a solemn and moving tribute to the GIs who liberated the Nazi death camps.

The Disabled American Veterans

provided a color guard during the commemoration on a hill overlooking the immense cemetery. The flags of the U.S. Battalions which liberated the concentration camps were presented, as the U.S. Army Band played taps and a mournful rendition of "Adon Olam" as wreaths and carnations were laid by the participating groups. The American Gathering and Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors took a leading part in the event.

Benjamin Meed, President of the organization, told the crowd: "There can be no reconciliation between the murderers and their victims. We must not betray the memory of our martyrs.

"We live in a world of images. The image of an American President, however well intentioned, at a German cemetery where soldiers are buried including Nazi SS of-

ficers and concentration camp guards, sends the wrong signal to the world."

Meed continued, "We have seen our leaders go to great pain to separate the evil of Nazism from the German people. But we must remember that the Nazis did not operate in a vacuum. While there were exceptions — and we acknowledge and honor those exceptions — the German nation was willingly mobilized to carry out the Nazi policies, and therefore shares in the moral responsibility for the destruction."

Paying tribute to the American heroes, Meed said, "Let us remember together and not allow history to repeat itself. We will forever honor and remember each soldier who fell in battle to liberate us and who saved an entire world."



# Holocaust Memorial Center in Detroit

The Holocaust Memorial Center in Detroit is the fulfillment of a dream shared by Founder and Director Rabbi Charles Rosenzweig and his fellow survivors of the Holocaust. It was first proposed twenty years ago. Through two decades of planning, community support grew, and the Center's objectives expanded beyond simply creating a memorial. Those objectives are stated on the wall as you enter the museum:

- To preserve the memory of the 6,000,000 Jews murdered in the Holocaust.
- To preserve the history of the 4,500 Jewish communities destroyed by the Nazis.
- To record the apathy of the many who did nothing and to honor those who risked their lives to save the Jews.
- To recall the cultural, social and religious richness of Jewish life in Europe prior to the Holocaust.
- To help future generations understand and direct their lives toward an open, free society.

Nearly 100,000 visitors over the past seven months, mostly non-Jews, have come to view the museum's exhibits. Inside, it isn't a chamber of horrors, but a contemplative shrine to the six million and to the survivors.

To be sure, there are the death camp films of walking skeletons and dead bodies piled like cordwood. But the museum's intimate design and use of tech-

nology — such as video screens and computers ingeniously force the visitor to dwell on why and how the Germans destroyed the European Jewish community.

Only recently, as the ranks of the survivors have begun to dwindle and as revisionists have taken to claiming that the Holocaust never occurred, could Rabbi Rosenzweig, a survivor himself, raise the seven million dollars necessary to create the center.

The Holocaust Memorial Center exhibits were designed by internationally known museum designer James Gardner of London, England. He also created the Museum of the Diaspora in Tel Aviv.

A visitor's journey back into the Holocaust begins in a darkened tunnel with a Jewish lullaby in the background. After only a few steps, the peace is shattered by the recorded sound of Adolf Hitler ranting about the master race. And in the semi-darkness, displays chronicle the rise of Nazism and anti-Semitism in Germany.

Around the corner is a well-lit room. On one side are displays of Jewish achievement. They serve as a counterpoint to the other side: German anti-Semitic propaganda and photographs of the humiliations inflicted upon Jews before World War II.

In the heart of the museum, more video screens show German films of the camps. Illuminated by fire — not of destruction, but from an eternal flame symbolizing hope — a nearby bricked alcove contains the story of the Warsaw Ghetto through its final uprising.

## National Executive Board to Meet in Detroit, November 9-11, 1985

The National Executive Board of the newly reorganized American Gathering and Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors will hold its first conference in Detroit, Michigan, November 9-11- 1985.

The leaders of Detroit's Holocaust Memorial Center will be hosts of the conference which is expected to be attended by hundreds of Board members from throughout the country.

The host committee, under the chairmanship of Henry Dorfman, includes Alex Ehrman, Fred Ferber, Leon Halpern, Alex Karp, Bernard Kent, Dr. Kristina Kochanowski, Dr. John Mames, Abe Pasternak, Jack Seiderman, Dr. and Mrs. Leo Shipko and Abraham Webberman.

Rabbi Charles Rosenzweig, in extending the formal invitation for the Detroit conference, said, "The Holocaust Memorial Center which has won international acclaim as a world-class institution and as a standard to be emulated, is a logical choice for the First National Planning Conference. It will let the world know what the survivors, and indeed the American community can and must do to perpetuate the memory, the story, and the lessons of the Holocaust."

The following report about the Holocaust Memorial Center is based on an article written by Damon Darlin and published in the July 1, 1985 issue of *The Wall Street Journal*.

# Josef Mengele – Unanswered Questions

The decision of the medical examiners in Sao Paulo that the bones discovered in a grave, concealed for seven years, are the remains of the "Angel of Death" of Auschwitz does not answer the questions asked by Holocaust survivors. Our doubts persist, and, therefore, there is an urgent need for an international investigation to address the following questions:

- How did Mengele manage to escape?
- How was he able to live as a free man for so long, traveling throughout the world, meeting his son and friends, receiving funds from the family business and continuing his activities without interruption or discovery?
- Why didn't the German prosecutors uncover the available evidence leading to Brazil 10 or 20 years ago?
- Who sheltered Mengele throughout these years and will they escape

punishment for aiding and abetting this notorious murderer?

- How many of his Nazi collaborators are still free enjoying normal lives?

There is nothing "alleged" about Mengele's crimes. His evil was a unique horror, even among hardened German Nazis.

He conducted cruel and inhuman medical experiments on thousands of innocents in the name of German pseudo-science. He reveled in playing God, choosing who shall live and who shall die, by a wave of the hand. He paraded around Auschwitz, selecting hundreds of thousands for a torturous death, glorifying the Nazi cause and his major role in the "Final Solution." Millions of witnesses to Mengele's crimes are no longer here to testify, but the ashes of Auschwitz are silent testimony, and we have an ob-

ligation to remember.

We, the survivors of the Holocaust, would have preferred that he face trial which would have served humanity as a lesson and a warning. It violates our sense of justice that he apparently died a free man and will face ultimate justice in the recesses of Hell — eluding the direct judgment of a courtroom.

We ask that the German government prohibit the transfer to German soil of the remains currently represented as belonging to Josef Mengele so as to prevent his burial site from becoming a shrine for those who would like to continue Mengele's work.

The chapter of Mengele and his numerous associates should not be considered closed. We call on all governments to continue relentlessly the ongoing efforts of bringing these murderers to justice.

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## DETROIT *Cont. from page 20*

Pictures and text document this symbol of Jewish resistance to the Nazi terror. Outside the wall, there is more evidence of Jewish resistance and its consequences.

The Memorial Flame occupies a central place in the museum. It commemorates the 4,500 European Jewish communities destroyed in the Holocaust, whose names are listed in a video exhibit adjoining the flame.

The Righteous Gentiles who risked their security to help Jews survive the Holocaust are honored in the Hall of the Righteous. Most dramatically documented is the French community of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, whose Protestant residents, led by their minister Andre Trocme, saved more than 5,000 Jews. Madam Trocme, Andre's widow, tells the story on videotape. The Garden of the Righteous, outside the Holocaust Memorial Center, will also recognize Gentiles who performed brave deeds to save Jewish lives.

The Holocaust Memorial Center is much more than a monument to the six million. It is a national resource for the study of European Jewish history and culture, the Holocaust and related issues, and Jewish genealogy. At the heart of this resource is the Morris and

Emma Schaver Library and Archives. The Center has already acquired hundreds of books and rare records. With its advanced computer system, the library and archives will eventually have a current bibliography of all literature available on the Holocaust, will be able to trace European Jewish families back hundreds of years, will store the greatest amount of information on prewar European Jewish history and culture as well as on the Holocaust available anywhere.

At the dedication ceremony on September 16, 1984, Rabbi Charles Rosenzweig remarked: "The Holocaust Memorial Center is unique in that it combines the re-creation of the cultural and social vibrancy of prewar European Jewish life with the story of the Holocaust. State-of-the-art audio and visual exhibits enhance our presentation and provide a source for documentation and research.

"As word of our remarkable center spreads throughout the world, it is becoming evident that the Holocaust Memorial Center is truly an institution of international import. It is a dynamic institution that will significantly enrich the cultural life of our community and heighten the prestige of the metropolitan Detroit area."

# American Gathering Co-Sponsors Holocaust Study in Israel for U.S. Teachers

A group of 30 New York area teachers will be spending three weeks in Israel this summer as part of an innovative and timely program to train secondary school teachers to teach Holocaust studies in the public school system.

The program will be conducted at Ghetto Fighters House, Study Center of the Holocaust and Jewish resistance, one of the most respected educational and cultural institutions in Israel. Ghetto Fighter House is located on Kibbutz Lohamei Haghetat in the northern Galilee, which was founded by those who fought and survived the ghettos and concentration camps. The program will draw upon the personal experiences of Kibbutz members and will include side trips to Yad Vashem, Massada and other sights of Historic Jewish Resistance. It offers its participants a unique opportunity to broaden their knowledge of the Holocaust in the context of Jewish renewal in Israel.

The summer study program in Israel is jointly sponsored by the American Gathering and Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, American Friends of Ghetto Fight-

ers House, the United Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, and the Educators Chapter of the Jewish Labor Committee.

Overall coordination of the training program will be provided by Vladka Meed, who is chairperson of the Cultural Committee of the American Gathering and vice-president of the Jewish Labor Committee. She is the author of "On Both Sides of the Wall," a moving and inspiring account of her own experience as a courier in the Warsaw Ghetto.

"We the survivors know the pictures are real," Meed stressed, "but they present only one part of what went on during the German occupation" of Europe. While much attention has been devoted to the victimized Jew of the Holocaust, Meed asserted that there is "another part — filled with life and dignity." She also believes that there must be a sharper focus shifted on the resistance and the struggle against Nazism.

At an orientation meeting last month, the participants were briefed about the aims and goals of

the program. "When I became a parent," revealed Roman Kent from the American Gathering, "I realized that you as teachers sometimes have more power over students than we the parents." He added that "We from the American Gathering realize that for us it is too late to do something. With your help, they (the students) will be able to prevent another Holocaust."

Those who have been selected to participate are teachers who have demonstrated both an awareness of the need for this program and the commitment to teach Holocaust studies upon their return to their classrooms.

This summer's program is directed by Professor Henry Feingold, CUNY Graduate Center and Baruch College. There will be distinguished guest lecturers from Israel's universities, Yad Vashem and the educational faculty of Ghetto Fighters' House.

Because of the enthusiastic response in the New York area, the program is being expanded to include teachers from other parts of the country in coming years.



*Ernest W. Michel addressing the participants at services held May 3, 1985 at Dachau Concentration camp in memory of the 6 million Jews. Services were organized by the American Jewish Congress on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the liberation of the camps.*



# Remembrance and Responsibility:

## *An Agenda for Survivors*

We are the survivors of the Holocaust.

Forty years ago, a horrified world discovered us — the stubborn remnant which emerged, scarred, but alive, from the crematoria, gas chambers and concentration camps that were Hitler's final solution for the 6,000,000 European Jews — our mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, cousins, friends — including over a million Jewish children.

We who survived believe there is a meaning to our survival. It conveys a special responsibility: To remember, to serve as witnesses and to tell what happened to our children — and to all of mankind's children — so that future generations are spared the horror and tragedy of our experience.

We, the survivors — the guardians of their memory and the witnesses to their fate, are solemnly organizing to help build a world of peace in which our people — or any people — are accepted with dignity as free and equal in the brotherhood of man and the family of nations.

We further resolve to dedicate ourselves to the ethics of our faith, the vision of our prophets, the principles of democracy and our people, and to work with those of other races, creeds and backgrounds who share our mission so that we will be the last to be described as "survivors of the Holocaust."

### ● REMEMBRANCE OF THE HOLOCAUST:

This is the prime commitment from which all others derive. It will never happen again if we never forget that it did happen. We pledge our full support and resources to further the efforts now undertaken by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council in Washington as well as all other Holocaust Centers throughout the U.S. and other parts of the world.

### ● ISRAEL:

Treasured through 2,000 years of dispersion, reborn from the ashes of our martyred six million, tested in the flames of war and the hypocrisy of international bigotry, Israel — the soul, heart and refuge of our people — must be treasured, preserved — and her development and growth encouraged in every possible way.

### ● AMERICAN JEWISH LIFE:

As productive citizens of a free and vibrant democratic society in which Jewish life has flowered, we are resolved to make our individual and organizational contributions to the religious, educational, communal, political and philanthropic institutions which are part of that flowering.

### ● SOVIET JEWRY:

As survivors, we express our solidarity, particularly with the Jews of the Soviet Union who are enduring persecution, oppression, harassment, imprisonment, discrimination, isolation, religious restriction and cultural destruction. In their behalf, we will not be silenced until they too are free.

### ● ANTI-SEMITISM:

Ourselves victims of this most ancient and enduring of all bigotries, the elimination and anti-Semitism in all its forms anywhere in the world, must be our prime purpose and that of any civilized person.

### ● NAZI CRIMINALS:

How can we forget the torturers and murderers? The fact that today, 40 years after their horrible crimes were uncovered, they still remain among us, is a bitter irony. We are committed to the unceasing pursuit of these Nazi War Criminals, wherever they are hiding, so that we can help our government, as well as other governments, in bringing them to justice.

### ● FIGHT FOR FREEDOM:

Having known what it is to lose freedom — that indefinable, intangible quality so essential to a fulfilled life — we shall fight to provide it wherever it is denied and to preserve it wherever it prevails. To this end — as did the founders of this nation — we pledge "our sacred honor."

### ● NATIONAL REGISTER:

It is important to collect names of the survivors and their families, and pertinent data for history, documentation and research. Every survivor's name must be included in this central file.

Many survivors have found long-lost relatives and friends through our computerized National Register. If you have not entered your name in the Register, no one will find you. We urge you to fill out this form and return it to us promptly.

**AMERICAN GATHERING OF JEWISH HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS — The National Register**  
122 West 30th Street, New York, N.Y. 10001

Husband ☐

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
LAST FIRST MIDDLE

FATHER'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: HOME (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

NAME BEFORE WORLD WAR II. If different or if spelled differently (include maiden name)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please check the appropriate answers:

- ☐ Survivor ☐ Spouse of Survivor  
☐ Second Generation ☐ Third Generation  
☐ Spouse of Second Generation

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of residence before World War II:

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_

Place of incarceration (camp, ghetto, hideout, forest), by name and dates:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Wife ☐

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
LAST FIRST MIDDLE

FATHER'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: HOME (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

NAME BEFORE WORLD WAR II. If different or if spelled differently (include maiden name)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please check the appropriate answers:

- ☐ Survivor ☐ Spouse of Survivor  
☐ Second Generation ☐ Third Generation  
☐ Spouse of Second Generation

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of residence before World War II:

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_

Place of incarceration (camp, ghetto, hideout, forest), by name and dates:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL REGISTER  
OF  
JEWISH HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS**

נעמערן - רעגיסטער  
פון דער שארית הפליטה

**RECORD OF YOUR CHILDREN**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

**RECORD OF FAMILY MEMBERS  
WHO DIED AFTER LIBERATION**

RELATION \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

RESIDENCE BEFORE W.W.II \_\_\_\_\_

PLACES OF INCARCERATION \_\_\_\_\_

DATE AND PLACE OF DEATH \_\_\_\_\_

AGE AT TIME OF DEATH \_\_\_\_\_

RELATION \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

RESIDENCE BEFORE W.W.II \_\_\_\_\_

PLACES OF INCARCERATION \_\_\_\_\_

DATE AND PLACE OF DEATH \_\_\_\_\_

AGE AT TIME OF DEATH \_\_\_\_\_

# Letters to the Editor

## Philadelphia Experience . . .

The memory lingers on of a fascinating and meaningful few days in Philadelphia. The Gathering was handled with great dignity. Although colored by the shadow of Bitburg, the emotions were so directed by the leaders that it all turned out constructive, where it could have been chaotic. I feel that your organization is doing an excellent job in not letting the world forget.

