

$\underset{\text{ACHIEVEMENTS & CHALLENGES}{\text{YAD VASHEM ANNUAL REPORT}} 2023$



YAD VASHEM ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Achievements and Challenges

Contents

Yad Vashem's Vision	06
From the Chairman From the Chairman of the Council	MILE O'8
Facts & Figures 2023	
Activity Highlights	
Calling for a Global War Against Antisemitism	

The Book of Names: From UN Headquarters to the Mount of Remembrance



Yad Vashem's International School Opens its Doors for Evacuated Children



State-of-the-Art Housing for Treasures of the Holocaust



Staff and Financial Highlights

Yad Vashem Friends Worldwide





ANNUAL REPORT 2023 5

Yad Vashem's Vision

To lead the documentation, research, education and commemoration of the Holocaust, and to convey the chronicles of this singular Jewish and human event to every person in Israel, to the Jewish people, and to every significant and relevant audience worldwide.

41



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TABLES CONTRACTORS

From the Chairman



Dear Friends,

Since October 7th, our hearts have been filled with concern and worry for our sons and daughters who are bravely fighting on various fronts. We fervently pray for

their safe return upon the completion of their missions, and for their well-being and safety every step of the way.

Amidst our worries, our thoughts of course also turn to the hostages held captive by Hamas. While some, like Yad Vashem guide Liat Atzili, have returned safely to us, others, like Alex Danzig, a beloved member of Yad Vashem staff who dedicated many years to teaching and instructing, remain in captivity. We pray and hope for their swift and safe return.

Yad Vashem responded swiftly to the needs of the community during wartime. From October 2023 to February 2024, the International School for Holocaust Studies opened its doors to more than 300 displaced children. In cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Yad Vashem provided a safe haven and a continuation of their education, fostering a sense of normalcy during a difficult time.

Despite the enormous challenges of the past year, Yad Vashem has embarked on several transformative projects aimed at commemorating and honoring the victims of the Holocaust. These initiatives stand as solemn reminders of the atrocities endured during one of the darkest chapters in human history, serving to preserve the memory of those who were murdered during the Holocaust, and educate future generations about the importance of remembrance and tolerance. These projects play a crucial role in fostering empathy, understanding and solidarity, ultimately contributing to a more compassionate and just world.

The Moshal Shoah Legacy Campus, at the center of which is the David and Fela Shapell Family Collections Center, will serve as Yad Vashem's new permanent home for Holocaust-related archives, artifacts and art collections of profound historical and universal human significance, evidence of the Holocaust of the Jews of Europe and North Africa. It aims to preserve and showcase these materials with state-of-the-art facilities including specialized laboratories and climatecontrolled environments for proper storage and conservation. This will enable Yad Vashem to continue its global leadership in Holocaust documentation, research, commemoration and education, and to continue to honor the memory of Holocaust victims and learn from their history to build a better future.

Since its inception, Yad Vashem has made the endeavor to collect the names of the Holocaust victims a central mission. A powerful new installation, The Book of Names, honors 4.8 million victims — men, women, and children presenting their names along with their date of birth, place of birth and place of murder — if known. It represents decades of tireless work by Yad Vashem: gathering Pages of Testimony, locating historical documents and cooperating with memorial sites worldwide. Each name, immortalized in Yad Vashem's central database, serves as a testament to a life lost.

The past year has seen the final development of a spectacular immersive audiovisual installation to be launched in the Valley of the Communities during 2024. The installation will tell the story of the Jewish communities in Europe, beginning with the exile from the Land of Israel following the destruction of the Second Temple, culminating in a deeper exploration of the period leading up to the Holocaust. The new immersive sound and light experience will use laser technology to infuse the towering stone walls of the Valley with light, to tell the 2,000-year-old story of Jewish life in Europe and inspire visitors of all ages. The inauguration of the installation is scheduled for 2025, marking the first phase of the project, with plans already underway to further establish the Valley of

the Communities as an educational hub for families and young audiences. The European Union has generously allocated €10 million to support this initiative.

