



YAD VASHEM

The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority  
THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL FOR HOLOCAUST STUDIES

# **International Graduates Seminar**

**June 28, 2009 - July 8, 2009**



ADELSON FAMILY FOUNDATION

## **Sunday, June 28, 2009**

**20:00 Orientation at the Jerusalem Gold Hotel**

## **Monday, June 29, 2009**

### **Women in the Holocaust**

#### **8:30-9:30 Women in the Ghettos/Underground**

This presentation will open a gate to the world of female members of the Jewish Underground in Poland and to the way, they relate in their memoirs, to the question of motherhood versus extermination and demonstrate phenomena of: bravery, personal choice and responsibility among Jewish female victims versus extermination.

*Dr. Frumi Shchori, Yad Vashem*

**9:30-9:45 Break**

**9:45- 10:15 Questions and Answers with *Dr. Frumi Shchori***

**10:15-10:30 Break**

#### **10:30-11:30 Women in the Camps: The Auschwitz Experience**

This presentation will focus on the fate of Jewish women in Auschwitz. Were there any differences between the experiences of women and men in the camp? What were the specific experiences that women had in the camp e.g. the deportation, selection, the sauna, the everyday life, motherhood and pregnancy?

*Naama Shik, Yad Vashem*

**11:30-11:45 Break**

**11:45-12:15 Questions and Answers with *Naama Shik***

**12:15-13:30 Lunch**

#### **13:30-14:30 Pouring Out Her Heart: Women and Holocaust Literature**

After a brief overview, the session will focus on the special contributions of two women: Rachel Auerbach and Yaffa Eliach.

*Dr. Alan Rosen*

**14:30-14:45 Break**

**14:45-16:00 Participant Presentations:**

**14:45-15:45**

**Using Writing in the Classroom/Teachers Writing Themselves**

We will look at the different ways we use writing with students to help them think and learn: journals, responses, essays, research, creative

work--there is a wide range. So much of how we learn about the Shoah comes through writing--how can our own writing help us approach and learn about this subject? This will be as much participation as presentation. Come with your experience and a pencil.

***Robin Goldfin***  
**15:45-16:00**

**Ethical Dilemmas of Women in the Shoah**  
***Lily Rosen***

**16:00-17:00 Discussion**

**17:00 Return to the Hotel**

**Tuesday June 30, 2009**

**Ghettos**

**8:30-10:00 The Daily Life in the Warsaw Ghetto through Pictures of German Soldiers and Jewish Diaries- A Multi-Disciplinary Approach**

What was the daily life in the Warsaw ghetto as perceived through the photographs from a German soldier (Heinz Yost) and Jewish diaries written in the ghetto? This presentation will focus on the dialogue between history, media (pictures) and diaries.

***Shulamit Imber, Pedagogical Director, ISHS***

**10:00-10:30 Break**

**10:30-11:30 New Trends and Research on the Ghettos**

Why was the term "ghetto" used? What was the real reason behind the emergence of the ghettos? How many ghettos were there? Why were they created only in Eastern Europe?

***Prof. Dan Michman, Yad Vashem***

**11:30-11:45 Break**

**11:45-12:15 Questions and Answers with *Prof. Dan Michman***

**12:15-12:30 Traveling Exhibitions of Yad Vashem**  
***Sivan Schaechter, Yad Vashem***

**12:30-13:30 Lunch Break**

**13:30-14:30 Teachers -*Echoes and Reflections* - Lesson #4 - *The Ghettos***  
The Ghettos (lesson # 4) focuses on the materials from the Lodz Ghetto. We will take a look at the historical background and testimony included in the unit and then turn our attention to the diary of David Sieriakowak

***Stephanie McMahon-Kaye, Yad Vashem***

**Alternative Program for Academics (*Dr. Michal Unger- The Uniqueness of the Lodz Ghetto*)**

**14:30-14:45 Break**

**14:45–15:45 *Children in the Ghetto* – (a new interactive lesson on the internet)**

"Children in the Ghetto" is a website about children, written for children. It portrays life during the Holocaust from the viewpoint of children who lived in the ghetto, while attempting to make the complex experience of life in the ghetto as accessible as possible to today's children.

***Limor Bar- Ilan, Yad Vashem***

**15:45-16:00 Break**

**16:00 – 17:00 Discussion**

**17:00 Return to the Hotel**

**Wednesday, July 1, 2009 (This day will be at the Shaare Zedek Medical Center)**

**Medical Ethics and the Holocaust**

**8:00-8:15 Greetings: Prof. Yonaton Halevi, Director, Shaare Zedek Medical Center**

**8:15-8:30 Dorit Novak, Director, The International School for Holocaust Studies, Yad Vashem**

**8:30- 10:00 Medical Dilemmas of Jewish Doctors During the Holocaust**  
Jewish doctors became a type of alternative leadership in the Ghetto. As such they had unique dilemmas as doctors. This presentation will focus on medical dilemmas in the ghettos and camps using documentary evidence from the time period and video clips of survivors taken recently.