**Sylvia L. Reback**  
San Francisco, CA

## Found Relatives and Friends...

I have just returned from the Philadelphia Survivors Assembly. I want you to know that at the Conference my Mother, Zosia Piekarska Brodecki of Richmond, Virginia was fortunate enough to be reunited with two persons from her pre-American life. One is Freda Lieber of University Heights, Ohio who was with my Mother in three concentration camps. The other is Topka Logan of Cincinnati, Ohio who last saw my Mother at the Mother's last (10th) birthday party in Sosnowiec, Poland before they were taken to the ghetto. As a result of his participation in the 1983 conference in Washington, D.C., my father Boleslaw Brodecki from Warsaw, Poland, was reunited with Lucy Teicher, to his knowledge the only surviving member of his family. Both conferences worked wonders for my family's spirits.

**Joseph M. Brodecki**  
The Minneapolis Federation for  
Jewish Service, Minneapolis, MN

## Fears Mengele Myth . . .

American physicians, experts in forensic medicine, fly to Brazil to examine bones, measure a skull and study teeth. The world's largest news service reports, with a kind of

breathless anticipation, that the sister-in-law of the presumed dead man's son says the latest "statement will be telexed to news media." Headlines tell us "Specialists To View Remains of Mengele," "Mengeles To Make Another Statement." The story is grist for the mill, along with the Von Bulow trial and the Reagan budget. Where were the physicians in 1943 and 1946? Where was the interest and concern in 1960 and 1970 for the 400,000 victims of this man, human beings whose bones never have been examined, whose skulls have never been deemed important enough to be measured by forensic experts? Yes, it is necessary for us to mark the death of such a beast, but will death make it acceptable for us to elevate Josef Mengele into the kind of folk hero that Adolf Hitler has become? Are we building ourselves a new myth? How many paperback pot-boilers are in this, anyway? How soon will the made-for-TV movies of the week appear?

Four decades ago, my wife and two of her sisters made it past the inspection of Dr. Josef Mengele as he played God at Auschwitz. Her mother and baby sister made it only as far as the gas chambers. Can there be a future for civilization that ignores such acts, and allows itself to be titillated by the perpetrators?

**Norman Abelson**  
Concord, New Hampshire

## Condemns Bitburg . . .

The Bitburg controversy drove home several important lessons which every Jew in America must now ponder. The ostensible political power of the Jews has once again been exposed as a myth. Our President and those around him have fully and openly manifested their preferences. As a survivor of the Holocaust, I realize now for the first time, how impotent and helpless were the Jewish leaders of the 1940's who went to Washington to plead on our behalf. Instead of a

totally disinterested Roosevelt, we now have a man in the White House writing his own historical script. Instead of Breckenridge Long, we now have Pat Buchanan.

I know now that my vote for Mr. Reagan was a terrible mistake. Once again I feel vulnerable, unprotected and betrayed. I know now that should the State of Israel be in jeopardy in the near future, the response of this White House would be pragmatic, not moral. I know now that should there be another Auschwitz anywhere in the world, Jewish pleas for help would be no more successful now than forty years ago. In his quest for global political expediency, Mr. Reagan has chosen to rewrite history. According to him, Holocaust survivors can be compared with German soldiers, who in his opinion, were equal victims of Nazism. To me, this is the greatest insult to the memory of those who perished. William Shirer, the author and war correspondent, is probably one of the best informed historical authorities on Nazism. In his letter to the New York Times, he wrote, "The idea that most German soldiers felt themselves victims of Nazism is false. I do not believe that the President can further reconciliation with the Germans on the basis of a falsehood." In my own personal experience, I saw the Einsatzgruppen in action several times. They were the most frenzied killers among the SS, and I remember how very young they were. Certainly not older than the SS buried at Bitburg, whom our President honored. The President's visit to Bitburg is an event which cannot and should not be explained away as a staff fiasco. Bitburg was a clear choice, a reaffirmation by powerful forces in this country who still think to this day that we fought the wrong enemy in World War II.

**Joseph Horn**  
Glen Rock, New Jersey

# Mermelstein Victory Vindicates All Survivors

Together with all survivors, we are gratified to learn about Mel Mermelstein's court victory over the infamous Institute for Historical Review and other groups who deny the Holocaust and that the Nazis gassed Jews in Auschwitz.

We have admired Mermelstein's perseverance in the past four years in taking up the survivors' cause and pursuing the fight against the anti-Semites' attempts to distort history and insult the victims of the Holocaust. We know the pain and anguish that Mermelstein was subjected to in trying to "prove" the truth. Only we, his fellow survivors, can understand the trauma of his exhausting experience in the legal battle to vindicate the memory of our dear ones.

With the case settled, Mermelstein told reporters: "I'm elated and relieved. They caved in. Not only that, but we proved they cannot get away with taking such a barbaric event as I have been through and turn it into a dagger to hurt me with."

Mermelstein, a survivor of Auschwitz and Buchenwald, now living in Long Beach, California, sued the institute in February 1981, after the organization refused to pay him the \$50,000 reward it had promised for supplying proof that Jews were gassed in Auschwitz. In a court-approved settlement of July 22, 1985, Mermelstein was awarded the \$50,000 and an additional \$40,000 for the pain and suffering caused by the institute's claims.

An important feature of the court-ordered agreement is that the institute must issue a formal written apology to Mr. Mermelstein and all other Auschwitz survivors for the pain it caused them by claiming the Holocaust was a myth. In addition,

# Rosensaft Bergen-Belsen Archive Dedicated at Yad Vashem

The Josef Rosensaft Bergen-Belsen Archive containing historical documents of the liberation of Bergen-Belsen and the aftermath of the Holocaust was dedicated at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem this July. The archive includes a wealth of historical material — photographs, correspondence, books, pamphlets, press clippings — covering the period of 1945-1950. It depicts the political, cultural, religious and creative Jewish life in the Displaced Persons Camp of Bergen-Belsen.

The dedication was part of the ongoing commemorations of the 40th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camps. The occasion was highlighted by a special reception for the delegates of the World Federation of Bergen-Belsen Associations, led by the organization's president, Sam Bloch, hosted by President Chaim Herzog at the President's Residence, and a Reunion and Liberation Dinner at the Museum of the Diaspora.

Principal speakers at the various events in Israel were Sam Bloch, Hadasah Rosensaft, Norbert Wollheim, Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem, Gideon Hausner, Chairman of the Council of Yad Vashem, Yitzchak Arad, Director of Yad Vashem, Mannes Schwarz, Prof. Yehuda Bauer of the Hebrew University and Menachem Rosensaft, as well as leading members of the Bergen-Belsen group in Israel — Rachmiel Singer, Hela Berlinski and Efraim Londner, and Moshe Milis of the World Federation of Jewish Fighters, Partisans and Camp Inmates.



*Israeli President Chaim Herzog greeting delegates of World Federation of Bergen-Belsen Associations.*

the institute must acknowledge once and for all, that "the fact that Jews were gassed at Auschwitz is indisputable."

The New York Times, in a July 29 editorial, commented: "For anyone to deny (the Holocaust) is a transcendent obscenity of our time, yet that's just the position of an organization called the Institute for Historical Review.

". . . Coming to grips with the extermination of millions has taken not just years, but generations. It

has not been enough to expose those who ran the death camps as aberrant monsters. They were monsters, surely, but over time, society has found it easier to acknowledge that they were human monsters . . .

"To keep the reverberating pledge, Never Again!, mankind needs to understand."

To our brother and friend Mel, we say: We owe you a debt of gratitude for your unflinching pursuit of justice and for extracting a victory on behalf of all Jewish survivors.

# נתן ראפאפארט, דער סקולפטאר פון חורבן

פון הירש אלטוסקי



**"LIBERATOR" — 15 ft. sculpture by Natan Rapoport erected May 30, 1985 at Liberty Park in New Jersey. The statue depicts an American soldier carrying a Jewish concentration camp victim.**

דער איצטיקער פלאץ איז אבער אויך זייער פאסטענ. ער געפינט זיך אין פרייהייטס-פארק פון ניו דזשירזי לעבן דער אמעריקאנער פרייהייטס-סטאטוע. וואס ווערט איצט, דרך אגב, ווידער אויפגע-פרישט און רעסטאורירט.

דער סקולפטאר, דער איידעלער מאן און פילבארער איד, נתן ראפאפארט האט דורכגעמאכט די מלחמה אין רוסלאנד. נאך דער מלחמה האט ער זיך מיט ליב און לעבן געווינדעט צום פאראייניקטן דעם חורבן און מיט זיינע צאָרטע פון ג-ט געבענטשטע הענט האט ער ביז היינט געשאפן די סאמע וויכטיקסטע דענקמעלער, געווינדעט דער שואה און מאָרטיראלאגיע פון אידישן פאָלק. צווישן זיינע מאָנומענטאַלע ווערק געפינט זיך דער גרויסער מאָנומענט צום אויפשטאנד אין וואַרשעווער געטאָ אין וואַרשע און אין יד ושם אין ירושלים, דער מגילת האש דענקמאָל אין יעדן קדושים אין ישראל, דער מדרכי אנילעוויטש דענקמאָל אין קיבוץ יד מדרכי, דער איוב סקולפטור אין יד ושם, דער דענקמאָל נאָך די זעקס מיליאָן קדושים אין פילאדעלפיע, די סקולפטור אין אנדענק פון די קינדער קדושים מיט דר. קאַרטשאַק ארץ די ווענט פון דער פאַרק עוועניו קינדער-שולע ביי דער אָרטיקער סינאָגאָגע און פיל, פיל אנדערע.

דעם פאַרגאַנגענעם 30-סטן מאי האָבן זיך אן ערך 10,000 מענטשן פאַרזאַמלט אין דעם ליבערטי פאַרק פון ניו דזשירזי, בערך א טויזנט יאָר אַוועק פון באַרימטן פרייהייטס-סימבאָל פון אמעריקע, די "סטאַטשיו אָו ליבערטי", בכדי צו באַערן דעם וועלט-באַרימטן אידישן סקולפטאר, נתן ראפאפארט. אין צוזאַמען-האנג מיט דער אַנטהילונג פון א מאָנומענט, געווינדעט דער באַפרייאונג פון א קאַצעטלער רוּדך און אמעריקאנער סאָלדאַט.

הונדערטער גענעראַלן און פולקאָוויקס און וועטעראַנען פון דער אַרמיי, ניווי און לופט-פלאַט, וואָס זיינען זיך צוזאַמענגעקומען צו דער אימפּאָזאַנטער אַבער גלייכצייטיק זייער באַשיידענער צערע-מאָניע פון באַערן דעם פשוטן, אומבאַקאַנטן אמעריקאנער סאָלדאַט, וואָס איז דער ערשטער געקומען פנים אל פנים מיט דעם גרויל פון דער גרויזאַמער ברוטאַליטעט פון דעם וואָס ער האָט געזען אין די באַפרייטע קאַנצענטראַציע און טויט-לאַגערן, אויפ'ן וועג פון נצחונ'דיקן מאַרש אין דער פאַרשקלאַפֿטער אייראָפע אין די פריילינג-חדשים פון יאָר 1945.

דער מאָנומענט הייסט טאַקע "די באַפרייאונג" און ס'האָט גענומען גאַנצע צוויי יאָר אים צו שאַפן. די איניציאַטיוו פון דעם מאָנומענט איז געקומען פון א ספּעציעלן קאָמיטעט פון מענטשן פון ניו דזשירזי, אונטער דעם פראָטעקטאָראַט פון דעם זייער פאַפּולערן גאַווערנאָר פון ניו דזשירזי, טאַמאַס ה. קעיין. דער קאָמיטעט ווערט אָנגעפירט פון פרוי לונא קאופמאַן און דוד קאַטאַק, צוזאַמען מיט פאַרשטייער פון וועטעראַנען-גרופּעס, ביזנעסלייט, דעליגיעזע פירער, מיליטערייט און געשעפטס-פירער פון גאַנץ ניו דזשירזי. זיי האָבן אין פאַרלויף פון די לעצטע צוויי יאָר געזאַמלט די סומע פון אַ קנאַפן מיליאָן דאָלאַר.

דער מאָנומענט איז פופצן פוס הויך, וועגט איבער צוויי טאָן און איז געגאַסן פון בראַנז אין דער באַקאַנטער גיסעריי "טאליקס" אין פיקסקיל, און שטייט אויף אַ שוואַרצן, מאַסיוון מאַרמאַרשטיין. געמאַכט פון דושיימס גאספארי פון בראַנזווויק, אויף דער סטאַטוע זעען מיר אַן אמעריקאנער סאָלדאַט, וואָס טראָגט אויף זיינע אַקסלען א געראטעוועטן קרבן פון א קאַנצענטראַציע-לאַגער. ווען איר קוקט זיך צו נאָענטער, זעט איר ווי די צוויי אַקסלען, פון דעם באַפרייער און דעם באַפרייטן, שמעלצן זיך צוזאַמען און ווערן איינס. זיי טיילן צוזאַמען איין האַרץ. דער סאָלדאַט טראָגט אויך נישט קיין ביקס, ער טוט זיין פליכט אַלס מענטש, וואָס שטרעקט אים זיין האַנט מיט הילף צו זיין חבר מענטש. דער געראטעוועטער איז אַ איד, מיט אַ מגן דוד און קאַצעטלער-נומער אויף זיין פארטרוקנטן ארעם. דער סקולפטאר נתן ראפאפארט האט געוואלט דעם מאָנומענט אויפשטעלן אין אַ פאַרק, נעבן אַ קינדער-שולע, וואו קינדער וואָלטן געקענט זען און לערנען וועגן דער גוט-האַרציקייט און מענטשלעכע געפילן און גייסט פון דעם אמעריקאנער סאָלדאַט, וואָס האָט ריזיקירט זיין לעבן פאַר דעם וואוילזיין און באַפרייאונג פון דער פאַרשקלאַפֿטער, דורכ'ן דייטשן באַרכאַר, וועלט.





### 'FROM HOLOCAUST TO NEW LIFE'

The commemorative volume of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors in Washington, D.C. is now being readied by the printers and will be shipped to all advance subscribers this fall.

If you have not yet ordered the book, we urge you to do so now. Please fill out the order form and mail it to us promptly.

**STILL AVAILABLE.** . . in limited quantities some rare mementos of the historic events — the 1983 American Gathering in Washington D.C. and the 1985 Inaugural Assembly in Philadelphia, Pa.

Order the commemorative art medals and posters, or the Misha Raitzin record of classic Ghetto and Remembrance songs for yourself and your children. The income from the sale will help us to continue our activities. As a special inducement, we eliminated the shipping and handling charges.

**'FROM HOLOCAUST TO REDEMPTION: Bearing Witness'** Book depicting the unique event in contemporary Jewish history — the World Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors (Israel, June 1981). A limited quantity is still available.

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## American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors

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July 29, 1986

Mr. Max Green  
Associate Director, Office of Public Liaison  
EOB - Room 196  
Washington DC 20500

Dear Max:

I was pleased to talk with you and I will call you next week to set up an appointment in Washington DC. Needless to say, we appreciate your help.