Despite the challenges and uncertainties we face, Yad Vashem remains steadfast in its optimism. We look back on the past year with a sense of pride and accomplishment, cherishing the many achievements and milestones we have reached together. Our organization has grown and evolved, expanding its reach and impact in the community.

May our collective efforts pave the path to enduring peace in Israel and throughout the Jewish world. May we see Yad Vashem continue to flourish and grow, serving as a beacon of hope and unity for all. As it says in Psalms: "Let there be peace within your walls and prosperity within your palaces." (122:7)

Wishing us all peace, harmony and unity in the coming year,

Dani Dayan Chairman of Yad Vashem

From the Chairman of the Council



Dear Friends,

The memories of my childhood in Buchenwald remain vivid – the fear, the hunger, the constant uncertainty. Six million Jews, like myself, were

systematically murdered by the Nazis in a savage attempt to eradicate our people. When my brother was separated from me in Buchenwald, he told me: "You are now a big boy, almost eight years old. I must tell you the truth. We do not have a father, we do not have a mother, and I have to go away. You will be left alone. I do not believe that this hell will end. But if you somehow remain alive, remember that there is a place in the world called the Land of Israel. Repeat after me: The Land of Israel. Go there. It is our home. There, they do not kill Jews. It is our home. In our home, all Jews are responsible for one another."

Following the promise my brother made me in Buchenwald – to find a safe haven in the Land of Israel – we established a nation where Jews can live freely. From the time of Abraham, our forefather, who fought to save his nephew Lot, to the period of Samson, Gideon and King David, we have been and remain a nation of

warriors. From the time of Abraham to this day, we have fought. Dating back to the War of Independence, the victories of the IDF testify to our unwavering determination to defend our land. But our strength goes beyond military prowess. It is fueled by our faith in God, who has guided us through centuries of hardship and persecution. From the Exodus from Egypt to the return to Zion, the Jewish people have overcome countless obstacles through unwavering faith and commitment to our heritage. We emerged with the upper hand - with casualties, the cost of each and every one is unbearable for us but we did it. Because the goal was to save the lewish People and to overcome our enemies and those who hate us. We did it then, and we will do it now.

As we gather once again to reflect on the solemn lessons of our shared history, I am compelled to revisit the haunting memories of my Holocaust childhood. The echoes of that dark chapter continue to resonate within me, serving as a constant reminder of the resilience of the human spirit in the face of unimaginable adversity.

Recent tragedies, such as those on October 7th, serve as stark reminders of the enduring importance of Yad Vashem's mission. In a world where antisemitism and hatred still rear their ugly heads, it is incumbent upon us to ensure that the lessons of the Holocaust are not only remembered but also actively applied in the pursuit of a more just and compassionate society. As Jews, we draw strength from our faith and heritage, finding solace in the enduring teachings of our tradition. The commandment of *zachor*, to remember, is not merely a call to recall past events, but a sacred imperative to honor the memory of those who were murdered and to strive for a world free from oppression and injustice.

Now, more than ever, Yad Vashem stands as a beacon of hope and resilience in a tumultuous world. As we navigate these challenging times, it is crucial that we remain steadfast in our commitment to perpetuate the memory of the Holocaust. Through education and remembrance, we can honor the millions of lives lost and ensure that their stories are never forgotten.

Yad Vashem continues to serve as a bulwark of remembrance and education, shining a light on the darkest corners of human history. It is a testament to the indomitable spirit of the Jewish people and a beacon of hope for future generations.

Together, let us build a world where "Never Again" is not just a slogan, but a reality.