***Shulamit Imber, Pedagogical Director, ISHS***

**10:00- 10:30 Break**

**10:30- 12:00 Nazi Medicine during the Holocaust - Implications for Medical Education Today**

The United Nations declared January 27th as the International Day of Commemoration of the victims of the Holocaust. Physicians played a crucial role in Nazi Germany. We will explore the underlying ideological background and trends in medical education during that period which led to the most horrific atrocities. The study of medicine before and during the Holocaust is an important platform for medical ethics education in medical schools today and must serve as a safeguard for the future. This presentation attempts to address these issues.

***Benjamin Gesundheit, MD, PhD***

**12:00-13:15 Lunch Break**

**13:15-14:30 Participant Presentations**

**13:15-14:00 "Eugenics in the Shadow of the Holocaust"**

This presentation will provide case studies in modern genetics through which the learner will grapple with the similarities, differences, scope, limits, tensions, and implications in the comparison of contemporary eugenics and the use of racial hygiene theory in Nazi Germany.

**Michael Grodin, M.D.**

**14:00-14:30 Research by Captive Jewish Doctors**

This presentation will look at the research of Dr. George Weisz on the response of Jewish doctors to Nazi persecution in the Warsaw ghetto, and the concentration camps in Transnistria, Ukraine. They worked under unimaginable conditions and made medical discoveries that remain relevant even today. We will look at their motivations, their work and their legacy.

**Anne-Louise Pociask**

**15:00-16:15 Testimony of a Survivor of Mengele's Medical Experiments**  
***Ephraim Reichenberg***

**16:30-17:30 Presentation on the Shaare Zedek Medical Center**

**17:30 Return to the Hotel**

**Evening: 19:45- 22:00**

**Optional visit to the Tower of David Museum and Sound and Light Show**

**Thursday July 2, 2009**

**Armed Resistance**

**8:30-10:00 The Phenomena of Jewish Partisans in Eastern Europe during the Holocaust**

This presentation will deal with four major dilemmas that Jewish youth faced during the Holocaust:

- 1) Should we escape to the forests in order to fight the Nazis or should we fight the Nazis inside the ghetto?
- 2) If we decide to fight the Nazis in the ghetto – when do we initiate this?
- 3) In the forests- do we organize Jewish fighting units or do we fight together with the Russian partisan units?
- 4) Do we organize family camps in order to save as many Jews as possible or do we organize ourselves only as fighting units?

***Dr. Yitzhak Arad***

**10:00-10:30 Break**

**10:30-12:00 Case Studies of Jewish Armed Resistance During the Holocaust**

This presentation will center on several dilemmas of Jewish armed resistance in the ghettos and forests.

- 1) The discussion of members of the Kibbutz Tel Hai agricultural training center in the Bialystok Ghetto, February 27, 1943. Do we revolt in the ghetto or fight the Nazis in the forests?
- 2) The Bielski Brothers and the Jewish family camp in the forest. Do we fight the Germans as partisans or are we obligated to save as many Jews as possible?

***Simcha Stein, Executive Director, The Ghetto Fighter's House***

**12:15-13:30 Lunch**

**13:30-14:30 "The Words, Too, Will Nourish": Poetry and Resistance**

How (and what) does poetry resist? Can it properly be described as a form of spiritual resistance? Or does victim writing during the Holocaust solicit a category of its own? Can we say, moreover, that poems written in the aftermath of the Holocaust also resist—and, if so, what? The session will hope to address these and related questions, drawing on among others the nourishing words of Avraham Sutzkever.

***Dr. Alan Rosen***

**14:30-15:00 Break**

**15:00-15:45 Participant Presentation:**

**Jewish Resistance in Different Conditions:  
Suggestions for the Classroom**

This presentation will introduce the different contexts of the Jewish resistance during the Shoah. We will analyze the armed resistance in the ghettos, and forests and then the spiritual and cultural resistance against the Nazi attack on European Jewish Culture. Under what conditions did this resistance occur? Who helped them? What were they fighting for? This presentation will take an historical approach and consider the human aspects of these events. It will present pedagogical methods for classroom use.

***Antonella Tiburzi***

**15:45-16:15 Break**

**16:15-17:15 Teachers-Echoes and Reflections-Lesson #6 Cultural and Spiritual Resistance**

This lesson will look at examples of resistance “without a bullet or a gun”. Ultimately not all resistance assured life to the Jews, but the very act of choosing one’s own way in spite of the circumstances can serve as a topic of reflection and perhaps inspiration in the classroom. Examples will be taken from several ghettos of the period.