Enclosed please find copy of letter from the Vice-President and our response to the letter.

I am also enclosing several publications including "The Obligation to Remember" published by The Washington Post and I refer you to pp. 18-23.

Please note in the enclosed July 2 issue of "Together" the article on Page 11 referring to our educational program in Holocaust Studies.

I look forward to seeing you again.

Cordially,

Benjamin Meed

BM/mw  
encl.

via overnight



## American Gathering/Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors

אמריקאנער צוזאמענקום פֿון דער שארית הפליטה  
122 WEST 30TH STREET . SUITE 205 . NEW YORK, N.Y. 10001

July 28, 1986

The Honorable George Bush  
Vice-President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington DC 20500

Dear Vice-President Bush:

Today's news from Jerusalem covers your visit to Yad Vashem and reflects how deeply you were moved by your visit there. Thousands of Holocaust survivors in this country were with you in spirit at that moment.

That is why it is so important that when we gather on September 7 at the Statue of Liberty and for the Liberty Dinner in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel to celebrate "Forty Years of our New Life" in the United States, your presence will mean so much to all of us. At that time, we will express our gratitude to America for making it possible for us to come so far from the Holocaust and at the same time, never forgetting our past.

We received the letter dated July 16, from Ms. Deborah J. Hutton of your Scheduling Office indicating that you will be unable to join us due to a prior commitment. We do understand your busy schedule, but if there is any way to reconsider this important occasion and possible adjust your schedule, we would greatly appreciate it.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Cordially,

Benjamin Meed

BM/mw



# TOGETHER

American Gathering / Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 2

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To New Life!

JULY 2, 1986

*TO CELEBRATE 40 YEARS OF FREEDOM*

## SURVIVORS TO GATHER AT STATUE OF LIBERTY SEPT. 7

**O**n Sept. 7th, thousands of Jewish Holocaust Survivors will gather at the Statue of Liberty to commemorate the 40th anniversary of their arrival in the United States. The American Gathering and Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors announced that plans are underway for a patriotic celebration that will not only give thanks to America for providing survivors with a home and a haven, with an opportunity to begin their new life, but will demonstrate the unique contribution of Holocaust survivors and the second generation to this country.

The American Gathering will be the only group of Americans given permission to come as a group to use Liberty Island between the festive opening of the Statue of Liberty on July 4th and the completion of the renovations in late October.

Secretary of the Army, John Marsh has given his approval for the U.S. Army Band and Choir to perform. Flags of the American units that liberated concentration camps will be on display, and a cantata written especially for survivors and their liberators will be performed.

As we go to press, plans are preliminary, but the day will begin with a ceremony at the Statue of Liberty. It is expected that a ranking Reagan administration official will address the gathering. Governors of Metropolitan New York states and the entire regional congressional delegation have been invited. According to the planners, the event will not only celebrate 40 years of freedom but will focus on dramatic contributions of survivors to the American people during their new life.

The assembly will also dramatize the distinct role that survivors play within American life. After 40 years, Jewish Holocaust Survivors have taken their rightful place in America as embodiments of the American dream. Driven from their native lands by a tyrant, they came to the America shores bereft of material possessions but fueled by a passionate love of freedom.

Through industry and initiative they rebuilt their lives in freedom, raised children and grandchildren, and became an integral part of American life. Today survivors are found in every walk of American life—poets and politicians, scientists and industrialists, physicians, lawyers and teachers, workers and executives.

Yet the survivors' experience of America was unique. Unlike earlier immigrant generations, survivors are a constant reminder of America's failure to serve as a haven, a rescuer, or a protector during their hour of greatest need. So when they gather at the Statue of Liberty to commemorate a generation of freedom, survivors will speak to the promise of America, to the opportunity of America, and to its moment of failure.

### Evening Dinner is Planned

In the late afternoon of September 7th, a reception and dinner are scheduled for the Waldorf Astoria Hotel at which a series of awards will be presented along with an artistic and cultural program. Throughout the day, the atmosphere will be one of celebrating the blessing of freedom and the contributions of the survivors and the second generation. There will be no solicitation of funds during the event.

Benjamin Meed, president of the Gathering, has indicated that space at the Liberty Island and at the Waldorf Astoria is limited. Reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis and a registration form is provided on the back page of this paper. Survivors from throughout the country are expected and it is hoped that they will make their plans early to join the celebration of 40 years of freedom. Further information will be sent to all survivors in the mail within the next several weeks, but Meed urged that registration begin immediately and asked that all cities create committees to arrange for transportation and registration. A special executive committee meeting will be part of the September 7th proceedings. ▲



PRESENTATION COPY



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## By Way of Introduction

The past two months has been a time of intensive activity for the American Gathering. Naturally, our efforts have been concentrated on the annual Yom Hashoah commemorations held throughout the country, in cities both large and small, in the Capitol Rotunda and Madison Square Garden, in synagogues and churches. It is estimated that close to 500,000 people attended commemorations in each of the 50

The election of Kurt Waldheim has cast a painful shadow over our activities. Once again, we are involved in a political struggle against the forces of forgetfulness and once again our activities over the past 40 years are in jeopardy. As with Bitburg, the Jewish community stood united and pressed its case before world public opinion. Unfortunately, Austria, which had deliberately deceived world opinion by proclaiming itself the first victim of Hitler, elected a Nazi as its president.

The American Gathering is designed to serve the needs of survivors, to commemorate events of our lifetime, to mourn the dead, and, above all, to bring us together. **'Forty Years of New Life'—Joint Event with HIAS**

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Truman Act which made it possible for thousands of Holocaust Survivors to come to the United States.

To mark this milestone, we will gather on Sept. 7 in New York City and we expect approximately 2,000 people from all over the country. We have invited the entire congressional delegation of New York and New Jersey. We will gather on the Island at approximately 11 a.m. for a 90-minute program which should include the U.S. Army Choir and Band, presentation of flags of the American units that liberated the Nazis death camps. That afternoon we will gather at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel for a banquet at which time Claude Lanzmann will be presented with an award for his historic film "Shoah." There will also be an artistic program. To make it possible for as many people to attend the cost of the day will only \$100 per person which will cover our expenses. There will be solicitation of funds.

### WAGRO Commemoration

This year's annual Commemoration held in the Felt Forum of Madison Square Garden and sponsored by WAGRO and the United Commemoration Committee of Metropolitan New York drew more than 6,000 Holocaust survivors. Speakers included H.E. Abba Evan, Ambassador Benjamin Netanyahu, Mayor Edward I. Koch, Prof. Elie Wiesel, Rabbis Herschel Schacter and Haskel Lookstein, Jean Bloch Rosensaft, Peggy Tishman and Joseph Tekulsky. Benjamin Meed chaired the event. Once again, politics intruded into the Commemoration as speaker after speaker raised the Kurt Waldheim issue. Ambassador Netanyahu was very informative in describing the thousands of files of suspected Nazi War Criminals that he had personally inspected at the United Nations and in particular the notations regarding Waldheim. On that same date, a letter was sent to Attorney General Edwin Meese requesting that Waldheim be placed on the "Watch List" denying him entry to the United States.

### Days of Remembrance Washington, D.C.

The Annual Days of Remembrance Commemoration was held again this year at the Capitol Rotunda organized by the United States Holocaust Memorial Council. Speakers included Vice President George Bush, and Elie Wiesel. Participants included Abraham Bayer, Miles Lerman, William Lowenberg, Benjamin Meed, Sigmund Strochlitz, and Mark Talisman. Again, the subject of Waldheim was prominent among the speakers.

### Auschwitz Exhibition

The Auschwitz Exhibition, which was prepared under the auspices of the Polish Government, concluded a three-month display at the United Nations in February and it is estimated that more than 1,500 people per day viewed the exhibit. The United Jewish Appeal (UJA) has made arrangements with the Polish government to sponsor the exhibition in various cities throughout the United States. During a recent meeting between the top leadership of UJA and representatives of the American Gathering from California, Massachusetts, New York, and Connecticut, there were extensive discussions regarding the continuing need for revisions to the exhibition. It was agreed that a prominent Holocaust historian who is himself a survivor, would view the exhibition and submit his recommendations in order to preserve truth and accuracy. And a plan has been developed with the support of the survivors to correct the Auschwitz exhibit before it begins a coast to coast tour.

### Educational Program— Holocaust Studies in Israel

This year's applicants for our Educational Program in Holocaust Studies in Israel are of the highest caliber. We had more than 200 qualified applicants and 40 were chosen to participate in this very successful program. The 40 participants—Jews and non-Jews—come from 13 different states. Their three-week course will include instruction at the Ghetto Fighters House, Yad Vashem and other educational institutions in Israel. The project is in cooperation with the Educators Chapter of the Jewish Labor Committee and the American Federation of Teachers. The program is coordinated by Vladka Meed, chairwoman of the Education Committee of the American Gathering.

### Membership

It is with a great sense of achievement, that I inform you that more than 4,000 families, close to 9,000 individuals, have joined the roster of membership of the American Gathering and we, of course, would like all of you to assist in the continuation of our work. Our organization is dependent upon grassroots support for its very survival.

### Mermelstein Victory Dinner

On June 8, in Los Angeles, the Southern California Council of Jewish Holocaust Survivors together with the American Gathering presented Mel Mermelstein with the Distinguished Humanitarian Award for his victory in a legal battle over the Institute of Historical Review. The community-wide luncheon at the Beverly Hilton Hotel was chaired by Irving Peters and was attended by more than 850 people. The attendees were eloquently ad-

dressed by Fred Diamant, Dr. Lee Kagan, Lidia Budgor, Rene Firestone, Stanley Hirsh, president of the Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles; Dr. Abram L. Sachar, noted historian; and Neal M. Sher, director of the Office of Special Investigations, United States Department of Justice.

### National Registry

For the past year, we have been up-dating our computer records, eliminating duplicate mailings and correcting previous errors. The National Registry is a costly, time-consuming undertaking, but it is a unique project which cannot be replicated anywhere else in the world. It already serves needs of educators and students, researchers, scholars and the media. Our documentation is based upon the information of those who survived and tells the tale of rebuilding of their lives in freedom. We have concentrated our efforts upon entering the survivor data which you have submitted including your name before the war, town before the war, names of camps/ghettos and place of liberation. Soon you will be receiving a computer print-out based upon data furnished by you and which we ask that you review and verify for us.

### Coordination with Yad Vashem

We recently met with Dr. Izchak Arad, chairman of directorate at Yad Vashem who expressed his sincere desire that we coordinate our efforts in the cause of remembrance, documentation and education. We agreed that it is vital that Pages of Testimony be submitted to Yad Vashem for all known family members who perished during the Holocaust.

Please let me hear from you if you have any special thoughts on the above topics and I look forward to your joining us here in New York City on September 7th. We hope to produce a day of events which will be meaningful and unforgettable. Please start organizing group travel for the weekend of Sept. 7th. New York will receive you with love.

*Benjamin Meed*

Benjamin Meed, President

American Gathering and Federation of  
Jewish Holocaust Survivors.

## Another Kind of Witness'

An exhibition of photographs commemorating the Inaugural Assembly of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors in Philadelphia in the spring of 1985 was on display at the Gershman "Y" of JCC through Monday, June 30, 1986. This exhibit is sponsored by the Association of Jewish Holocaust Survivors in Philadelphia, Memorial Committee for the Six Million Jewish Martyrs, Charles and Elizabeth Gershman, YM and YWHA of Jewish Community Centers and the Community College of Philadelphia. This excellent collection of photos depicts the historic days when we were all so troubled and outraged over President Ronald Reagan's up-coming visit to Bitburg which coincided with our Inaugural Assembly.



# The WJC and the Kurt Waldheim Affair

Last week, *Together* interviewed Elan Steinberg, who directed the World Jewish Congress investigation of Kurt Waldheim. The questions were asked by Michael Berenbaum.

**Together:** What do we know about Kurt Waldheim?

**Steinberg:** Waldheim is an amoral, unrepentant liar, who was a member of three Nazi organizations and was a senior German intelligence officer. He bears the label Nazi War Criminal as determined by the Yugoslavian State War Crimes Commission in 1947. He also stands accused by the United Nations War Crimes Commission as a war criminal. The UN War Crimes Commission determined that he should stand trial for murder and putting hostages to death. The U.S. Justice Department Office of Special Investigation has said that under American law Waldheim should be barred from ever entering the United States and no Attorney General has ever overturned such a recommendation from OSI, which is the office within the Justice Department mandated to make such a determination. In sum, it is not the World Jewish Congress that says he is a war criminal, it is the United Nations, the very body that Waldheim headed for ten years.

But more important, why are we concerned with Kurt Waldheim?

Kurt Waldheim was not Mengele. Whatever else we are going to say about him—his hands are not clean, he may very well be a murderer and I want to stress that—but he is not Mengele.

**Together:** In other words, there were thousands like him?

**Steinberg:** Thousands, certainly. But let us not make the mistake of saying that he was simply a German soldier he was much more than that, but even if he wasn't Mengele, Mengele was not Secretary General of the UN.

If Waldheim were hiding out in the jungles of Paraguay, if he were an umbrella salesman in Austria, even if he were President of Austria, I wouldn't be so concerned. Kurt Waldheim was Secretary General of UN, therefore, he represented you, me, and everyone else. He held what was ostensibly the highest human rights office in the world, head of an institution founded on the ashes of Nazism. We had the Orwellian or Kafkaesque situation where the UN's CEO sat on the 38th floor of a building while his war crimes file sat in the archives.

What I find most dangerous of the whole Waldheim affair is not that we've uncovered an active collaborator but Waldheim represents the most insidious form of the denial of Holocaust. It's not the crazy professors who come out of California every once and a while to say there were no gas chambers. We have to confront that—but by in large, mainstream America and the mainstream world community recognize that those pseudo-scholars are on the fringe. After hundreds of thousands of pages of testimony at Nuremberg and elsewhere, this brand of revisionism is completely dismissed by the rational world. I never thought that people were taking the denial seriously. But this form of denial is serious. It's Kurt Waldheim pounding the table dur-

ing his BBC interview and saying you have to understand that there were German victims as well. It is the equation of the victim with the perpetrator, the new assertion that World War II was a war like all other wars, without the planned systematic execution of civilians.

**Together:** So you see this in direct continuity with Bitburg?

**Steinberg:** Absolutely.

Bitburg symbolized something else. At Bitburg we kashered the Waffen SS. Long ago we kashered the Wehrmacht. Waldheim is the most insidious form of this phenomena for now World War II is like all wars. When Waldheim's son came to Washington and explained that his father blocked out some of this period because it was an unpopular war like the Vietnam war, Waldheim asked to be treated like a Vietnam War veteran.

**Together:** It may be more complicated than that. The revisionists are saying it didn't happen and now Waldheim is saying, "it happened but it really doesn't matter."

**Steinberg:** When you start with the position it never happened, they are dismissed. Yet Waldheim has also said it didn't happen. If you look at the current issue of the *New Yorker* the author of the *Austria Profil* magazine wrote that Waldheim went to the personnel office of Austrian Department of Foreign Affairs, surrounded by the young diplomats, he took out the file indicating that he was a member of three Nazi organizations. Waldheim read the document and said: "No it's not true. I didn't do it." And the young diplomats stood there with their mouths wide open while he denied it.

“Waldheim represents the most insidious form of the denial of Holocaust.”

Another insidious dimension to the controversy is the way the press has treated the charges.