Sociel Meir Lau

Rabbi Israel Meir Lau Chairman, Yad Vashem Council

Facts & Figures 2023

Holocaust Education

- > 126,700 students attended educational programs
- > 29,900 teachers and opinion-shapers participated in educational activities
- > 98,300 soldiers and officers of the IDF and other Israeli security forces participated in educational programs
- > 82,000 individuals participated in courses and lectures
- > 681 Bnei Mitzvah participated in special tours and 249 Twinning Kits were sent to Bnei Mitzvah

Research and Publications

- > 25 international conferences, research workshops, symposiums and book launch events
- > 11 international research fellows and 12 awards granted to scholars
- > 12th international Holocaust Research Book Prize
- > 28 new publications

Righteous Among the Nations

 Some 220 individuals were recognized as Righteous Among the Nations; over 28,000 in total recognized to date

Visits, Events and Public Outreach

- > 675,000 visitors
- 3,270 participants in online screenings of the seventh season of Yad Vashem's Film Club
- > 47 events and memorial services
- > 35,170 public inquiries answered



Internet Activity

- > 7.35 million visits to the website in 8 languages
- > 85.9 million video views of our YouTube channels in 8 languages since their launch
- > 6,700 new followers on X (Twitter), 119,000 total
- > 10,500 new followers on Instagram, 118,000 total
- > 11,900 new followers on Facebook, 256,400 total

Yad Vashem Collections

- > 3.6 million pages added to the Archives; 227.6 million pages total
- > 4,900,000 names now in the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names
- > 257,000 pages of documentation and 7,500 photographs digitized
- > 100,000 new archival files cataloged
- > 2,200 items preserved in the Conservation Laboratory
- > 6,560 images added to the Photo Archives; 541,500 total
- > 19,250 Holocaust-era items donated for safekeeping
- > 4,000 titles and 100 films added; 190,000 titles total
- > 900 new Holocaust survivor testimonies; 135,000 video, audio and written testimonies total
- > 130 new artifacts and 330 new artworks; 31,000 artifacts and 14,000 works of art total
- > 20 workshops for researchers and archival experts

Exhibitions

- > The "Book of Names" installation displayed at UN Headquarters and then moved to Yad Vashem
- > 4 exhibitions displayed around the world
- > 513 kits of 12 different exhibitions in the ready2print format distributed

> Activity Highlights

Holocaust Remembrance Day











Online and In-Person Seminars and Courses









Research Institute Seminars and Workshops















Cultural Events





VIP visits



Kevin McCarthy Former Speaker of the United States House of Representatives

General Michael Kurilla Commander of United States Central Command



The Hon. James Cleverly UK Home Secretary

























CALLING FOR A GLOBAL WAR AGAINST ANTISEMITISM In November 2023, Yad Vashem called upon political, cultural, religious and academic leaders all over the world to declare war on antisemitism in response to the alarming escalation in antisemitism being witnessed. Following the appalling attack on Israel by Hamas and Islamic Jihadist terrorists on October 7th and the defensive war Israel has been forced to undertake, Yad Vashem Chairman Dani Dayan emphasized the "urgent need to confront this deadly form of hatred of the Jewish people."

Dayan embarked on a "Journey of Dialogue" to meet with faculty and students on US college campuses. In addition to scheduled visits to college campuses, Dayan also participated in the "March for Israel" rally in Washington DC, organized by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, and the lewish Federation of North America (IFNA). Yad Vashem's Chairman also delivered a powerful speech at the "Rome-Jerusalem Emergency Summit on Global Antisemitism," held at the Senate of the Republic of Italy and sponsored by the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, at the initiative of Italian Senator Giuliomaria Terzi di Sant'Agata, President of the European Union Policies Commission of the Senate of Italy.





"The surge in antisemitism today demands a resolute response. We must hold current world leaders and leaders in higher education to their commitment to 'Never Again' in the hopes that they were not just hollow slogans. Never Again is NOW."

- Yad Vashem Chairman, Dani Dayan



THE BOOK OF NAMES: FROM UN HEADQUARTERS TO THE MOUNT OF REMEMBRANCE

Since its establishment, Yad Vashem has endeavored to gather the names of the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust. Yad Vashem's Book of Names is the unique result of painstaking work enabling the commemoration of 4,800,000 men, women and children whose details have been meticulously uncovered and retrieved over the past seven decades.