***Stephanie McMahon- Kaye***

***Alternative Program for Academics (Trips to Poland and Eastern Europe- Yossi Gilad, Yad Vashem)***

**17:30 Return to the Hotel**

**20:00-22:00 Evening: Optional Walking Tour of Jerusalem Neighborhoods with Amir Golani**

**Friday, July 3, 2009**

**Pius XII and the Holocaust**

**8:30-10:00 Pius XII and the Holocaust: The Historical Controversy**

This presentation will focus on the activities of Pope Pius XII during the Holocaust and the historical controversy surrounding the role he played.

***Professor Sergio Minerbi, Ben Gurion University***

**10:00-10:15 Break**

**10:15-11:45 Pius XII and the Holocaust: The Historical Controversy**

This presentation will focus on the activities of Pope Pius XII during the Holocaust and the historical controversy surrounding the role he played.

***Father Giovanni Caputa, Vice-Rector of the International Center for Theological Studies "Ratisbonne", Jerusalem***

**11:45- 12:00 Break**

**12:00-13:00 *Dr. Yael Orievto, Yad Vashem - a discussion***

**13:00- 15:30 Guided Tour of the City of David- the Old City with *Amir Golani***

**16:00 – Return to the Hotel**

**20:00 – Communal Shabbat Dinner at the Hotel**

**Saturday, July 4, 2009**

**9:00-17:00 Optional Trip to the Dead Sea, and Ein Gedi with *Amir Golani***

**Sunday, July 5, 2009**

**Antisemitism**

**8:30-10:00 Antisemitism from Antiquity to Modernity- an Overview**

What are the roots of this "Longest Hatred"- Antisemitism? In what shapes and forms did this phenomena manifest? How can we explain Antisemitism throughout the ages? Is there a cure for it?

***Prof. Robert Wistrich, Hebrew University***

**10:00-10:15 Break**

**10:15-11:00 Questions and Answers with *Prof. Robert Wistrich***

**11:00 – 11:15 Break**

**11:15 – 12:30 "Entartete Kunst" (Degenerate Art): Nazi Aesthetics and the Campaign Against Modernism**

"Art in the Third Reich" examines the issues and historical context surrounding two state-sponsored exhibitions mounted one day apart in the summer of 1937 in Munich: the infamous "Degenerate Art" exhibition and the "Great German Art Exhibition" in the House of German Art. Through a variety of media, we explore both the aesthetic espoused by Hitler and the Nazi party as well as the cultural repression and censorship of modernist art



(labeled "degenerate") and the fates of the individual artists banned, exiled and targeted in the purges.

***Dr. Rachel Perry, Yad Vashem***

**12:30-13:30 Lunch**

**13:30-15:00 Antisemitism in the Muslim/Arab World**

What are the roots of Arab/Muslim antisemitism in the 20th century? What is the attitude of Islam/ the Koran towards the Jews? What are the dangers of extreme Muslim fundamentalism for the western world in general and for the Jews specifically? The Hizbolla, Hamas, and the Islamic Jihad and the language of genocide as portrayed in film clips taken from Egyptian TV and El Manar cable TV. Anti-Judaism, Antisemitism, and anti-Zionism- are they connected? How can we combat this phenomenon?

***Dr. Raphael Israeli, Hebrew university***

**15:00-15:15 Break**

**15:15- 16:15 Teachers - *Echoes and Reflections* – Lesson #2 - Antisemitism**

How can we make our students sensitive to the overt and subtle nature of anti-Semitism? Do words have the same impact as pictures? We will examine both text and pictures from the unit to discuss the similarities and differences as well as to fine tune our own sensitivities to the subject matter.

***Stephanie McMahon- Kaye***

***Alternative Program for Academics (Prof. Rafi Vago - the Phenomena of Modern Antisemitism)***

**16:15-16:30 Break**

**16:30-17:30 Challenges in Preserving the Memory of the Holocaust**

What are the challenges that face educators today? How is Yad Vashem responding to these challenges?

***Avner Shalev, Chairman, Yad Vashem Directorate***

**17:30-18:30 Discussion**

**18:30 Return to the Hotel**

## **Monday, July 6, 2009**

### **07:00 Study Trip to Kibbutz Yad Mordechai, Beit Terezin, and the Atlit Museum**

This trip will take us to Kibbutz Yad Mordechai near Askelon, where we will be given a guided tour of the kibbutz relating the story of its founding members. We will then tour the reconstructed battlefield on the kibbutz grounds where the kibbutz members held off the Egyptian army in 1948. From here we will travel to Sderot and meet with local leaders and enjoy lunch together with them. After lunch we will travel north to Kibbutz Givat Haim near Hadera and visit the Beit Terezin Holocaust museum. We will have a guided tour through this unique museum and from there we will travel to Atlit south of Haifa. Here we will experience a moving presentation telling the stories of the illegal immigrants that tried to make their way to the shores of Eretz Israel between the years of 1945-1948.