One of the things that cannot be claimed is that the World Jewish Congress has not substantiated its claims. The press would never have allowed us to get away with this. For every assertion we made, we provided the document, the proof. Then they went to Mr. Waldheim and said: what do you say and Waldheim said, "It's not true," which is also his right. But no journalist asked him to document his assertion. So you have the bizarre symmetry "The World Jewish Congress makes an assertion, Waldheim denies it."

**Together:** Why did it take so long?

**Steinberg:** Because Waldheim's deception was so clever. For 40 years, he told us, he was studying law in Vienna between the years 1942-44. He proudly spoke of his anti-Nazi background. Where do you look for this material.



Waldheim in Yugoslavia, March 22, 1943.

It was only a few months ago that there was even a hint that he was on the staff of General Loehr. It was only by accident that we discovered it and we went to the archives and looked under the Army group E. There are perhaps only ten historians in the country who are capable of conducting this research. What was required were German historians not Holocaust historians. Yet once you follow General Loehr

whether these officers acted properly. There was a passing reference in the article which said: "After all Loehr isn't so bad, he had Waldheim on his staff."

When a researcher showed this to one of our staff people, we were stunned but we were prepared to dismiss it because we "knew" that Waldheim was wounded on the Eastern front and was studying law. But we did some preliminary research and we went to the WJC president Edgar Bronfman to authorize a full scale search.

There had been rumors on Waldheim's past for the past 20 years. But we aren't Joe McCarthy. We don't make assertions without docu-

“But no journalist asked him to document his assertion. So you have the bizarre symmetry 'The World Jewish Congress makes assertion, Waldheim denies it.'”

through the Balkans, the name Waldheim keeps appearing in the worst places at the worst times.

In January this year, an Austrian magazine *Profil* had an article on General Loehr. It seemed that a group of Austrian army officers had placed a memorial to Loehr in the Austrian Air Force Academy. Loehr was the War Criminal hanged in 1947. And there was a controversy

“There is more involved than Waldheim alone. The problem is Waldheim's disease—moral amnesia.”

mentation. But once we knew where to look, we started a full scale search.

**Together:** What were the institutional considerations?

**Steinberg:** Resources! It cost us a lot of money. But more important-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



## The New York Times

Founded in 1851  
THE NEW YORK TIMES, SATURDAY, MAY 31, 1986

## For Holocaust Survivors, 40 Years of New Life

By Benjamin Meed

**F**orty years ago this month, I was a member of the first group of Holocaust survivors to immigrate to the United States. At first glance, the passengers on the Marine Perch, which reached New York harbor on May 24, 1946, were like any other newcomers to America. We came here seeking freedom and a new life.

Yet we were different. We were the battered remnant of a millennium of Jewish life in Europe, the last of our families, the last of our towns. We had seen the dark side of man. We brought with us memories of a world that no longer existed. Warsaw, my native city, had once teemed with almost half a million Jews. Every block of the Jewish quarter was filled with synagogues and schools, theaters and bookshops, merchants and workers, Hasidim and secular Jews. After Warsaw's destruction, the ghetto was so devastated that it had to be plowed under. A new city without Jews —

Benjamin Meed is president of the American Gathering and Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors.

seemingly without even the memory of Jews — would ultimately be built on its ruins.

The night before we landed was especially exciting. With the ship anchored in the harbor, we could see the lights of the city and the Statue of Liberty. None of us could sleep. Instead, we stood on deck all night long. We were apprehensive and frightened.

**'\$8 in my pocket' and no relatives at the dock**

Before we boarded the ship in Bremen, an American rabbi had spoken to us in Yiddish. "Don't be afraid," he said. Simple words, yet for six years in the kingdom of night, fear had been my constant companion, the compass that charted my direction and dictated my every move.

"Don't be afraid of people in uniform: They won't take you to a camp," the rabbi told us. Then he touched on my deepest fear: "Every-

thing is open to you," he said. "What you do is up to you." Where could I find the confidence to believe it could be a different world, that in America I could be a Jew and an American? In Poland, it was possible to be a Jew, but you were never really fully accepted as a Pole. We were skeptical and filled with anxiety.

I had \$8 in my pocket. I had no relatives waiting for me at the dock. My education had been interrupted by the war, and I had no real skills. I couldn't even speak English.

Our first years here were hard. Sounds that triggered fear in the old world echoed every day: whenever we heard car tires screeching, we froze, and the sound of a doorbell ringing set our nerves trembling. At night, many of us were troubled by nightmares and memories. And of course there were critical decisions to make. How can we begin again? How does one make a living? Where do you find the courage to bring another generation of Jewish children into the world when you have just seen the last generation perish?

But somehow we did begin anew. We had children and saw them grow up and become real Americans. We watched over them and marveled at how much they felt at home. We felt pride at seeing them make their way into the mainstream of American life.

At the same time, we ourselves were working hard to adjust to America — and we did. Survivors can now be found in every one of the 50 states and in every walk of life. Writers and scholars, physicians and lawyers, businessmen and scientists — we have them all. Yet no matter how we marvel at where we have been and how far so many of us have come, the scars of our common memory remain, and the pain endures.

For years, we were alone here. Our fellow Jews regarded us as greenhorns. Other Americans treated us as refugees. "Forget the past," we were told, "it can only hurt you — and us." So we reached out to each other and remembered alone. But slowly, the memory of our past was transmitted, at first only to fellow Jews, and, in time, to other Americans.

I believe we represent to ourselves and now to most Americans the determination to overcome despair and to defy death by recreating life. We have been able to remember the pain of the past and to transmit it so as to warn others of what can happen. We showed that it was possible to fight for life in a world of death, for freedom in a world marred by tyranny. And now, 40 years later, it is consulting to know that our testimony has not been in vain, that because we remembered we helped others remember. [ ]

## The New York Times

Founded in 1851

THE NEW YORK TIMES, FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 1986

## He Is Not Free Of Guilt

By Menachem Z. Rosensaft

**H**itler, Adolf Eichmann, Josef Mengele, Klaus Barbie — all were war criminals who, beyond any doubt, reasonable or otherwise, committed heinous crimes against humanity. Kurt Waldheim belongs in a different category altogether, and he may or may not in fact have been a war criminal. But that hardly exonerates him of guilt for his participation in the absolute evil of the Hitler era.

Mr. Waldheim was not stationed at a concentration camp, he did not conduct terminal medical experiments on defenseless Jews and Gypsies, he never operated a gas chamber and he did not determine policy during his years as an intelligence officer in the German Army. Yet it is clear that, from 1939 to 1945, he was a willing and apparently enthusiastic servant of Adolf Hitler and the Third Reich.

He claims to have been a "respectable soldier," but in reality he aided and abetted the German Army's violations of numerous international conventions dealing with the wartime treatment of civilians and captured enemy soldiers. At the very least, he closed his eyes to the deportations of Greek Jews to Auschwitz that were taking place under his very nose. And he stands accused by the United Nations War Crimes Commission of having participated in atrocities against partisans and civilians in Yugoslavia.

Menachem Z. Rosensaft, a lawyer, is founding chairman of the International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors.

Gen. George Patton, then the head of the United States military government of Bavaria, said that "this Nazi thing is just like a Democratic and Republican election fight." It was an absurd comparison. The Nazi Party was not just another political party, and Nazism was not just another ideology.

The goal of Hitler's movement was the absolute domination of mankind by the Aryan race. All the rest was trimming — and one could not participate in the Nazi movement without endorsing this central, reprehensible goal.

Mr. Waldheim is virtually certain to be chosen on Sunday as president of Austria — and his election will constitute the most pronounced rehabilitation to date of all those who played an active role in the Nazi establishment.

In his campaign, Mr. Waldheim disingenuously told his compatriots, "Don't let anybody turn your fathers and grandfathers into criminals." Like many others, he wants the world to forget that only a generation ago, tens of thousands of German and Austrian fathers and grandfathers committed the most brutal crimes in history.

Once and for all, it must be understood that the evil of Nazism was absolute — and that all involved participated in that absolute evil. No one involved can claim to be what Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal has called Mr. Waldheim — a mere "opportunist."

If Mr. Waldheim's Nazi past had been known in 1971, it would certainly have prevented him from even being considered for the post of United Nations Secretary General. His unsavory wartime record should now permanently disqualify him from holding public office of any kind. For it is only by unambiguously repudiating anyone and anything associated with Nazism that we may be able to prevent its resurgence in the future.

Kurt Waldheim and everyone else who participated in any way in implementing the Nazi ideology are collectively responsible for the Third Reich's crimes against humanity. In matters of historical responsibility, no one is only a little bit guilty. □

Thus, whether or not he was a war criminal, he certainly was a Nazi soldier who — both by his actions and by his failure to protest even a single atrocity — endorsed all the reprehensible policies of the Hitler regime. As a result, he is no more a desirable member of society than were Mengele or Eichmann.

There is, in history, virtually no such thing as simple or clear-cut responsibility. Those who participate in crimes like those committed in the Nazi era are clearly guilty, of course. But the threads of direct and indirect responsibility reach far beyond those who were actually present on the

**Everyone who helped implement Nazism shares in the collective responsibility**

scene — and it is often hard to decide just how far.

Who was responsible for the annihilation of millions of Jews? Who murdered my grandparents, my five and a half year old brother, my aunts, uncles, cousins? Surely, not only those men and women who were present at Auschwitz, Treblinka and Bergen-Belsen and their immediate superiors. Who bears the responsibility for the "final solution of the Jewish question"? Surely not only those who conceived and actually implemented it. Surely, their comrades, their friends back home, and all those who cheered Adolf Hitler on and allowed his Government to function were also guilty.

Just after the end of World War II,

## Holocaust Activities in Tennessee

BY LEONID SAHAROVICI

On April 13, 1986, Memphis Tenn., held the second annual presentation of the Zachor Award. The first award went to Benjamin Meed. The second one to Ernest Michel. The program was dedicated to the performing arts of the Holocaust. More than 500 people, a cross section of the Memphis community, participated. It was a tremendous success and the program was highly praised by the press, TV, and radio which have covered the event. Cong. Dan Sunquist was part of the program.

Yom Hashoah was commemorated on May 4 at the Memphis Jewish Community Center. The community effort was sponsored by the Memphis Jewish Federation Community Relations Council, Memphis Jewish Community Center, and the Memphis Holocaust Memorial Committee. A very impressive program which included a dramatic one woman show "Blessed is the Heart," the story of Hannah Senesh, was presented.

The next day, on Monday, May 5 in Nashville (the capital of the state of Tennessee) on the Capitol Hill, in the presence of Governor Lamar Alexander, the state of Tennessee Commission of the Commemoration of the Holocaust planted six cedar trees and unveiled a memorial plaque dedicated to the six million Jewish victims of the Nazi Holocaust. A state proclamation was issued by the state senate and Senator Steven Cohen was the driving force behind its issuance.



## AMERICAN GATHERING INITIATES TALKS WITH SELF HELP

# Inexpensive Housing for the Elderly

BY NORBERT WOLLHEIM

In the last issue of *TOGETHER* you were informed that the Gathering is considering seriously how it can help and assist its members who are exposed to difficulties and problems connected with advancing age.

Since we are aware of the fact that we have neither the funds nor the experience to establish our own and independent relief agency, it is our goal to bring help to our members by cooperating with the appropriate social service.

With this goal in mind we initiated a series of discussions with "SELFHELP," an organization which was founded more than 50 years ago by refugees from Central Europe. With private funds of their own and the financial support of governmental agencies, SELFHELP operates housing facilities (Wohnheime) with supporting social services in Flushing, Queens. Survivors

could be admitted if they meet the following qualifications:

1. Minimum age: 60 years, with no limit of higher age. In case of a couple, only one partner has to be 60 years old.

2. Applicants must be able to live independently and take care of themselves.

3. Applicants must have a minimum income from all sources of \$8 -10,000 if they are single, and \$12 -14,000 for couples, but they cannot be eligible if their income is beyond \$20,500 if single and \$28,000 for a couple.

4. Applicants must have been residents of New York State for at least six months before filing their applications.

For a couple the rental cost for an apartment, consisting of bed and living room, fully equipped kitchen, and private bath ranges from \$310 to \$345 per month.

A single person would be accommodated with a 2 1/2 room (studio apartment) consisting of a large

room, separate completely equipped kitchen and private bath. The rentals range from \$225 to \$250 per month.

All rentals include gas and electricity. If an air conditioner is being used there will be additional charges ranging from \$9.10 to \$19.60 per month depending on the size of the unit.

Tenants are not removed from their apartment in case of loss of one partner of a couple.

All tenants provide their own furniture.

There are laundry rooms on the premises in all buildings.

A private doctor has his office on the premises.

Social services are available for tenants in all buildings and consists of advice for medicare, social security, home care, German indemnification, etc.

Some preventive medical care is provided, such as regular blood pressure checks.

Recreational and social activities

include a *minyan*, lectures, social rooms for coffee hours, music, writing groups, etc. The Flushing YMHA—adjoining the housing facility—has a swimming pool which will be accessible to the tenants for a modest fee.

If you are interested in this kind of accommodation and you believe that you meet the requirements concerning age, income and health, write to the American Gathering and we shall see to it that you will be put on a waiting list for registration by UNITED HELP, the agency in charge of processing all applications in accordance with the rules and regulations by which the facilities are administered.

Let me emphasize that in our discussions with the representatives of SELFHELP we have found sincere understanding for the plight and special problems of the survivors community and that we can count on their close cooperation to meet the increasing personal needs of our fellow-survivors. ▲

## Special Organization formed for Child Survivors

BY EVA FOGELMAN

They met during a panel discussion at the American Gathering in Philadelphia and shared the pain of not belonging anywhere.

At Child Survivor Association meetings in New York, New Jersey, California, Washington, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts they talk about never having been understood in this way before.

During therapeutic sessions they cry for family members and childhoods lost long ago during the Nazi Holocaust. They learn to recapture forgotten memories by hearing each others experiences. Each has a unique story to tell. Each was under 13 when their childhood was interrupted by the Nazis.

The child survivors, who often felt unable to join in discussion with adult survivors or members of the second generation, are finally beginning to meet and acknowledge that they, too, have something important to contribute to understanding the past and ensuring a secure future.

Dr. Judith Kestenberg, the renowned psychoanalyst, and her husband, Milton, an attorney, have not forgotten this group of survivors who were under the age of 13 when they began to experience persecution. Three years ago the Kestenbergs formed the Jerome Riker International Study of Organized Persecution of Children under the auspices of Child Development Research. The project is devoted to compiling the history of the experiences of children before, during and after the Nazi era; contributing to the psychological knowledge of coping with massive trauma, adapta-

tion and identity after severe persecution; and providing a forum for child survivors to meet for community, commemoration, education, and political and creative expression.

These goals are being accomplished by many volunteers in the United States, Europe and Israel, who conduct interviews and gather, summarize or translate archival material, books, or interviews. (In order to write a comprehensive history of child persecution, interviews are supplemented with archival records, books and interviews with adults who cared for children.)

To date, 450 child survivors have given testimony to trained interviewers. For most, this was the first time that anyone has listened to them. For some the memories before and during the Holocaust are sparse, so Dr. Kestenberg has developed innovative techniques for interviewing those who were very young. Other child survivors have been reluctant to open up closed wounds. But all would agree that the interview has unburdened them and often has been accompanied with tremendous sense of relief.

The networking, self-help and therapeutic groups, and political and social meetings have all contributed to recreating a sense of belonging for those who lost families. A newsletter links all the various components of the project. Although each chapter is autonomous, they are involved in similar discussion and activity. In Los Angeles the group that inspired others now celebrates holidays together in addition to their other activities.