Coinciding with the 2023 International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, Yad Vashem and Israel's Permanent Mission to the United Nations inaugurated a new installation developed by Yad Vashem, entitled "The Book of Names of Holocaust Victims" at the UN. The opening event took place on 26 January 2023 in the presence of UN Secretary General António Guterres, Yad Vashem Chairman Dani Dayan and Permanent Representative of Israel to the UN Amb. Gilad Erdan.

The monumental installation features the names of 4,800,000 Holocaust victims currently documented and included in Yad Vashem's Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names. The total length of the Book of Names is 26.45 feet (8 meters). It stands 6.56 feet (2 meters) high, and is 3.3 feet (one meter) wide. A strip of light runs the length of the inside of the Book of Names, illuminating the memory of the Jewish men, women and children murdered during the Holocaust for all to remember. At the end of the Book of Names there are blank pages symbolizing more than one million identities yet to be recovered from the nameless murdered.

An earlier edition of the Book of Names is on permanent display at Yad Vashem's SHOAH exhibit in Block 27 at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum in Poland. At the conclusion of its display at the United Nations, the Book of Names was brought to Israel where it is now on permanent display in Yad Vashem's Museums Complex on the Mount of Remembrance.



"We don't remember numbers, only names...We remember life and that is our greatest victory. Even after 80 years, we say aloud each Jewish name that went up in flames, and this is our biggest victory. These white pages also call to us to remember and to protect our home, to remember the responsibility we all have, to remember that we are all sisters and brothers. We owe it to our sons and daughters and to the future generations. But we also owe it to our mothers and fathers and to all those inscribed in the Book of Names."

- Israel President Isaac Herzog



YAD VASHEM'S INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OPENS **ITS DOORS** TO WELCOME EVACUATED **CHILDREN**

From 25 October 2023 to February 2024, Yad Vashem opened the building of the International School for Holocaust Studies to 300 students ranging from grades one through 12, so that they could resume regular educational activities despite the ongoing war. Yad Vashem, together with the Ministry of Education and the Regional Council of Sdot Negev, created a welcoming environment for the displaced families and children from the south relocated to the vicinity of Jerusalem, offering them the opportunity to return to school and restore some sense of mental and emotional stability.

For a period of four months, the International School for Holocaust Studies offered a variety of routine lessons adapted for elementary, middle and high school students. Some fifty Yad Vashem staff volunteered to assist in this endeavor.

The building of the International School also underwent the appropriate adjustments, to provide a pleasant environment for the students. During the school day, each student received a learning kit and meals. In addition to classes for students, Yad Vashem offered lectures on a variety of topics for parents who accompanied their children to school at Yad Vashem.

These recent efforts are part of a special volunteer Initiative entitled "Yad B'Yad", which is spearheaded by Yad Vashem employees.



"At a time when we are experiencing one of the most difficult crises in the history of our country, it is our duty to extend a helping hand and do what we can to support those affected. Israelis and Jews worldwide are united together in the face of those who seek to harm us. By opening the doors of our International School, we hope to provide these children with a routine in order to infuse a sense of normalcy and provide for their continued educational future."

- Yad Vashem Chairman Dani Dayan

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



STATE-OF-THE-ART HOME FOR TREASURES OF THE HOLOCAUST



Yad Vashem collections — documentation, artifacts, artworks, photographs, testimonies and more — play an essential role in telling the story of the Shoah. In light of the growth of its collections and the changes in preservation standards, Yad Vashem has established the Moshal Shoah Legacy Campus and the David and Fela Shapell Family Collections Center, which contain new state-of-the-art repositories, allowing for proper storage, preservation and conservation of these priceless materials.

The complex process of transferring Yad Vashem's extensive collections to the Shapell Family Collections Center began in 2023. This includes 14,000 artworks, 31,000 artifacts, 227,600 million pages of documentation and 541,500 photographs. The transfer is a complex and meticulous process that required careful planning and coordination, including several essential stages in preparing for the move:

> Barcoding: standardized and synchronized

intake and cataloging systems to ensure the smooth transfer of all items to the new center and minimizing the risk of misplacement during the transition.

