



Yad Vashem

The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority
The International School for Holocaust Studies

SEMINAR FOR CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

*THE HOLOCAUST,
ANTISEMITISM AND ISRAEL*

April 9, 2010 – April 17, 2010

This seminar was made possible by the generous support of:



AND THE ORION FOUNDATION

Saturday, April 10, 2010

09:30-16:00 Optional Bus Tour of Jerusalem with guide Brian Kvascenica

Our guide will take the group to different Christian Holy sites in Jerusalem.

21:00 Program Orientation at the Prima Kings Hotel, Jerusalem

Introducing the team - an explanation of the goals and objectives of the seminar. The structure of the seminar: the academic, pedagogical, and experiential elements of the program. Participant introductions: who they are, where they come from, what they are doing professionally, and why they came to the seminar.

Dorit Novak Director, International School for Holocaust Studies
Ephraim Kaye Director, International Seminars for Educators
Stephanie McMahon-Kaye Desk for International Seminars in English
Sharon Niv Dept. Coordinator, International Seminars in English
Shaya Ben-Yehuda, Director, International Relations Division
Dr. Susanna Kokkonen, Director, Christian Friends of Yad Vashem
Irit Bercovitz, Coordinator, Christian Friends of Yad Vashem
Sipra Bagman, Christian Friends of Yad Vashem
Rev. Malcolm Hedding, Executive Director, ICEJ
Dr. Jurgen Buhler, International Director, ICEJ

Sunday, April 11, 2010

8:30- 9:30 The Educational Philosophy of the International School for Holocaust Studies

How do we teach and incorporate the stories of the victims, perpetrators, and bystanders? Where do we begin? Who were the perpetrators? What was their ideology and motivation? How was it *humanly* possible? How do we define the “bystanders”? How do some become indifferent while others become Righteous Among the Nations? How do we teach the Holocaust in an age-appropriate manner and what is the importance of inter-disciplinary materials?

Shulamit Imber, Pedagogical Director ISHS

9:30-10:00 Break

10:00-11:30 God, The Jews, and History

Who are the Jews - from the biblical period to the modern era? – What is the covenant of sanctity in time and space and how is this reflected in the calendar (time) and reverence for the land (space)? Is there a tension between the exclusive, “Choseness” and the universal as prototype and example. Other themes include: the interaction between Peoplehood (Am Israel), Torah (Torat Yisrael) and Land (Eretz Yisrael). History as proactive memory; confronting exile-diaspora, suffering and theodicy; Quietism vs. Activism as redemptive strategies; Kiddush HaShem (martyrology) and Kiddush Hahayim (sanctification within life); and the concept of Tikkun Olam (restoration as a partner with the Divine).

Dr. Pesach Schindler, Hebrew University

11:30 Leave Yad Vashem - tour of the City of David with Alan Rabinovich

16:00 Return to the hotel

17:30 Leave the hotel for Yad Vashem to participate in the Yom HaShoah ceremony

22:30 Return to the Hotel

Monday, April 12, 2010 Yom HaShoah

8:00-9:30 Judaism and Anti-Judaism in Medieval Christianity

This lecture will address the Church fathers and their attitude towards the Jews in early Christianity, the Crusaders and the advent of mass-murder of the Jews by Christians in Europe, the Blood Libel, the Black Death, pogroms and expulsions of the Jews in the medieval period, and Jewish-Christian relations during this period. The lecture will look at the giants of Jewish creativity and scholarship during this turbulent period - Rashi, Rambam, Rabbi Yosef Karo., and the impact of the Talmud, Jewish Law, and customs?

Rivka Duker-Fishman, Hebrew University

9:45- 10:15 Break – the Siren for Yom HaShoah

10:30-12:00 The Rise of Modern Antisemitism in Europe – 19th and 20th Centuries

Wagner, Chamberlain, Wilhelm Marr, and Gobineau –these are names that gave rise to modern antisemitism in France and Germany. Were social, economic, political, and racial antisemitism a replacement for anti-Judaism in the Middle Ages? What was the Jewish response to modern antisemitism?

Prof. Robert Wistrich, Hebrew University

12:00-13:00 Lunch Break

13:00-16:00 Guided Tour of the New Holocaust History Museum of Yad Vashem

What are the educational concepts and objectives that were imbedded into the new historical museum? How does the architectural design of the museum influence the way that the story is told? How do the chronological and thematic aspects of the museum affect the personalization of the story of the Holocaust?

Ephraim Kaye, Yad Vashem

16:00-16:30 Break

16:30- 17:30 Debriefing with the participants

17:30 Return to the Hotel

20:30-22:30 Tour of the Western Wall Tunnels with Alan Rabinovich

This will be a unique, exciting, and eye-opening guided tour of the entire length of the Western Wall to where it meets the northern wall of the Temple Mount. The tour will take you underground and allow you to see over 3000 years of history in the Old City of Jerusalem.

Tuesday, April 13, 2010

8:30- 10:00 Nazi Racial Ideology and the Jewish Question

What are the basic tenants of Nazi racial ideology? What are the antecedents of this ideology and the innovations initiated by Hitler? Can we deconstruct the Nazi mind – the rationality vs. the irrationality? What was the centrality of the “Jewish Question” within this Weltanschauung?

Dr. Yaacov Lozowick

10:00-10:30 Break

10:30-12:00 The Decision to Kill the Jews -The Final Solution and Its' Implementation

Who gave the order to murder the Jews? Was it Hitler? Himmler? Goring or Heydrich? Was it one person or a group of people? Did the order come from "above"- the highest echelon of power-- or from "below" -junior officials? When was this order given? The *intententionalists* and the *functionalists*--what are their positions? Was it one order or a series of orders over time? What is the importance of the Wannse Conference in this sequence of events? Who was involved in perpetrating the murders, the SS, the ORPO, and the Wehrmacht? Who collaborated with the Nazis in order to murder their Jewish neighbors - ordinary men vs. ordinary Germans?