As the story of child survivors unravels, the data is discussed in professional and community groups. Child survivors are sharing their creative talent (art, music, mime, dance, theater, poetry, fiction) first among themselves and then with

the public-at-large. Many are also speaking up to educate the new generation of Americans.

To participate, volunteer, join, or receive further information, contact

Child Development Research, Jerome Riker International Study of Organized Persecution of Children, 30 Soundview Lane, Sands Point, Long Island 11050, (516) 883-7135. ▲

## ADL Reissues Updated Holocaust Bibliography

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has just issued the third edition of *The Holocaust in Books and Films*, which is now considered a classic in its field. The new edition is a co-publication of ADL's International Center for Holocaust Studies and Hippocrene Books, Inc., of New York City.

Originally published by ADL in 1978 and updated in 1982, the 1986 bibliography has been greatly expanded and put in an attractive new format.

Resources appear in a dozen categories, ranging from "European Jewry Before the Holocaust" to "War Criminals," "Survivors," and the "Nature of Human Behavior."

Books, films, poster sets, special

publications are all annotated—some 475 in all. The 158-page paperback book features major Holocaust education and resource centers, audio-visual distributors, and three indexes: one for publications, one for authors, and one for audio-visuals.

Co-editors of the volume are Judith Herschlag Muffs of ADL's Interfaith Affairs department and Dennis B. Klein of the International Holocaust Center.

The book may be ordered from ADL for \$6.95, plus handling. All orders should come directly to Linda Miller, Publications Department, ADL, 823 United Nations Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10017. ▲

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SEPTEMBER 7, 1986**

Eva Fogelman is a New York based psychologist who works with second generation groups.



## SURVIVORS GRAVES SHOULD HAVE A PERMANENT MARKER

## An Open Letter to All Survivors

BY JUDY FREEMAN

I am addressing this article to each and everyone of you! Together we form a very special group of people, regardless of our former nationality or whether we were in concentration camps or ghettos, hiding in forests or attics, or living with assumed identities during the Nazi terror years. The miraculous fact is that we lived to bear witness to the darkest chapter in history.

We all live with our own memories and deal with our thoughts of them in different ways. To some, the cruelties, fear and dehumanization of the Holocaust experience are still so painful that it seems easier to not think or talk about them. Others are able to share their experiences and are dedicated to remembrance. Whatever our own method of dealing with the past, we must not permit the world to forget!

It is a recognized and admired fact that in spite of the traumatic events in our former lives, we man-

aged to turn adversity to our advantage and build a new life upon the ashes of the past. We have many reasons to feel a sense of pride and accomplishment.

Now, some 40 years after our liberation, while we are reflecting on our accomplishments, we also confront the fact that we are aging, and time is running out. In spite of our strength and courage that sustained us during those terrible years, we are mortal, and soon there will not be any survivors left. We must take some steps now, while there is still time to leave some visible proof of our existence.

When one visits a cemetery, the graves of heroes are marked with small American flags. Every survivor can be considered a hero for having resisted destruction and staying alive.

Survivors' graves can be distinguished by placing a special marker on the grave. The most logical and appropriate marker is the Survivor Logo, depicting a Magen David made of barbed wire with a new

branch springing from it. It is a beautiful and symbolic expression of former suffering and new life. It is known and recognized all over the world, since its introduction at the time of the World Gathering in Jerusalem in 1981. In the center of the Magen David it would read: "Holocaust Survivor."

I like to suggest that the Survivor Logo be attached to the gravestone of every survivor—when that time comes. It would be a visible reminder of the Holocaust for all time and would help preserve remembrance for future generations. To have survived what each of us experienced earned us this kind of honor, even after our death. Adopting this custom would be very helpful to those educators and historians who will teach and write about the Holocaust in the future. These marked graves would remind a visitor to a cemetery that the Holocaust was real and that survivors lived in their community. Such a visible and permanent marker would also serve to discredit the

persons and revisionist groups who claim that the Holocaust never happened.

The realization of this project depends entirely on the support and interest of survivors. It is important that we consider its implications and significance in the future.

Several bronze casting firms have been contacted, and they estimate the cost to be under \$100. The marker can be attached to the tombstones of those loved ones who died during the past years. A request in our will would alert our families to grant this wish.

If your response is favorable, then this custom would be promoted through the national office of the American Gathering/Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors. Please feel free to express your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions, and mail to: Judy Freeman, 919 N. Leh St., Allentown, Pa. 18104 (Phone: 215-435-6688) or to the American Gathering office at: 122 W. 30th St., Suite 205, New York, N.Y. 10001. ▲

## The Courage of the Partisans

BY MILES LERMAN

This year's national "Days of Remembrance" was dedicated to paying tribute to the officers and soldiers of the United States Armed Forces who fought and died in an effort to put an end to the Nazi evil.

As they advanced, they broke down the gates of the concentration camps and liberated its remnants at a point when they were only one footstep away from certain death.

For this, we and our children will remain forever grateful!

Yet, as we pay tribute to the liberators, we must not forget the other army who so effectively fought the enemy from within the partisans and the resistance fighters of all occupied countries. They fought different battles with somewhat different objectives. They fought valiantly under the most adverse conditions.

Most of the partisans had little or no military training. They were poorly equipped, with meager supplies of antiquated weapons. In spite of all these handicaps, they often succeeded in bringing havoc and demoralization to the invaders.

Due to the daring efforts of the partisans, many trainloads of ammunition and military supplies for the eastern frontline never reached their destination; no small achievement for a partisan group. What is even more impressive is the fact that many of these highly dangerous missions were accomplished

by young Talmudic students who before the war never held a rifle or a stick of dynamite in their hands. But they learned quickly and became fierce fighters.

Oddly enough, the full story of these difficult struggles and heroic achievements has not yet been fully told.

Most of the Holocaust literature deals with Jewish military resistance in a rather understated matter. As a matter of fact, there are even some writers who, observed these tragic events from a distance, who in their writing give the impression that the Jews of Europe offered little resistance and sub-

**“The fighters of the Warsaw Ghetto and those who rose in revolt in the death camp of Treblinka and Sobibor had no illusions. They understood clearly that their chances for victory were nil.”**

The Jewish partisans fought in every part of German occupied territories. Many have distinguished themselves with heroic bravery of extraordinary proportions. It is a known fact that Jewish partisans were the first ones to volunteer for the most dangerous assignments. Historic evidence proves that Jews played leading roles and fought courageously in most partisan groups and underground networks throughout Europe.

The first ones to rise in open rebellion against the German oppressors were the Jews. The fighters of the Warsaw Ghetto and those who rose in revolt in the death camp of Treblinka and Sobibor had no illusions. They understood clearly that their chances for victory were nil.

They rebelled with one goal in mind—to die fighting in defense of the honor and dignity of their people, a people who fought desperately to survive, while most of their neighbors stood by idly and did so pitifully little to help them in their plight.

Yes! There could have been more resistance, and there should have been more resistance—if only the outside world would have been more responsive to our pleas. Unfortunately, no help was available from anyone, not even for us—partisans—who so effectively managed to disorganize the military hinter-

**“They rebelled with one goal in mind—to die fighting in defense of the honor and dignity of their people.”**

land. As an example, my partisan unit operated in southern Poland for a period of 4½ months in an area only 160 miles away from the Soviet front line. We kept on pleading for air drops of ammunition and medicine for our wounded, which we so badly needed, but our requests remained unanswered. We stood all alone! We stood all alone! With no one willing to help us.

The myth that Jews offered no resistance must be debunked!

The young men and women who fought and died for the honor of their people demand that the record should be set straight once and for all. They earned it and they deserve it! ▲

Miles Lerman, chairs the International Relations Committee of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council. He coordinated a 14 nation international conference of liberators in 1981. This article is taken from his remarks at the Days of Remembrance Commemoration in the Capitol Rotunda.

mitted to the verdict of annihilations in a rather passive manner.

This, of course is not so! The truth of the matter is that the “so called” lack of resistance on the part of the Jews is a “myth” that will not stand up to the acid test of history.

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## ELIE WIESEL QUESTIONS WITHOUT ANSWERS

# Words and Their Opposite, Silence

BY ABRAHAM H. FOXMAN

*"Against Silence: The Voice and Vision of Elie Wiesel," edited by Irving Abrahamson. Holocaust Library, New York, 1985, three volumes, pp. 1,188, \$85.*

These three volumes contain not only "the voice and the vision" of Elie Wiesel but his Jewish heart and soul.

One must be grateful to Irving Abrahamson for the apparent love and diligence he devoted to the gathering and editing of Wiesel's words, whether to a worldwide audience over television or in the most obscure of synagogues. He must have worked like the most pious of Orthodox Jews searching through a many-roomed house for every scrap and crumb of *chometz* as Passover approaches.

His labors resulted in a collection which belongs in every library—private or public, Jewish or non-Jewish. It includes Wiesel's lectures, reviews, interviews, dialogues, forewords, essays, comments on topical and urgent matters and his own interpretations of Wiesel's works. It also contains a bibliography, alphabetically listed, of Wiesel's books,

**“Like the patriarchs and prophets, Wiesel dares to confront and question God. He writes, “there are no answers to true questions. There are only good questions, sometimes painful, sometimes exuberant.”**”

with

fiction and non-fiction. While the anthology does not pretend to be autobiographical and information about Wiesel's life emerges only in fragmentary form, a portrait is evoked of a personality representative not only of the victims and survivors of the Holocaust but of Judaism itself.

Like the patriarchs and prophets, Wiesel dares to confront and question God. He writes, "there are no answers to true questions. There are only good questions, sometimes painful, sometimes exuberant. All I have learned in life is questions, and whatever I have tried to share with friends is questions."

To Wiesel, the Jew is "the great questioner." Among the many examples in the Jewish past, he cites Abraham questioning his father,

Abraham H. Foxman is associate national director of Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Terah, about idols and Moses demanding of Pharaoh, "How can you kill children?"

No wonder then that this survivor confronted President Ronald Reagan, as the prophet Nathan did King David, about the propriety of the presidential visit to SS graves at Bitburg. With Wiesel, certain themes always dominate—the Holocaust, of course, but also words, the meaning of silence, Judaism, Jewishness, Israel, anti-Semitism.

Wiesel is the voice of the Holocaust and though he has succeeded in depicting it with greater clarity and definition than all who have tried, he feels inadequate because "Auschwitz defies the novelist's language, the historian's analysis, the vision of the prophet."

He writes: "We question today...how such crimes and horrors could have been committed....We shall never know why. All questions pertaining to Auschwitz lead to anguish."

Yet he loves words and their opposite, silence.

He says that he is "against words" and then in another context contradicts himself by writing, "everything that has to do with writing is sacred."

But his love for words is apparent and cannot be hidden as he exploits them to the fullest to convey the full range of his meaning with concise clarity. Words are to be treasured, quoted and above all, remembered.

He also has a special affinity for silence. It has a profound meaning for him. The Holocaust survivors chose silence, he said, because they felt inadequate to the task of communicating "with language that eludes language." When he went to the Soviet Union, he described the community he found as the "Jews of Silence," but it was silence on the verge of eruption.

Through him silence has a voice, resonating with the absence of God and under the presence of the 6,000,000 slaughtered by the Nazis.

His pride in Judaism and Jewishness reverberates. His references to his Chassidic childhood, his early studies of Judaic lore, are bathed in warmth. He finds it "maddening that Jewish writers have to justify themselves for writing about Jews and Jewish themes" while no one questions why Faulkner for example, wrote about the South. He writes about the Jewish people with exultation as "a people of history" among whom "everything is connected. Words spoken 8,000 years ago affect us today."

And: "Alone a Jew is nothing; with other Jews he is a force because automatically he inherits all the strengths and all the tears, all the despairs and all the joys of his ancestors."

Thus, there are depths beyond depths in his sentences and paragraphs.

He probes the Jewish heart and soul and challenges the world's morality, ethical standards, and practices.

More than an author, he is a teacher without rabbinical ordination, teaching Judaism to our generation and those to come.



Elie Wiesel

He is a prophet not of the future but of rightness, decency, humanity, justice and civilization itself.

Throughout his collection, although Wiesel speaks with frankness and bleak dismay of human cruelty and degradation, his voice and vision are pervaded with optimism.

In this book, Wiesel speaks to the readers with frank simplicity of

the causes and events that concern and involve him. It is not a collection to be skimmed nor to be read in a few sittings but one into which one plunges as deeply as one can in order to ponder, to have one's mind cleared and refreshed and to be re-inspired with one's heritage and one's place in life's eternal struggle.

He speaks not only to Jews but all of mankind aspiring to a better life in a better world.

**JOIN US  
FOR THE  
SURVIVORS  
LIBERTY EVENTS  
IN NEW YORK CITY  
SEPTEMBER 7, 1986**



## EDITORIAL

## HONORED IMMIGRANTS

**O**n July 4, 1986 the President will honor 12 Americans immigrants, who came to these shores seeking a haven or just a better life, for their contributions to our national life—a dozen men and women whose towering achievements have brought glory to America and advanced the cause of freedom everywhere.

More than half of these distinguished Americans are Jews, among them—Henry Kissinger and Elie Wiesel. The former secretary of state was among the few who left Hitler's Germany before the war. While still a child, Kissinger's parents fled a country that had been their home for centuries. They lived in a world without Israel and at a time when America was a reluctant haven. So they withstood long lines at the consulates, the policies of a State Department hesitant to receive refugees, and the hardships of alien immigrants who come to America. Kissinger moved from Harvard to the White House and the State Department where he became the most influential secretary of state in this century. It was his destiny to plant the seeds that led to the peace between Israel and Egypt.

While Kissinger was in high school, Wiesel was in Auschwitz, Birkenau and Buchenwald. After liberation, he was taken to Paris, where he completed his education and began his career as a writer and journalist. He came to the United States on assignment to cover the United Nations—and he became a citizen because he was welcomed here. Although he writes mainly in French, during his three decades in the United States he has written 25 books and thousands of articles. He has become the spokesman for all survivors and a voice of conscience for humanity. Wherever he goes, he speaks as a Jew from the darkest memory of Jewish history. He recalls the precariousness of life to remind us of its preciousness.

As the nation honors these immigrants and glories in those who found this land a haven, survivors celebrate our 40th year of freedom. Our memories are bittersweet—we remember an America that was closed. And while we rejoice in the accomplishment of those who came, how many more Kissingers and Wiesels, perished without reaching freedom?

The tale of the survivor—like the tale of most Americans—is one of finding new life in the new world. So on Sept. 7, we will gather at the Statue of Liberty and in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria to express our gratitude to America, to celebrate our new life in the new world, and to demonstrate the unique contributions of survivors and the second generation to this country. Join us. Let us be together again!

## THE APOSTLE OF FORGETFULNESS

**T**hese past weeks have been a time of anguish for all survivors. In moving synagogue and civic ceremonies, we've recalled the memory of our loved ones slaughtered in the Kingdom of Night. And in the daily newspapers, we have seen our memories defiled by the election of Kurt Waldheim.

For the third time in 40 years, we have witnessed a concerted campaign to forget.

In the first years after the war, our friends counseled us: "forget the past, it's too painful. You need all your energies to begin again." Our enemies feared our memory.

In the late 1970s, a new tactic was tried. "Forget the past," we were told, "because it didn't happen—at least not in large numbers, not in gas chamber or ovens, and not as a concerted campaign to bring a Final Solution to the Jewish question."

"Forget it," we are now told, "what happened was terrible, but it doesn't matter."