> Pre-packaging: specialized storage containers tailored to the specific needs of different types of items, essential for safely transporting them to the new facility.

 Photographing and documenting: this not only aids in expanding accessibility to the collections but also facilitates tracking, intake and registration during the move.

These meticulous preparations underscore Yad Vashem's commitment to a secure and centralized home for these collections, enabling researchers, educators and members of the public to engage with this essential element of Holocaust history.

The construction of the Moshal Shoah Legacy Campus is slated for completion in the summer of 2024, as is the transfer of the collections to the David and Fela Shapell Family Collections Center.



Members of the Yad Vashem Directorate 2023

Chairman: **Dani Dayan** Deputy Chairman: **Ronen Plot**

Yossi Ahimeir Colette Avital Avraham Biderman Dov Eichenwald Dr. Semion Goldin Menachem Granit Yoav Kisch Ifat Ovadia-Luski

Shraga Milstein Silvia Mordechai Shuli Moalem Rabbi Shai Piron Adv. Tami Raveh Meir Shimoni Dr. Zehava Tanne Dr. Laurence Weinbaum



Public Representatives 2023

Rabbi Israel Meir Lau	Chairman of the Council
Dov Gilboa	Chairman of the Finance Committee
Joseph Horowitz	Chairman of the Comptrolling Committee
Justice Jacob Türkel, z"l *	Chairman of the Commission for the Designation of the Righteous Among the Nations
Justice Elyakim Rubinstein **	
Prof. Dina Porat	Chairman of the Academic Committee
Zvika Yochman	Chairman of the Building Committee
Jacob Danon	Chairman of the Human Resources Committee

* Passed away May 2023 ** From May 2023



Dani Dayan	Chairman
Tzvika Fayirizen	CEO
Dr. Haim Gertner	Director, Resource and Partnership Development Division
Masha Pollak-Rozenberg	Director, Archives Division Fred Hillman Chair of Holocaust Documentation
Dr. Gilad Olshtein	Lily Safra Chair of Holocaust Education Director, International School for Holocaust Studies
Dr. Yael Richler	Pedagogical Director, International School for Holocaust Studies Fred Hillman Chair in Memory of Janusz Korczak
Inbal Kvity-Ben Dov	Director, Commemoration and Community Relations Division
Michael Lieber	Chief Information Officer, Information Technology Division
Dr. lael Nidam-Orvieto	Director, International Institute for Holocaust Research
Iris Rosenberg	Spokesperson and Director, Communications Division
Dr. Robert Rozett	Senior Historian, International Institute for Holocaust Research
Medi Shvide	Director, Museums and Collections

Dr. David Silberklang	Senior Historian, International Institute for Holocaust Research
Ayala Cohen	Director, Human Resources and Administration Division
Shana Yerushalmi	Chief Financial Officer
Prof. Yehuda Bauer	Senior Academic Advisor
FIOI. Tenuda Dadei	
Prof. Dan Michman	Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research Incumbent of the John Najmann Chair for Holocaust Studies
Prof. Dina Porat	Senior Academic Advisor

> Resource and Partnership Development Division

Directors, Friends and Societies

English Language Desk

Desk Director: **Searle Brajtman** searle.brajtman@yadvashem.org.il Tel: +972-2-6443742

Australian Friends of Yad Vashem Inc National President: **Joey Borensztajn AM**

Australian Friends of Yad Vashem Inc – NSW President: **Roland Nagel**

Canadian Society for Yad Vashem National Chair: **Shael Rosenbaum** National Executive Director: **Jonathan Allen**

Yad Vashem UK Foundation Chairman: **Simon Bentley**

European Desk

Desk Director: **Miry Gross** miry.gross@yadvashem.org.il Tel: +972-2-6443424

Comité Français pour Yad Vashem Président sortant: **Pierre-François Veil** Président entrant: **Patrick Klugman**

Freundeskreis Yad Vashem e.V. Vorsitzender: **Kai Diekmann** Direktorin: **Ruth Ur**