12:00-13:00 Lunch Break

13:00- 14:30 Cultural and Spiritual Resistance in the Ghettos

This presentation will look at 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.

Stephanie McMahon-Kaye, Yad Vashem

14:30-15:00 Break

15:00-17:00 The Valley of the Communities- a Tour and Survivor Testimony

The Valley of the Communities is a memorial to the Jewish communities that were destroyed during the Holocaust. We will discuss the concept behind the memorial and we will hear two survivors relate their pre-war experiences

Hanna Pick, Germany and Holland

17:00 Return to the Hotel

Evening: Free

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

8:30-10:00 Literary Responses to the Holocaust

What is literature? How does literary response differ from other approaches to the Holocaust? What have been the various kinds of literary responses? How have literary responses to the Holocaust changed from the time of the war to the present day? How do the different languages of this literature shape the response to the Holocaust?

Dr. Alan Rosen

10:00-10:30 Break

10:30-12:00 The Righteous Among the Nations – Saving Jews during the Holocaust

What is the definition of a Righteous Among the Nations according to Yad Vashem? What can we learn about ourselves from their behavior?

This session will focus on the story of the Righteous community of Le Chambon Sur Lignon as a case study using historical background information, literature, film, and testimony.

Stephanie McMahon-Kaye, Yad Vashem

12:00-13:00 Lunch Break

13:00-14:30 The Christian Responsibility and Responses to the Holocaust – a discussion

The Christian Friends of Yad Vashem is an attempt at educating the Christian world about its specific responsibility and connection to the Jewish tragedy. The lessons of the Holocaust concern Christian values and their failure in the period when they were most needed. Therefore, in considering an appropriate Christian response to the Holocaust, it is not only to commemorate but to learn why Christian values did not spring to action when they were needed. It is our duty to keep asking what are the moral and ethical implications of the Holocaust to us as Christians today. Did the Holocaust not establish borders between good and evil? Did it not set the standards of human compassion? Did the Holocaust not show that there are no limits to human cruelty? Did it not challenge our ability to pray? What are the precedents of the Holocaust and are they valid to us and future generations?

Dr. Susanna Kokkonen, Yad Vashem

14:30-15:00 Break

15:00-16:30 The Christian World and the Jewish State- the Challenges – a discussion

Rev. Malcolm Hedding, ICEJ

16:45- 18:15 Antisemitism and the Global Jihad

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 on Egyptian TV and El Manar cable TV. Anti-Judaism, Antisemitism, and anti-Zionism- are they connected? How can we combat this phenomenon?

Prof. Robert Wistrich, Hebrew University

18:15 Return to the Hotel

20:00- 21:00 Debriefing with the participants

Thursday, April 15, 2010

08:30-10:00 Current Issues in Holocaust Education and Research: The Unprecedentedness of the Holocaust in an Age of Genocide

What are the parameters that make the Holocaust an unprecedented historical event? What are the parallels between the Holocaust and other genocides of the 20th century -Armenia, Cambodia, Rwanda?

How can we incorporate the study of genocide into our curricula in order to make the study of the Holocaust more relevant?

Professor Yehuda Bauer, Yad Vashem

10:00-10:30 Break

10:30-12:00 The Problems Facing Israel Today

What was the hope of the Oslo Accords in 1994 and why have they failed to produce a peace agreement between the PA and Israel? What transpired after Sept. 2000 and how has this affected Israel-- both politically and militarily? Where is the Israeli public today? Is there still hope that there can be peace between Israel and the Palestinians?

Daniel Ayalon MK, Deputy Foreign Minister

12:00-13:00 Lunch Break

13:00- 14:30 Confronting the Phenomenon of Holocaust Denial - a Workshop

How do we define "denial" of the Holocaust? What are the definitions of Holocaust Revisionism, Relativism, and Reversal? Is Holocaust denial a new form of Antisemitism? Who are the deniers? Are they historians? When did this phenomenon begin? From which countries does this emanate? What are the main issues that they raise? How can we combat this phenomenon? These are the educational challenges we face today as educators.

Ephraim Kaye, Yad Vashem

14:30-15:00 Break

15:00-16:30 A Visit to the Grave of Oscar Schindler with Schindler Survivors – Nachum and Genya Manor

We will travel to the Catholic cemetery on Mt. Zion in Jerusalem and visit the gravesite of Oskar Schindler together with Nachum and Genya Manor who were both saved by Schindler as workers in his factory. Nachum will speak about Schindler at the gravesite.

16:30- 17:30 Nachum and Genya will speak to the group at the hotel

19:00- 21:00 Meeting with local Christian and Jewish leaders at the hotel

Friday, April 16, 2010**8:30- 17:00 Optional Trip to Massada and Kumran with Alan Rabinovich**

This optional guided tour will take the participants to the 2nd Temple fortress of Massada built by King Herod in the Judean Desert in the 1st cent. BCE. The participants will hear the story of the final battle with the Roman Legions as told by Josephus in the years 70-74 CE.

Friday Night**Shabbat Evening Service at a Synagogue**

We invite all of the participants to take part in an Orthodox Jewish service celebrating the Shabbat. The participants will be provided with selected materials in English so that they can follow the service and enjoy the choir. At the conclusion of the service, we invite you to be our guests at the hotel for a communal Shabbat meal with Yad Vashem staff members. After the meal, there will be an optional discussion about elements of the Torah portion for that week and its connection to current events.

Saturday, April 17, 2010**8:00-17:00 Optional trip to Christian Holy sites in the Galilee with guide Halvor Ronning**