Last year, the Chancellor of Germany foisted Bitburg on the American president. Kohl suggested that there is no difference between the S.S. and the Wehrmacht, and certainly none between the Wehrmacht and an honorable defeated enemy. It is time for reconciliation. And the sage of Bitburg flew to Vienna to support Kurt Waldheim.

There are many men in Austria and Germany like Waldheim. Yet none have been bold enough to offer themselves as secretary general of the United Nations and president of Austria. None have been as shameless and as brazen.

Again, we worry and we anguish. Again, our enemies counsel forgetfulness. Again—but now more than ever—our task is to remember.

## YOM HASHOAH IN KAUAI

BY MICHAEL BERENBAUM

**"M**y heart is in the East, and I am at the end of the West," so begins Rabbi Yehudah Halevi passionate love poem for the land of Israel written from the Spain during its golden age.

Somehow the words are appropriate to the occasion. Yet the east of which we speak is not Jerusalem but Eastern Europe. And west is not Spain, but Hawaii, the 50th state of the Union.

Where does Hawaii come to Yom Hashoah? Who are the people assembled in the open aired Church, with a large crucifix dominating the eastern wall?

How does one speak of the East—of the darkness—from paradise, the land of sun and surf?

I had been invited to lecture in Hawaii as part of the Jewish community's annual observance of Yom Hashoah. I was to speak in Honolulu, Maui, Kauai. My lectures were to be part of a rigorous week-long program of education and public awareness that included the showing of "Shoah," in the Jewish Community Center of Honolulu. More than 300 people attended, or roughly 10 % of the Jewish population of the Honolulu.

The odyssey of commemorating the Shoah in a vacation paradise did not strike me in Honolulu even though the audience was mixed. Every shade of the rainbow was represented as clergymen from all faiths—eastern and western—gathered to participate. Many Japanese-Americans were also in the congregation. Denied the opportunity to fight Japan, a special Hawaiian-based elite unit had fought valiantly in Europe and liberated Dachau. Each year, the men of the 26th join the Jewish community in remembering.

The Jews assembled in the congregation had just finished 9½ hours of painful watching. They were in a mood to reflect on the meaning of the Holocaust but not to listen to long lectures or speeches. *Kaddish*, *El Maleh Rachamim* and *Hatikvah*, prayers and readings were incorporated into the commemoration. The ceremony was religious, yet because of the initial

tives of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, there was also a proclamation from the Governor, a message from the Mayor, a letter from the Senator and an outpouring of local politicians.

Honolulu's Jews did not surprise me. After all, the city is a large urban metropolis, one of the many sunbelt cities to which our people have migrated.

**"How does one speak of the East—of the darkness—from paradise, the land of sun and surf?"**

From Honolulu to Kauai is a 30 minute flight yet they are worlds apart. The former, sophisticated and urbane, is a cross between Miami Beach, Tokyo, and Manila. The latter is a small isolated island with a vast coastline and magnificent canyons. It was the setting for movies such as South Pacific and the Thornbergs, and the location of the fabled beach of Hanalei.

I had been given the name of a man to contact in Kauai, Dr. Douglas Mathews, and the location of the Church in which I would speak, St. Michael's and All Angels Church. Naturally I assumed that he was the pastor and it was to his congregation that I would speak. When I arrived and met Dr. Mathews, I introduced myself and asked how he entered the ministry. "Hell, I'm no minister," he said, "I'm a Jewish psychiatrist from Boston." And one by one the Jews arrived. Almost without exception, they were young, men and women between 25 and 45, and like their Jewish contemporaries elsewhere they were professionals; doctors, lawyers, accountants, nurses, artists, teachers, and a Hilton Hotel official who spent last year studying in Jerusalem. Forty nine of the 51 adult known Jews on the island



TOGETHER

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## From the Washington Jewish Week

Dr. Leonard Kapiloff, Publisher  
Michael Berenbaum



attended—one of them an evangelical minister of Jewish origin. Yet unlike Jewish professionals elsewhere, these Jews had chosen to abandon the pressures of urban America for a quality of life available only in a island paradise where homes need neither air conditioning nor heating—and the ocean water is always inviting.

A generation ago, Jews who moved to rural cities in America were searching for an escape from Jewish culture and they found it. These young Jews were looking for a way of preserving Jewish life even in Kauai—and they too will find it ever without a rabbi, a synagogue or a Hebrew school.

The community gathers frequently but not weekly. On Hanukkah, they have a party, they eat *latkes* and light the menorah. For Purim there is a masquerade ball, at Passover all the known Jews attend a seder. Only Yom Hashoah and the High Holidays are commemorated by religious services.

The commemoration consists of Psalms, Kaddish, and poetic readings. Even on this island outpost, Mayor Tony T. Kunimura issued a proclamation, which speaks of the obligation to remember with the hope of preventing a repetition of such heinous crimes against hu-

**“A generation ago, Jews who moved to rural cities in America were searching for an escape from Jewish culture and they found it. These young Jews were looking for a way of preserving Jewish life even in Kauai—and they too will find it without a rabbi, a synagogue, or even a Hebrew school.”**

manity. When I am invited to speak, the audience is attentive and encourages me to continue at length. “It is not often that we hear

Jewish content, go one, continue, we’ll stay.”

As I speak of the Nuremberg legislation, they remember the stories told to them by their neighbors of the isolation and round-up of Japanese Americans on the days after Pearl Harbor. When I mention of the distinctiveness of the Jews, they tell stories of how their children stand out, ethnically, culturally, and religiously—how they are different by class and by culture. As I talk of the Holocaust and its relationship to contemporary technology, they nod in assent. After all, these highly trained professionals had turned their back on the lure of the city to seek a better life. They intuitively know the perils and the promise of the modern world.

Afterwards, we gather at the home of the one of the physicians for extended conversation. A German born *au-paire* says: “I’ve learned more about the Holocaust and Jews this evening than in all my life in Berlin.

A physician asks me to teach him the blessing for a *brat* as the psychologist’s wife is expecting son within a month. The conversation gradually moves to a discussion of the Holocaust. And each of the 20 Jews who have come back to talk, speaks of what it meant to them,

how central it was to their Jewish identity—to their life. Two are children of survivors, whose fear of the darkside of urban culture has led them to choose rural existence.

The evening lasted well past midnight yet I returned refreshed—even exalted. The labors of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council Days of Remembrance Committee (chaired by Sigmund Strohlicht and Benjamin Meed) had borne fruit.

In 1979 when I was drafting the Report to the President of the President’s Commission on the Holocaust, Elie Wiesel, Yitz Greenberg and I had dreamed of the Days of Remembrance for we intuitively knew that the imprimatur of the American government would facilitate the adoption of Holocaust commemorations not only by Gentile but by American Jews. But little did we imagine that the commemoration of the Holocaust would not stop at the edge of the Pacific but remembrance would cross another ocean ever more distant from the darkness of Europe.

At the end of the west, we invoked the memory of the east as young Jews gathered to reaffirm their commitment to a people and to accept the fate of Jewish destiny. ▲

## MY JOURNEY TO AMERICA

BY INGE AUERBACHER

It was the morning of May 25, 1946. I had spent ten stormy days at sea on the Marine Perch, an American troop transport ship. The sun was rising. I was 11 years old. The long night, that was Europe, was finally over. The storm was behind me. I had survived the dark days of horror that had enveloped a whole continent; the brutal force of Nazism, which had threatened to spread throughout the whole world and destroy it, had been defeated a year before by the Allied Armies.

I slept poorly though the night in anticipation of the coming day. “I’m in America, America.” I could barely believe my words. My heart pounded ever so quickly—thump, thump, racing faster by the second.

The island of Manhattan was before me. Mama and papa stood beside me on ship’s deck. Their faces were lined with the troublesome years of the past. Mama was 40 and papa 47. They both seemed deep in thought. What would await them in this strange new land? Could they gather their strength and begin anew?

My fingers traced the outline of the Manhattan skyline.

Never had I seen such tall buildings. How far away was my little village of Kippenheim in southern Germany now?

It seemed an eternity ago since we entered the cattle cars in Stuttgart, Germany. The train that would bring us to a new life. Since World War II had ended only a year before, life and conditions in Germany were still not normal. Passenger trains were scarce. President Harry S. Truman had opened the

doors to America to the few Jews, who had survived Hitler’s hell in Europe. Our good friend Mr. Elkan came to see us off in Stuttgart and pleaded with us to stay in Germany: “Life will be much better for you again.” We chose to leave the past behind.

On the side of our cattle car someone wrote in chalk: “God bless America and President Harry Truman.” There were few cots to sleep on in our car. One was given to me. The rest of the people slept on the floor. All of us had been used to these conditions and no one complained. At least 30 persons shared a car. One could feel an infectious, hopeful spirit among most of the passengers.

I befriended a woman, who taught me a Russian folk song, whose melody still haunts me today. That same woman wore a handkerchief wrapped around her wrist. As our friendship grew, she showed me in secret a bracelet underneath. It was laced with precious stones. She confided in me that she had managed to buy it on the black market in Germany and would try to sell it in America. It was her only valuable possession and she guarded it with her life.

During the day the sliding door of our cattle car was kept open to let in fresh air. I sat most of the daytime on the floor in the door opening between two young men watching the scenery drift by.

An empty bucket stood on the side intended for our personal needs, but no one used it. The train stopped frequently and permitted us to relieve ourselves in the open fields. The train ride took about two days. Our destination was the collection center in Bremen used formerly as an Army barracks for the Germans. People from other parts of Europe joined us there.

We boarded the Marine Perch on May 14, 1946 at Bremerhaven. It

was a cold rainy day. The ocean was restless and violent during most of the ten-day Atlantic crossing—much like what our lives had been in Europe.

Women and children had the privilege of occupying the upper decks; with at least six persons in each cabin. Men were sent to the lower decks and slept on swinging hammocks. Needless to say, almost everyone suffered from sea sickness.

We arrived in the late afternoon on May 24, 1946 in the New York City Harbor. The Statue of Liberty was before us. Our captain decided to anchor the ship and start the immigration process early next morning.

All of us stayed up much of the night to watch the twinkling lights of New York City. We hoped that the bright beam of the torch from the great Lady of the Harbor was a sign of welcome for us.

The morning of May 25, 1946 was chilly. I proudly dressed myself in my favorite new dress. Mama had new clothes sewn especially for me for the journey to America. The dress had multicolored flowers on a blue background and a light blue coat and blue hat with red polka dots completed the outfit. I felt very special. Instructions were given by the captain in what order we were to leave the ship. Our turn came and we carefully walked down the creaky narrow gang plank. Newspaper reporters quickly gathered around the disembarking passengers. We were all still a sensation and a newsworthy story, since it was only the second displaced persons ship from Europe after the war that had arrived with its pitiful cargo in America. Flashbulbs were exploding all around us. I was spotted by some of the reporters. They were very few children among the passengers, since most of them had died in the gas chambers of Hitler’s hell.

**“All of us stayed up much of the night to watch the twinkling lights of New York City. We hoped that the bright beam of the torch from the great Lady of the Harbor was a sign of welcome for us.”**

Finally, we entered the large reception hall. Red Cross workers were busy distributing coffee and doughnuts to the newcomers. We searched the crowd outside of the roped off area for a familiar face. After our immigration clearance, mama recognized someone in the crowd. It was Aunt Trudl. The large hall was a beehive of activity as long lost relatives tearfully embraced each other. A man suddenly raced out of the crowd toward us. He recognized my parents. It was Aunt Trudl’s cousin David, who had come to the port to see who had arrived and who were still alive. He pressed a dollar bill into my hand and said: “This is for a good start in America.”

It was like a dream, we had arrived in America. Eight dollars were given to each of us on the ship. My parents and I carried our meager possessions in three suitcases. We left the arrival hall and walked through the exit into the bright sunlight. The doors closed behind us—the doors that separated us from the past. ▲

Inge Auerbacher is newest book, “I am a Star” will be published by Simon and Schuster this fall.





## Monumental Book on Bitburg to be Published

*Bitburg and Beyond: Encounters in American, German and Jewish History*, edited by Ilya Levkov, a monumental volume covering all aspects of the 1985 Bitburg crisis, will be published this summer by Steimatzky/Shapolsky Books.

In more than 200 articles, speeches, analyses, interviews and editorials, as well as retrospectives by some of the principal participants in the events of April-May 1985, the book provides the most complete and authoritative account of the controversy over President

Ronald Reagan's decision to visit the German military cemetery at Bitburg. The book includes the speeches by President Reagan and Chancellor Helmut Kohl at Bitburg and Bergen-Belsen, Elie Wiesel's speech at the White House urging the President not to go to Bitburg, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan's radio address demanding that the White House allow American Jews to demonstrate at Bergen-Belsen on May 5, Menachem Rosensaft's speech at the protest demonstration at Bergen-Belsen, and Benjamin

Meed's speech at the contra-Bitburg Ceremony honoring the American War dead at Arlington Cemetery.

*Bitburg and Beyond* is the most far-reaching and comprehensive volume on this historic milestone in American and Jewish history. Among the other contributors who discuss the significance and impact of the Bitburg visit are Morris B. Abram, William F. Buckley, Ambassador Arthur F. Burns, Abraham Foxman, associate national director

of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Rep. Sam Gejdenson, Marvin Kalb, Serge Klarsfeld, Sen. Frank Lautenberg, American Jewish Congress Executive Director Henry Siegman and World Jewish Congress Vice President Kalman Sultanik. The book also reflects and analyzes the different reactions to the Bitburg controversy in the United States, Germany, Israel, Great Britain, France, Canada, Italy, the USSR, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Yugoslavia, Argentina and Sweden.

## TO COLLECT HALL OF NAMES TESTIMONY

# American Gathering to Cooperate with Yad Vashem

According to Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Law, Yad Vashem is to "commemorate the six million members of the Jewish people who died a martyr's death at the hands of the Nazi and their collaborators...to gather in to the homeland material regarding all those members of the Jewish people who laid down their lives...to confer upon the members of the Jewish people who perished in the days of the disaster and the resistance the commemorative citizenship of the state of Israel, as a token of their having been gathered to their people."

In order to fulfill this task, Yad Vashem undertook to record the names of all the Jews who perished at the hands of the Nazis during the Holocaust. The registration was done by relatives or friends of the victims who filled out "pages of testimony," which contained all the pertinent biographical information on the individual and the circumstances of his or her death.

The project to collect "pages of testimony" is still in progress, and more than two and a half million

names have already been received at Yad Vashem, which provides "pages of testimony" to all individuals and organizations interested and has initiated appeals to Jewish communities the world over to participate in this endeavor.

One of the major difficulties involved in the execution of the project is that many communities were entirely wiped out, and thus there are no survivors to record the names of a large number of Jews who perished in the Holocaust.

The American Gathering and Federation of Jewish Holocaust

Survivors has agreed to cooperate with Yad Vashem in collecting the names of all those who perished in the Holocaust. It will furnish anyone who asks for it with the pages of testimony.

Below is a sample page and the instructions for filling it out. *But do not fill out the page since all documents must be on acid free paper that will not disintegrate over time.* Instead, please write to the American Gathering for the pages of testimony at 122 W. 30th St., New York, N.Y. 10001.

### HOW TO FILL OUT THE "PAGE OF TESTIMONY"

#### General

- 1) Fill out one form for each deceased member of your family or friend
- 2) Write name of deceased and other information in clear handwriting or block letters.
- 3) Write name of deceased on back of photograph you enclose.