Les Amis Suisses de Yad Vashem Président: **Joël Herzog**

Österreichische Freunde von Yad Vashem Vorsitzender: **Gustav Arthofer**

Stichting Vrienden van Yad Vashem Voorzitter: **David Simon**

Verein der Liechtensteiner Freunde von Yad Vashem Vorsitzender: **Klemens Jansen**

Ibero-America and Miami Desk

Desk Director: **Marcelo Goldin** marcelo.goldin@yadvashem.org.il Tel: +972-2-644 3427

Amigos Yad Vashem Argentina President: **Sra. Fabiana Ricagno**

Amigos Latinoamericanos de Yad Vashem, Miami President: **Dra. Paulina Altaras**

Amigos Yad Vashem Brasil President: **Sra. Vicky Safra**

Asociación Yad Vashem Costa Rica President: **Philip Unger**

Asociación Yad Vashem España President: **Samuel Bengio**

Amigos Yad Vashem México President: Lic. Nina Medrez

Asociación Yad Vashem Venezuela President: **Tomas Osers**

Israel Desk

Desk Director: **Yaniv Oren** yaniv.oren@yadvashem.org.il Tel: +972-2-6443417

Friends of Yad Vashem in Israel Chairperson: **Israela Artzi, Adv.**

Partnerships and Global Campaign Desk

Desk Director: **Zohar Neumann, Adv** zohar.neumann@yadvashem.org.il Tel: +972-2-6443430

US Desk

Desk Director: **Chen Harkov** chen.harkov@yadvashem.org.il Tel: +972-2-644 3186

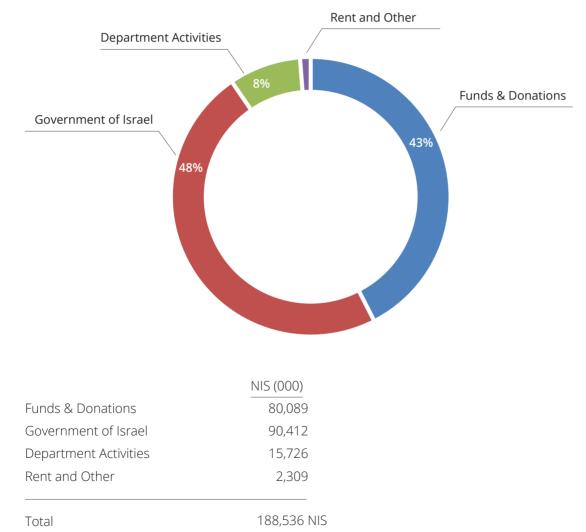
American Society for Yad Vashem

As of Jan. 1, 2024, Yad Vashem has concluded its affiliation with the American Society for Yad Vashem

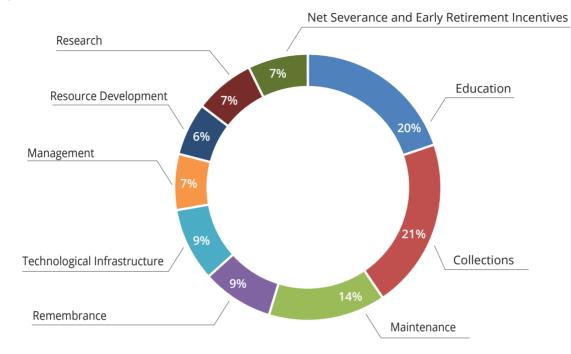


Implementation of 2023 Budget, unaudited

Revenues



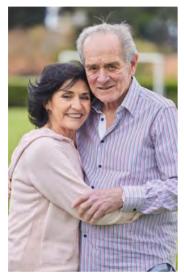
Expenditures



	NIS (000)
Education	37,370
Collections	39,014
Maintenance	26,751
Remembrance	16,303
Technological Infrastructure	16,789
Management	12,791
Resource Development	12,033
Research	13,763
Net Severance and Early Retirement Incentives	13,722

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

> New Pillars - Rubén and Toby Mischne



Rubén Mischne was born to parents who fled the looming Nazi threat in Europe and sought refuge in Mexico. They instilled in him important values such as a robust work ethic that would later serve as the foundation of his success both in business and in life.