### **20:30 Return to Jerusalem**

## **Tuesday, July 7, 2009**

### **Music, Art, Film, Survivor Testimonies**

#### **8:30- 9:30 Music of the Jews in the Holocaust**

One of the most amazing phenomena during the Holocaust is that Jews never stopped playing, singing and composing music: all kinds of music- classic, jazz, folk, religious etc... During this presentation, we will try, listening to songs and their stories, to understand what were the roles the music played.

***Tamar Machado***

#### **9:45-10:15 Questions and Answers with *Tamar Machado***

#### **10:30- 11:30 “Facing the Holocaust”**

This presentation explores a range of visual art created during the Holocaust in order to demonstrate how art can be used as a pedagogical tool in the classroom, both enhancing and broadening our historical understanding of the Holocaust. What can art teach us and how does artistic response differ from other approaches to the Holocaust? Using portraits and self-portraits made during the Holocaust, we will examine art's unique ability to convey contextual information as well as to evoke emotions, producing a unique form of testimonial that engages the viewer in an interpersonal dialogue.

***Dr. Rachel Perry, Yad Vashem***

#### **11:45-12:15 Questions and Answers with *Dr. Rachel Perry***

#### **12:15-13:00 Lunch Break**

**13:00-14:30 A World Without Survivors**

In an effort to meet the challenge of incorporating Holocaust survivor testimony in educational activities, Yad Vashem has embarked on a project of videotaping a number of Holocaust survivors to be used in the classroom. These videotapes take the student through the survivors' experiences before the war in their hometowns, through the different camps in which they were incarcerated, and ends with the rebuilding of their lives in Israel. Several examples will be presented: Ovadia Baruch and Hannah Bar Yesha.

***Naama Shik, Yad Vashem***

**14:30-15:00 Break**

**15:00-16:30 The Evolution of the Representation of the Holocaust in Film -  
The Yad Vashem Visual Center**

This presentation will focus on the genres and stories told early after the war and their evolution in the "television years" and into today's stories in cinematic works. We will focus on stories of identity and memory in the third generation filmmakers. How is the Holocaust mirrored in the films of "3G" technology and the generation of the grandchildren of Holocaust survivors? Short excerpts will be screened: *Night & Fog*, *Shoah* by Lanzmann, *KZ*, *Babcha*, *Everything is Illuminated*, and more...

***Liat Benhabib, Yad Vashem***

**16:30-16:45 Break**

**16:45-17:45 Participant Presentation:**

**The Power of Film in Teaching The Holocaust**

This presentation is a compilation of 8 excerpts of films for Secondary and higher level academic classroom use in context of historical information. They can be used as entry points into the study of the Holocaust, or as supplemental points for discussion at anytime during a study of the history and literature. Film Excerpts: *Camera of My Family*, *The Voyage of the St. Louis (Documentary)* *Conspiracy (Wannsee)*, *I'm Still Here-Real Diaries*, *The Power of Good*, *Watermarks*, *Holocaust: The Untold Story*, and *the Avenue of the Just*.

***Dr. Miriam Klein Kassenoff***

**17:45 Return to the Hotel**

**19:00 Evening: Farewell Dinner**

**Wednesday, July 8, 2009**

**Philosophy and Theology**

**8:30-10:00 The Holocaust Through the Prism of Philosophy - Immanuel Kant, Theodor Adorno, Emmanuel Levinas**

Kant's Categorical Imperative proposes an ethics based just on rationality; Eichman used it in his judgment to justify his atrocities. This fact makes us question the validity of a formal rationality that has often been manipulated by totalitarian ideologies, as Theodore Adorno explains in his analysis of the mass psychology of Nazism. Levinas explains the impossibility of committing murder together with the impossibility of reducing the other person to the categories of my understanding. Any language which is not based on the encounter with the Other will be a language without meaning; the encounter with the Other is the foundation of ethics and of language.

***Dr. Joseph Horwitz***

**10:00-10:30 Break**

**10:30-12:00 Jewish Theology and the Holocaust**

Where was God in the Holocaust? How can we pray in the post-Holocaust era?

***Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, Chief Rabbi of Efrat and  
Chancellor of Ohr Torah Stone Institutes***

**12:00- 12:30 Lunch Break**

**12:30-13:30 Personal Reflections on the Holocaust and Israel Today**

A talk of Jewish faith and destiny; of the juxtaposition of grief and mourning with joy and celebration. The story of growing up in a home with survivor parents and how that affected both childhood and subsequent parenthood including the murder of a son by terrorists and the aftermath.

***Esther Wachsman***

**13:30-15:00 Break and Free Time**

**15:00-16:30 A general discussion with the participants - where do we go from here?**

**16:30 Return to the Hotel**