#### The Page Itself

- 1) **Family name** - Family name of deceased as it was written at that time. For married women, their family name after marriage.
- 2) **First name (maiden name)** - First name under which the deceased was known. In cases where there is no Jewish name, add it (if known). For example - Herbert-Tzvi, Hanka-Chana. For married women add maiden name (family name before marriage).
- 3) **Name of father** - Name of father of deceased.
- 4) **Name of mother** - Name of mother of deceased.
- 5) **Date of Birth** - Of deceased
- 6) **Place of Birth** - Town, village and country
- 7) **Residence before the war** - Where deceased lived before Sept. 1939.
- 8) **Residence during the war** - Where deceased lived during the war years (Place of deportation, ghetto, hiding place)
- 9) **Place and date of death** - Where did death take place? Camp, ghetto, other place, or unknown.
- 10) **Circumstances of death** - hunger, illness, action by Germans and their helpers, concentration camp, death camp.
- 11) **Name of wife/husband of deceased** - First name.
- 12) **Children deceased under the age of 18** - Children under the age of 18 killed by the Nazis - number of children; if possible names and ages. In case both parents died in the Holocaust, register children either with their father or with their mother.
- 13) **I the undersigned** - Name of person registering the deceased - give your full name.
- 14) **Residing at** - Full address - House Number, Street, City, Zip Code.
- 15) **Relationship to deceased** - Relationship of the person registering to the deceased.
- 16) **Signature** - of person registering

**YAD VASHEM יד ושם**  
Martyrs' and Heroes'  
Remembrance Authority  
Jerusalem, Israel

**דף עדות**  
עדות בלבנים  
A Page of Testimony

<p>דף עדות זה מיועד לרשום את פרטיהם של קורבנות השואה, שנהרגו בשואה או שמתו כתוצאה מהשואה. הדף יישלח לידי יד ושם, ירושלים.</p> <p>הדף יישלח לידי יד ושם, ירושלים, תיבת דואר 122, ת.ד. 10001.</p>	
<p>1. שם משפחה (שם אב) (Family name (of deceased))</p>	
<p>2. שם פרטי (שם אם) (First name (maiden name))</p>	
<p>3. שם אב (Name of father)</p>	<p>4. שם אם (Name of mother)</p>
<p>5. תאריך לידה (Date of birth)</p>	<p>6. מקום לידה (Place of birth)</p>
<p>7. מגורים לפני המלחמה (Residence before the war)</p>	
<p>8. מגורים במהלך המלחמה (Residence during the war)</p>	
<p>9. מקום ומועד מות (Place and date of death)</p>	
<p>10. תנאי מות (Circumstances of death)</p>	
<p>11. שם אישה/בעל נפטר (Name of wife/husband of deceased)</p>	
<p>12. ילדים שנפטרו עד גיל 18 (Children deceased under the age of 18)</p>	
<p>13. אני, הנחתם, (I, the undersigned)</p>	
<p>14. מגורים (Residing at)</p>	
<p>15. קשר עם הנפטר (Relationship to deceased)</p>	
<p>16. חתימה (Signature)</p>	
<p>17. מקום ומועד (Place and date)</p>	
<p>18. רישום משותף (Registration made jointly with)</p>	
<p>19. חתימת הרשום (Signature of Registrar)</p>	



# AMERICAN GATHERING SPONSORS THREE WEEK SEMINAR IN ISRAEL

## Forty Secondary School Teachers from 13 States Will Participate

Forty public school teachers—Jewish and non-Jewish—from 13 states will fly to Israel July 13 to study the Holocaust and Jewish resistance and, on their return home, teach it to their high school and junior high school students.

The teachers will spend three weeks in Israel, attending classes with prominent scholars and studying materials about the Holocaust and its implications for all peoples.

Launched last year as a pilot program with 30 participants from the New York area, the project was "so successful that it has been expanded, made national in scope and put on an annual basis," according to program coordinator Vladka Meed, who heads the Educational Committee of the American Gathering and Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, one of the sponsoring organizations. The other sponsors are the American Federation of Teachers, the Ghetto Fighters House, Yad Vashem, and Haifa University, and the Educators Chapter of the Jewish Labor Committee. Scholarships grants for this program are being provided by the American Gathering.

The Holocaust curriculum covers the background, events, methods and aftermath of the systematic destruction of European Jewry—as well as Jewish resistance to the Nazis—and explores the moral, political and historical implications of the Holocaust.

"This year's participants, like last year's, will experience history in the lecture room and in the streets of Israel," said Meed, who is also the author of *On Both Sides of*

*the Wall*, an account of her experiences in the Warsaw ghetto.

"While in Israel, these teachers will learn of despair, resistance, hope and redemption. By passing on their understanding to the new generation, we hope to prevent another Holocaust—among any people anywhere," she added.

Most classes, to be held five days a week, will be given at the Ghetto Fighters House, a prestigious documentation and study center which also is home of Israel's Museum of the Holocaust and Resistance. It is located on a *kibbutz*—Lochamei Ha-Gheta'ot—ten miles north of Haifa. The *kibbutz* was founded by former partisans and survivors of Nazi ghettos and concentration camps, and the content of the course draws upon their personal experiences.

Classes will also be conducted at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, Israel's National Holocaust Center, archive and museum, and at Haifa University. Participants also will visit Masada and other historic sites.

### Alumni Group Established

On completing the course, the teachers will be invited to join an alumni group formed last year to enable them to exchange experiences they have had while teaching about the Holocaust and to share ideas on future instructional methods, Meed said.

This year's 40 participants teach at secondary in Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Wisconsin and St. Croix in the Virgin Islands.

## PARTICIPANTS / 1986 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM HOLOCAUST STUDIES

### Geographic Breakdown

Arizona	Tucson	Ray T. Davies
	Glendale	Paul Wieser
California	North Hollywood	Odessa Cleveland
	Riverside	Judy Horrigan
	Tustin	Thomas R. Judson
	Los Angeles	John Perez
	San Francisco	Rachel B. Stern
Connecticut	Trumbull	Edward Bader
	Monroe	Lauren Kempton Cass
Florida	Miami	Miriam Kassenoff
Illinois	Des Plaines	Karen Friedman
Michigan	Flint	John Davidek
	Oak Park	Dr. Harry L. Jubas
Missouri	St. Louis	Irl S. Solomon
New Jersey	Ocean	Pamela Sherman
New York	Brooklyn	Ruth Altman
	Saratoga Springs	Margaret A. Daley
	Rockville Centre	Marcia S. De Fren
	Brooklyn	Ellen Frank
	Spring Valley	Barbara Grau
	Flushing	Edith Gruen
	Forest Hills	Evelyn Intrator
	Commack	Alan L. Kapiloff
	Flushing	Phillip A. Rockmael
	New York	Helen Rosenfeld
	Greenlawn	Marc Ross
	Port Washington	Jack Sande
	New York	Sidney Schwartz
	North Patchogue	Robert Joseph Seid
	Brooklyn	Karen Shawn
	Brooklyn	Jo Ann Shilen
	Great Neck	Nina Taft
	Malone	Carol A. Woytowich
Pennsylvania	Bethlehem	Ruth Victor Hummel
	Philadelphia	Rivka Brandspiegel
	Philadelphia	Chaim Jacob Medwork
Virgin Islands	St. Croix	Mark S. Moross
West Virginia	Oceana	Jesse Womack
Wisconsin	Birchwood	David Jenkins

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF JEWISH HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS



Scene from the Survivors' Village at the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, Washington, D.C. April 11-14, 1985

### The National Register:

- Lists the names of all Jewish Holocaust Survivors
- Preserves the vital information of our past and future
- Coordinates this information to facilitate searches
- Provides a historical record of survival and rebirth
- Serves as an international clearing house for contacts with survivors throughout the world
- Records the information of the second and third generation
- Stores this material in a permanent archive for scholarly research and retrieval
- Assists in the investigation and prosecution of Nazi War Criminals

To enter your name or the names of your loved ones, please fill out the information requested and return it to us promptly.

### National Registry of Jewish Holocaust Survivors

PLEASE CORRECT OR FILL IN  
MISSING INFORMATION

FAMILY REGISTRY \*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_

Status (circle one): Survivor, Spouse of Survivor, 2nd Generation, Spouse of 2nd Generation, Other

If you are a survivor, complete the following:

Name before or during war or maiden name: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of birth: City \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Place of residence before war: City \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Places during war (list all): \_\_\_\_\_  
Names of ghetto, concentration camp, partisan or hiding place.

Spouse's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's status (circle one): Survivor, Spouse of Survivor, 2nd Generation, Spouse of 2nd Generation, Other

Have you ever given an oral history (Yes/No)? \_\_\_\_\_ If Yes, please give year and where it is located? \_\_\_\_\_

If your spouse is a Survivor, complete or correct the following:

Name before or during war or maiden name: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of birth: City \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Place of residence before war: City \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Places during war (list all): \_\_\_\_\_  
Names of ghetto, concentration camp, partisan or hiding place.

Other living members of your family (Survivors, 2nd Generation, 3rd Generation):  
If members of your family are not shown, please add them to the back of this form so they may be included in the Registry

Relationship to you: ☐ Parent ☐ Child ☐ Grandchild ☐ Brother ☐ Sister ☐ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to you: ☐ Parent ☐ Child ☐ Grandchild ☐ Brother ☐ Sister ☐ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to you: ☐ Parent ☐ Child ☐ Grandchild ☐ Brother ☐ Sister ☐ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to you: ☐ Parent ☐ Child ☐ Grandchild ☐ Brother ☐ Sister ☐ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_



## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

**Together: What should America do?**  
**Steinberg:** America should enforce the law. Waldheim should be barred from the United States. If the Attorney General does not enforce the law, that is an obstruction of justice.

I was being interviewed on Austrian television and the interviewer asked me: "Why is the World Jewish Congress so obsessed with these incidents. After all, Waldheim is accused of atrocities against Yugoslavians and Greeks, not Jews." At which point I stood up and walked out. There was no way to bridge the moral gulf implied in that question. *Together: Let me speculate. The press community in Washington*

**Steinberg:** The saying is that he may have been the compromise candidate who was the compromised candidate.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

That is why survivors are sad and fearful. And oh yes, determined more than ever before to remember.



# Mermelstein Feet for Victory Over Revisionism

BY SOL H. MARSHALL

The victory of Mel Mermelstein over the anti-Semitic Institute for Historical Review, which attempted to claim that the Nazi Holocaust was a hoax, was celebrated during a community-wide luncheon at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, Beverly Hills, on Sunday, June 8.

Irving Peters, chairman of the event, opened the program with a statement that "it is symbolic that we meet today, the same day that Austria has elected its president. Austria, where Hitler was born and raised, where he stated his evil philosophy before Munich, which fostered this same philosophy, has produced a Kurt Waldheim and has elected him as its president. This election proves that the Austrian people have not changed."

Peters pointed out that the turnout of more than 850 people, representing the survivor community of Southern California, was a clear demonstration of the united support that had been given Mermelstein throughout his long and tortuous battle.

Benjamin Meed, national president of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, stated that he was shattered by the news that the young people of Austria had brought Waldheim to power. "Our job is not done," he declared. "We must continue to remind the world of the evil deeds of their fathers."

Meed extolled Mermelstein, not only for remembering the torture and death suffered by his family and others, but for preventing others from forgetting. "The revisionists attempted to set up a debate, where the victims had to prove that they had mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers. Mermelstein's major accomplishment was that he defeated them in court, and that decision can not be erased," he said.

Dr. Lee Kagan, speaking on behalf of the Second Generation, pointed out that the future would still be a time for continuing efforts on behalf of preserving the truth of the Holocaust.

"Last year it was Bitburg, this year it is Waldheim. What will it be next year? But it is crystal clear that the survivor family is locked into fighting the tide of history slowly trying to turn away from our tragic memories. Today we have one victory, Mel Mermelstein's victory. But he will need our ongoing support. We see the greying of the eyewitnesses of the Holocaust, but the sons and daughters of the survivors have a promise to be kept and a pledge to be fulfilled. The Second Generation is committed more than ever to the legacy which we accepted in Jerusalem in 1981, so that the voice of the survivor family will continue to be heard—in the courtroom, in the classroom, and wherever else it must be heard," he concluded.

Dr. Abram L. Sachar, noted historian, pointed out that the battle still remains with the Jews. "We have learned that there were episodes of compassion and sympathy, but we can not rely on that. We must rely on ourselves," he said. He reminded the audience that many "righteous gentiles" are remembered in the records of the Yad Vashem, but that Sweden took in many Jews only under duress, and that the United States also helped many Nazis escape after the war.

Neal M. Sher, director of the Office of Special Investigations, United States Department of Justice, pointed out that one of the most significant outcomes of the Mermelstein victory over the IHR was the statement that "the Holocaust is a fact." It is now recorded in national legal annals and can no longer be debated.

Stanley Hirsh, incoming president of the Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles, brought greetings from the general community. He pointed out that "your" Federation is dedicated to all elements of the Jewish community, and to the future of Jewish communities everywhere. He referred to the Martyrs Memorial and Museum at the Federation building, and the program of Holocaust education in schools under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Jewish



PHOTO BY MORRIS P. KAGAN

Participating in the Victory Luncheon honoring Mel Mermelstein for his legal triumph over the Institute of Historical Review, were (seated, left to right) Lidia Budgor, vice chair; Irving Peters, president of the Southern California Council of Jewish Holocaust Survivors; Mermelstein; Benjamin Meed, president of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors; Rene Firestone, vice chair. Standing (left to right) Neal M. Sher, director of the Office of Special Investigations, United States Department of Justice; Dr. Abram L. Sachar, noted historian; Fred Diamant, vice president of the Southern California Council; and Dr. Lee Kagan, vice-president of the Second Generation of Los Angeles.

Education. He also announced the opening of Anne Frank Exhibit, which will be in Los Angeles under the Museum's auspices.

Mermelstein was hailed as dedicated to the cause of fighting falsehoods about the Holocaust in a message from Elie Wiesel, chairman of the United States Holocaust Commission and recognized as the worldwide spokesman of the Holocaust community. Other messages were received from Ernest Michel, chairman of the World Gathering in 1981; and William Lowenberg, of San Francisco, a national vice president of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors.

Actor Leonard Nimpy set a tone for the luncheon by reading passages from Mermelstein's book, *By Bread Alone*, which gave an insight into the motivation for his battle

against the IHR.

The formal presentation to Mermelstein was the Distinguished Humanitarian Award, from the Southern California Council of Post-War Jewish Organizations, Survivors of the Nazi Holocaust. In accepting the award from Peters, acting as president, Mermelstein acknowledged the tireless efforts of Michael Maroko, of the law firm of Allred, Maroko, Goldberg and Ribakoff, who carried the case in court.

Mermelstein pointed out that winning of a cash settlement was important, but more significant, legally, was the requirement that members of the Institute for Historical Review had to present a written apology to Mermelstein and all other survivors, for their "pain, anguish and suffering."

## L.A. County-Wide Support of Anne Frank Month Events

An ambitious schedule of county-wide public programs has been calendared during Anne Frank Month, began on June 12, which would have been the young Holocaust victim's 57th birthday. Participating in the planning, headed by the Martyrs Memorial and Museum of the Holocaust of Jewish Federation Council, is a broad-based coalition of community institutions and organizations in the fields of education, commerce, theology, the arts and media, public and social services as well as elected officials, members of the international consular corps and Holocaust survivor community.

Actresses Shelly Winters and Millie Perkins, who starred in "The Diary of Anne Frank" feature film,

serve as honorary chairs of the "Anne Frank in the World: 1929-1945" commemoration. Winters won an oscar for her supporting role; Perkins played Anne in the 20th-Century Fox 1959 release.

Highlighted is the West Coast premiere of the international photo-documentary exhibit sponsored by the Martyrs Memorial in cooperation with The Ann Frank Center, New York.