Even amidst the relative safety of their new home, the haunting shadow of the Holocaust cast a somber pall over Rubén's childhood. Through the poignant narratives of relatives and family friends, he learned about the unfathomable horrors endured by those less fortunate: some were murdered, while others endured unimaginable suffering before emerging as survivors of the Holocaust's atrocities.

These early life experiences inspired Rubén to combat the insidious forces of antisemitism through the powerful weapon of education. He

has long felt a personal sense of duty to ensure that the memory of those lost in the Holocaust remains indelibly seared in the collective consciousness of humanity, so that it will never happen again.

For Rubén, the act of extending a helping hand to others transcends mere philanthropy; it is a deeply ingrained principle, a sacred duty passed down by his parents. Together with his wife Toby, they have diligently imparted this ethos to their three children and nine grandchildren, nurturing a legacy of compassion and generosity that spans over half a century of shared life and love.

Rubén and Toby are the epitome of a united and supportive partnership. Their commitment to each other, to their family and their community dovetails perfectly with the Valley of the Communities project that they have generously contributed towards, ensuring that the lessons of the past are not forgotten and that hope shines brightly for future generations.

Yad Vashem is profoundly grateful to Rubén and Toby Mischne for their steadfast support, bridging the memory of the past with the generations of the future.

New Benefactor - Icek Ostrowicz



Icek Ostrowicz was born in Kielce, Poland in May 1927. He grew up in the Jewish community with his parents and three siblings. The German invasion of Poland in September 1939 meant that he was no longer allowed to attend school, and in 1941 the family was forced to move into the Jewish ghetto. There Icek witnessed his family's deportation, while he himself was sent to various camps, where he was conscripted for forced

labor. His ordeal took him to the Gross-Rosen and Mittelbau-Dora concentration camps, among others. In April 1945 he was liberated near Magdeburg while on a death march. After the war he returned to Kielce, where he discovered that his entire family had been murdered in Treblinka. In the summer of 1946 lcek only narrowly escaped the antisemitic pogrom by a Polish mob. After these experiences, lcek felt that the "land of the perpetrators" was a safer place to be. He made the decision to go to Germany, under Allied occupation at the time.

Icek reached Mönchengladbach in 1947 and began trading in textiles. With a strong instinct for fashion trends, his company established itself across Germany, supplying blouses and knitwear to department stores. Enhancing the life of the Jewish community has always been central to his philanthropic activities. His wife Elfi supports him in business matters, as well as in his many charitable endeavors. In 2023 Icek Ostrowicz received the highest honor in Germany, "First Class Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany" for his civic engagement in the field of education.

Their generous donation to Yad Vashem reflects the Ostrowicz's profound conviction that the Holocaust must be remembered, and its lessons taught to future generations.

> Yad Vashem Societies and Friends Worldwide

PATRONS OF THE MOUNT OF REMEMBRANCE

Dr. Miriam & Sheldon G. z"l Adelson, USA The Estate of Bernard Aptaker, USA

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Yad Vashem would like to express deep appreciation for the enduring partnership of the following:

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The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, sponsored by the Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future", supported by the German Federal Ministry of Finance

The Centre of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel (COHSI)

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The National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism, Austria

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The Hungarian Gold Train Committee, USA

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The Government of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, Federal Republic of Germany

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Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, USA

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Stichting Collectieve Marorgelden, Israel World Holocaust Forum Foundation



Yad Vashem Annual Report 2023

Editor-in-Chief | Susan Weisberg

Editor | Yael Goldberg

Language Editor | Amanda Smulowitz

Design and Production | Einat Berlin, Limor Davidovich, Ossi Kupfer

Photography | Noam Chen, Yossi Ben David, Isaac Harari, Lior Mizrahi, Amit Geron



REMEMBERING THE PAST, SHAPING THE FUTURE

