

International Educational Activities

New Educational Resource with Wiesenthal Center

by Richelle Budd-Caplan

■ Marking the 100th anniversary of the birth of Simon Wiesenthal on 31 December 2008, Yad Vashem and the Simon Wiesenthal Center have launched a new joint educational resource based on the award-winning book *Antisemitism: The Generic Hatred*. Under the patronage of UNESCO, the book was published by the Center last year in memory of Wiesenthal, a Holocaust survivor and noted Nazi-hunter, who passed away in 2005.

“Strategies in Facing Antisemitism: An Educational Resource Guide” (www1.yadvashem.org/education) features a newly designed lesson plan by Yad Vashem, a number of abridged articles from the book by leading scholars—including the history of antisemitism, the various challenges it presents across Europe, and antisemitism on the Internet—as well as a biography of Simon Wiesenthal himself.

ADL Joins Yad Vashem/IDF Trip to Poland

by Ephraim Kaye

■ On 26 October, 150 IDF officers participating in the “Witnesses in Uniform” program went on a five-day trip to Poland. The program is run in conjunction with Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies, which provides preparatory seminars for the officers before the journey, and guiding during the tour of Poland. For the first time, a group of 27 Anti-Defamation League (ADL) activists, including Abraham Foxman, were invited to participate in this journey. Foxman, a Holocaust survivor who was saved as a baby from Nazi persecution by a Polish Catholic woman in Vilna, is now the National Director of the ADL—an organization dedicated to combating antisemitism, prejudice and racism. “This journey was very important to me,” said one of the IDF officers at the end of the trip. “The participation of the ADL significantly contributed to the success of our mission here.”

Spanish Seminar on Women in the Holocaust

by Dr. Frumi Shchori

■ At the beginning of November 2008, the first international seminar on the topic of Women in the Holocaust was held at the University of Granada, Spain, initiated and coordinated by Prof. Alicia Ramos-González, Chair of the University’s Gender Studies Department. Dozens of distinguished academics and scholars from Spain, France, Argentina and Israel, as well as students, media representatives and members of the public participated in the seminar, including the heads of institutes and museums dedicated to commemorating the Holocaust and Jewish life in Spain and elsewhere.

The lectures touched on many different topics, including Holocaust education in Spain; the Holocaust in Ladino and Spanish poetry by



and about women; women in the concentration camps; gypsy women; the documentation of women survivors in film; the women of the Saloniki community (before and during the Holocaust); women in the Resistance; and Spanish women who were Righteous Among the Nations. The seminar also featured testimonies by two women who survived the camps, one Jewish and one non-Jewish.

I was invited by Prof. Ramos-González to speak at the seminar. It was a chance to meet people committed to teaching the Holocaust who know and appreciate the work of the International School for Holocaust Studies. It was also a special opportunity for me as a woman, as the daughter of survivors, as a mother and as a scholar to lecture on the topic of women facing extermination. I benefited greatly from talking to the participants about commemoration and remembrance. Most importantly, the seminar was a way to strengthen our ties with those who are looking for additional ways of transmitting the legacy of the Holocaust in Spain.

European Seminars, Videoconferences

by Lisa Oren

■ The fall semester saw a continuation of seminar activity run by the European Department within the framework of the ICHEIC Program for Holocaust Education in Europe, both at Yad Vashem and abroad. For the first time, seminars were held for Irish and Slovenian educators. “This seminar has provided an incomparable opportunity to continue my journey of understanding,” said one participant from Ireland. “It has developed my own knowledge of the Holocaust and highlighted the many areas that research into this topic involves. I have also learned many new ways to introduce this difficult subject to my students.” Other seminars were held for educators and graduates from Romania, the Czech Republic, Sweden, Germany, France, Hungary, Ukraine and Poland.

In advance of the International Graduate Seminar in Vienna (see p. 4), four international videoconferences were conducted between students from France, Germany, Italy and the UK, and survivors and educators at Yad Vashem. This technological medium provided the European students with a unique learning experience.

“The idea of videoconferences with eye-witnesses was very appealing,” said Brigitte Stuibser of Austria. “It is essential that students talk to and relate to stories from those who experienced the Holocaust; students should know about the personal decisions non-Jewish people had to make regarding their choices to become perpetrators, bystanders or even Righteous Among the Nations. I would question my students—how many of you would show courage and stand up against your peer group? And how many did during the Nazi period?”

Richelle Budd-Caplan is Head of the International Relations Section, Ephraim Kaye is Director of International Seminars for Educators in English, and Lisa Oren works in the European Department at the International School for Holocaust Studies. Dr. Frumi Shchori is Director of the International School’s branch in Givatayim.