The organizing committee consists of Cardis Corp., Carnation Corp., City of Los Angeles, Columbia Savings Bank, Jewish Community Foundation of Jewish Federation Council, Los Angeles City Council and United Artists. ▲





## SHOAH

By Jan Karski

At the beginning of last October I was invited to a private showing of the movie *Shoah*. The movie lasted more than nine hours. It has no actors and limits itself to interviews with victims of the Holocaust, its perpetrators, and eye witnesses. Also shown are original German documents and reports. There are many contemporary photographs taken by Germans. Some of the interviews (with Germans) are filmed surreptitiously. In addition, the camps, crematoria, neighboring villages and towns are shown as they appeared during the war and as they appear today. The movie's director is a Frenchman, Claude Lanzmann. He filmed in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Holland, Israel, Switzerland, Rumania as well as the United States. He devoted a dozen years of his life to this work.

*Shoah* is unquestionably the greatest movie about the tragedy of the Jews which has appeared after the war. No one has managed to present the destruction of the Jews during World War II in such depth, with such blood curdling brutality and lack of mercy for the viewer. At the same time, the interweaving of people, events, nature, and time is full of bewitching poetry. The soothing beauty of the trees grown over the places of slaughter; the country sod and fields covering the terrible secrets of the concentration camps; a procession exiting a church which served as a round up point for deported Jews; the moving prayers in a synagogue of those who lived; and old woman who survived and sings a Jewish song "from those times" - all this shocks with dread or captivates with beauty and innocence.

The Pope learned of *Shoah* and praised the movie and the conscientiousness of its creator to an audience of French and Belgian war veterans. He also underscored the moral significance of the movie.

The subject of the movie is the torment and eventual extermination of defenseless Jews, including three million Poles practicing Judaism or of Jewish ancestry. Nothing more.

The movie does not portray the background of the war years, the conquering of almost all of Europe by the Third Reich and the horrors carried out against the subjugated peoples. It does not speak about the suffering of the non-Jewish population of Poland, Russia, Greece or Serbia. The rigorous construction of the movie does not allow for this.

Lanzmann's intention is to demonstrate to the viewer that the Jewish Holocaust was *unique and incomparable*. He is unquestionably right. To equate the extermination of the Jews with the suffering and losses of the non-Jewish population in Europe is, after all, although emotionally understandable, simply spiritless. All nations had victims to a greater or lesser extent. But all Jews were victims. This Lanzmann does not forget for even a moment.

Jan Karski was honored by Yad Vashem for his heroic role as a courier in the Polish underground. He is a professor at Georgetown University.

Every viewer of this movie will understand this.

The uncompromising restriction of the topic creates an impression that the Jews were abandoned by all mankind, that all mankind was insensitive to their fate. This is however, untrue and disheartening, particularly for postwar and future generations of Jews. The Jews were abandoned by governments, by those who had the physical or spiritual power. They were not abandoned by mankind. After all, several hundred thousand Jews were saved in Europe. In Poland, tens of thousands survived. The penalty for harboring a Jew in Poland was death. In Western Europe, although the punishment was not as extreme helping or harboring Jews exposed people to great dangers. Nevertheless millions of peasants, workers, intellectuals, priests, nuns, endangering themselves and their relatives, provided aid to Jews in each country of Europe. How many of them perished? God only knows.

In Poland, a clandestine organization was created whose sole objective was to provide haven and aid to hiding Jews. Its head Wladyslaw Bartoszewski lives in Warsaw. Ma-

**“All nations had victims to a greater or lesser extent. But all Jews were victims. This Lanzmann does not forget for even a moment. Every viewer of this movie will understand this.”**

rek Edelman, one of the heroic leaders of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising lives in Lodz. Jan Nowak and Jerzy Lerski, two couriers of the Polish underground government, now living in the US, carried messages and pleas from Jewish leaders in Poland to Western governments. Stefan Korboniski, the last chief of the Polish Underground State, and like Lerski awarded the "Righteous Among Nations," now lives in Washington D.C. Others live in other countries. They should at least be mentioned. The viewer should be made to realize, particularly the young generation of Jews and non-Jews, that such people existed, and this, it seems to me, is necessary regardless of the movie's construction. For some, it is necessary so that they do not lose faith in mankind and their place within mankind. For others, so that they understand what a lack of tolerance, racism, anti-Semitism and hatred lead to and what love of neighbor can do. This is more important than any construction, particularly since this is such a great movie and will have such an impact on the viewer.

The movie's technique rests on interviews, some planned and some



happenstance with individuals not known to Lanzmann. In this second group are the remarks of several Poles, residents of towns and villages adjacent to the camps. Some attest to sympathy and kindness of heart, most appal. For instance, some small town peasant women when asked what they think of the destruction of the Jews, answer that they live better than before. They took over homes left by the Jews which were grander than those in which they had lived before the war. A peasant woman from another group, although not asked, lectures Lanzmann that the fate which the Jews met was God's punishment for handing over the Savior to his death. She makes these statements just before a religious procession and the church in the background. Apparently the teachings of the Second Vatican Council describing such views as sinful have not yet reached this parish.

An educated urban resident, without being asked, leaves a crowd to run before the movie camera in order to inform Lanzmann about what a friend had supposedly witnessed. A rabbi was explaining to the Jews gathered for deportation that their fate was due to the actions of their ancestors who delivering Christ to His death cried out that His blood would fall on them and their offspring. He did not say that the Jews and the rabbi were surrounded by SS-men with revolvers and nightsticks in their hands.

An old farmer questioned if he is sorry that there are no more Jews answers with a smile, yes and no. When he was young he liked Jewish women. Now he is old and indifferent. Another Polish peasant from around Treblinka describes the transport of Jews from Western Europe which he claims to have observed. At the last train stop prior to Treblinka Pullman wagons pulled up. They were occupied by fat Jews and Jewish women with fancy hairdos. Inside the wagons were tables with bottles of perfumes. He saw suitcases with gold. At the stop one of the Jews left the wagon and walked up to the station buffet in order to buy something. The doors to the wagons were not guarded. He was allowed to get out - just before Treblinka. Dear God, how absurd!

The movie includes an interview with me. The circumstances sur-

rounding the interview speak to the methods employed by Lanzmann and the planned parameters of *Shoah*. He visited me in 1977 providing me with materials attesting to his qualifications, previous movies, etc. He talked about his project. He has heard and read about me. He indicated it was my duty to agree to an interview. Initially I refused. I had walked away from my war experiences and for more than thirty years I did not return to those memories. Finally I agreed, requesting written questions. He wanted to prepare. He refused. He did not want prepared answers. He would ask about those matters which belong in the movie. I would say what I remembered. I agreed, with the caveat that he not try to enmesh me in political discussions, assessments or conclusions. He an-

**“Lanzmann's intention is to demonstrate to the viewer that the Jewish Holocaust was unique and incomparable. He is unquestionably right. To equate the extermination of the Jews with the suffering and losses of the non-Jewish population in Europe is, after all, although emotionally understandable, simply spiritless.”**

swered that in was that his intention.

The interview took place at my house in 1978. He filmed for two days, in total about eight hours. Lanzmann is a difficult person. Passionate. Completely devoted to his work. Uncompromising in his



questioning and establishing of facts. A few times I broke down emotionally. Once he broke down. My wife, unable to bear it left the house.

From the eight hours of filming, I saw about forty minutes of the interview on the screen, focusing on the suffering of the Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto as well as the desperate demands for assistance from the underground Jewish leaders aimed at the Western governments. I understood. The time devoted to my account and the construction of *Shoah* forced Lanzmann to omit the section of the interview which I felt was the most important part of my Jewish mission at the end of 1942.

As a courier of the Polish Under-

ground State, who had personally witnessed the beginnings of the Final Solution, I was sent to alarm the Western World to the fate of European Jews under the Nazi occupation. The suffering of the Jews was described by others in the movie for more than seven hours. Many did it better than I. For me the central point of my interview was that having made my way to the West, I described the tragedy and demands of the Jews to four members of the British War Cabinet including Anthony Eden; President Roosevelt and three key members of the American government; the Apostolic Delegate in Washington; Jewish leaders in the United States; distinguished writers and political commentators such as Walter Lip-

pmann and George Sokolsky. None of these matters could be discussed by anyone else. After all this would have demonstrated how the Allied Governments, which alone were capable of providing assistance to the Jews, left the Jews to their own fate.

Including this material into the movie as well as general information about those who attempted to help the Jews, would have presented the Holocaust in a historically more accurate perspective. The leaders of nations, powerful governments either decided about the extermination or took part in the extermination or acted indifferently toward the extermination. People, ordinary people, millions of people sympathized with the Jews or pro-

vided assistance.

The movie *Shoah* through its greatness of talent, determination and fierce truth, but also by its self-limitation, has created the need for the next movie, equally great, equally truthful - a movie which will present a second reality of the Holocaust. Governments, social organizations, churches, people of talent and heart should find a form of cooperative effort in order to produce such a movie. Not in order to contradict that which *Shoah* shows but to complement it. After all, the Jewish Holocaust of the Second World War weighs on all of mankind like a curse.

Translated by Marek Nowak.

## Waldheim

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

not a governmental body but after nine or ten weeks, we uncovered all this information. I find it difficult to believe that superpowers with intelligence services were unable to uncover all of this information. And if they did—which is a fair assumption—I think clearly it was being used against him. Yugoslavia had a file naming him a war criminal. There were 18 nations on the United Nations War Commission who not only said that Waldheim should stand trial for these crimes but in fact received the Yugoslavian file. Three weeks ago a Yugoslavian agent said that he passed on the information to the Russians. Charles Lichtenstein, assistant to UN Ambassador Jeanne Kirkpatrick has openly said the KGB had him. There are a number of murky stories as to what happened to Waldheim at the end of the war, but he was interned in an American camp in Germany.

My speculation is that it is almost like a bad Peter Sellers movie. Waldheim was compromised by every intelligence agency in the world.

“Our expectation was that Waldheim would be shamed into resignation. We assumed that an honorable man would step down. We misjudged Waldheim and we misjudged Austria.”

For ten years his right hand man and press spokesman was Rudolph Stajduhar, who was a Yugoslavian partisan. Maybe it is a coincidence, but maybe not.

Together: What was the reaction of some of the Jewish groups.

Steinberg: The lack of action of some of the research agencies was shameful. I can't understand why—with some notable exceptions such as the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors—we were out there all alone for a while.

Fifty years ago, the American Jewish community was not as organized nor as powerful, I can't figure out why the American Jewish community was so frightened this time. We had to go alone to the State Department, we had to lobby alone

“One of the things that cannot be claimed is that the World Jewish Congress has not substantiated its claims. The press would never have allowed us to get away with this. For every assertion we provided the document, the proof.”

in certain places. The central secretariat of the World Jewish Congress is very small and we were carry this for a long time alone while institutions which have millions of dollars did not send people into the archives.

There is more involved than Waldheim alone. The problem is Waldheim's disease—moral amnesia. In the end, all the organizations made the right statements but they didn't pull their weight.

We were advised to hold off until after the elections. Can you imagine the reaction if we had done that. I don't understand why? What issue was at stake was a forth-rate power electing a non-existent president for a non-existent country. I don't know why the community was so reluctant to get out front?

Together: What have you learned personally?

Steinberg: I am the son of survivors and I've educated myself about a painful period in history. I've developed a certain cynicism toward the media, and I've been shocked by some of what I've learned. We went to the World Council of Churches and the Vatican asking that they support a call for the UN to institute procedural background checks on all senior employees. It was a simple, non-controversial request.

The Vatican answered that we had sent the material to the wrong



PHOTO COURTESY OF WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

Oberleutnant Kurt Waldheim (1) relaxing in 1943 at Hotel Grande Bretagne in Athens with 15 other German officers including General Helmut Felmy (4) who was convicted in 1948 of War Crimes and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment, General Gyldenfeldt (2) and Lt. Col. Willers (33).

office, we'll send it to the right office. They ducked the issue.

The World Council sent back a letter saying we don't have the evidence so we can't respond to substance. Then it went on to say, and I'm paraphrasing now: we don't really care whether Waldheim is guilty or innocent as far as we are concerned, we don't see what this has to do with the UN.

The whole Waldheim affair really is a manifestation of the new kind of denial. It happened but who gives a damn. My response to the Churches is for two thousand years you've been blaming Jews for some-

thing that didn't happen and now you want us to forget after 40 years something that did happen for which you can attribute responsibility.

I feel sorry for Waldheim's son. I understand him, he's forced to defend the indefensible. It is sad to see a loyal son defend such a father. Kurt Waldheim even lied to his son. Gerhard admits that he forced his father to give him a detailed explanation of what happened. Gerhard explains that his father always carried with him a Greek pistol. Kurt would always say "those were the days."

TAW



General Alexander Loehr (center) and Kurt Waldheim (extreme right) in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, November, 1944, looking over battle plans. Photo appeared in German version of *Stars and Stripes*.





# American Gathering/Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors

## אמריקאנער צוזאמענקום פֿעדעראציע פֿון דער שארית הפליטה



Forty Years  
of New Life

*"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free... Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me—I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

The words, by Emma Lazarus, engraved on the plaque of the Statue of Liberty have a special meaning for us, the survivors. And as America celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the Statue, we, the survivors, observe forty years of new life rebuilt from the ashes of the Holocaust.

The significance of these two milestone events calls for a reaffirmation of our dedication to remembrance...to the eternal values of our people...to the ideals of freedom and liberty...to security for the State of Israel and to a safe and happy future for our children and for our children's children. Memory is as much individual as collective, timeless and a source of inspiration.

And just as this anniversary year brings back so many years of our never-to-be-forgotten past, it also calls to mind our extraordinary accomplishments during the four decades since our arrival on these shores. So that we may pay fitting tribute to our many achievements, and to the vitality and fruitful dynamism that our life here has personified, the American Gathering & Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) have planned a major commemorative event to be held on Sunday, September 7, 1986. This occasion will bring together many fellow survivors, their families and friends and members of the second generation who have accepted our legacy.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1986**  
**NEW YORK CITY**

11:00 AM-2:00 PM

### A Survivors Reunion at the Statue of Liberty

Emanating dignity, signifying freedom and safe harbor and projecting a warm place of hope and pride, the Statue of Liberty, with its beauty and distinction as a symbol of the noble idea of liberty, will certainly evoke very profound personal responses in the hearts of Holocaust survivors who cherish their new life in freedom; that enabled them to rebuild their families and make such a notable contribution to society, of which we are all proud.



4:30 PM-6:30 PM

### Reception at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel

An informal get-together and a time to reminisce on the events of the past forty years.

6:30 PM

### Survivors Liberty Dinner in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

A tribute to forty years of our new life. A testimonial to our tenacity and to the spirit of rebirth. A rededication to remembrance, to freedom and democracy, to Israel and Jewish solidarity.

An appropriate artistic program will be an integral part of all events.  
More details will follow.

## JOIN US FOR THE SURVIVORS LIBERTY EVENTS IN NEW YORK CITY SEPTEMBER 7, 1986

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS COUPON

To: American Gathering & Federation of  
Jewish Holocaust Survivors  
122 West 30th Street—Suite 205  
New York, New York 10001

### REGISTRATION FORM

I/We will participate in the Liberty Program of Events on September 7, 1986.

Name/s \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my registration fee in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(\$100.00 per person)

I/We are unable to attend. Enclosed is a tax deductible gift in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors

SEATING IS LIMITED AND RESERVATIONS WILL BE FILLED ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVE BASIS.

NO SOLICITATION OF FUNDS