



## 2009 Mid-Year Summary Asper International Holocaust Studies Program International School for Holocaust Studies

### Teacher-Training Seminars for Jewish Educators



Thirty Jewish Educators attended this year's Winter Seminar, which for the first time included a specialty track for teaching the Holocaust through the arts. Participants included ordained rabbis, PhDs, and a number of senior educators.

Notably, the participants who focused on art, poetry,

literature, and music all stated that the lessons they learned would be immediately integrated into their classrooms.

Nearly all the lectures and workshops received extremely positive feedback, and participants have begun to implement the training they experienced.

The upcoming Summer Seminar for Jewish Educators (July 12 – 22) is slated to include 30 participants from Canada, the United States, Japan, England, and Macedonia. This seminar is slated to be the largest to date; more than 50 Jewish Educators have so far applied to participate. Canadian participants include experienced teachers at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, the Associated Hebrew Day School of Toronto, and United

Synagogue Day School of Richmond Hill, Ontario. Other participants include

educational directors, curriculum developers, March of the Living educators, and a fellow of the Imperial War Museum in London.

*I have been to so many conferences that fail to have a lasting impact. One of the reasons that I know that this particular experience will stick with me is that we were taught by those how also work in the trenches, as opposed to impressive authors or so-called experts in the field. The team that you put together was perfect for this purpose and for this subject.*

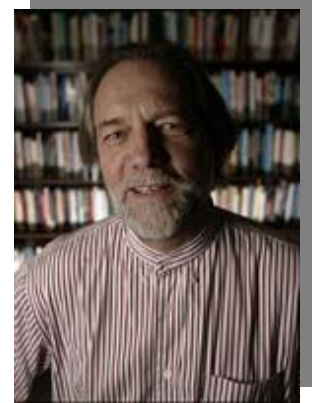
*Mark Rosenberg, Educator  
Participant, 2009 Winter Seminar Participant*



The seminar includes world-renowned lecturers such as Professor Yehuda Bauer and Yad Vashem Publications Editor-In-Chief David Silberklang, as well as facilitators, pedagogical experts, and Holocaust survivors.

### **New Connections with ITF-related Officials in Canada**

The ISHS is furthering its connections with [Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research \(ITF\)](#) related officials in Canada. Recently, ISHS staff met with Professor Alain Goldschlager of Western Ontario University and Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Jason Kenney. With both Minister Kenney and Professor Goldschlager, ISHS staff discussed the components of the Asper International Holocaust Studies Program, as well as Canada's bid for membership in the ITF. Both were given a full tour of the historical museum at Yad Vashem.



#### Professor Alain Goldschlager

On May 20, ISHS staff met with Professor Alain Goldschlager. A Canadian Professor of French language at Western Ontario University, Professor Goldschlager began to realize the value of Holocaust survivors' testimonies during his involvement with the second prosecution in Canada of Holocaust denier Ernst Zundel in 1988. While researching bibliographies of Holocaust-related texts, he realized that they all referenced academic texts without referencing testimonies or memoirs. He has since collected more than 2,300 volumes in 14 languages, and established the Holocaust Literature Research Institute at the University.

#### Minister Jason Kenney



ISHS staff met with Minister of Citizenship, Immigration, and Multiculturalism Jason Kenney at Yad Vashem on May 21. On Yom HaShoah, Kenney released a statement saying that:

*The Government of Canada is committed to ensuring that the Holocaust is not forgotten. To that end, Canada co-sponsored the UN resolution that led to the recognition of January 27th as the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust. In 2007, Canada co-sponsored another UN resolution that condemned denial of the Holocaust. Canada has consistently voted against*

*unbalanced resolutions within the UN.*

*This commitment is also reflected in our ongoing efforts to attain full membership in the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research. In 2008, we took another step forward and received liaison status in this Task Force and, in June, I will present Canada's formal application for full membership.*

*\*for full text of Minister Kenney's statement, see Appendix 1.*



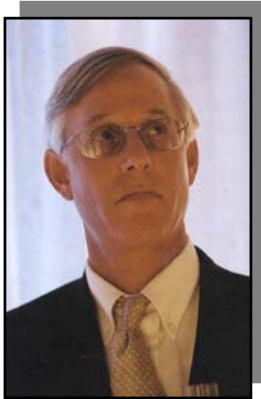
## The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights/The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Cooperation between The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights/The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and Yad Vashem continues to bear fruit. The guidelines "*Addressing Antisemitism: Why and How? A Guide for Educators*" have now been translated into Lithuanian, and appear in a total of seven languages. The impetus for this resource emerged from a 2005 international forum supported by the Asper International Holocaust Studies Program. A translation of this material into Ukrainian is currently being explored.



### Spotlight: Ephraim Kaye, Director of International Seminars

A veteran of Holocaust education in the Israeli school system, author and educator



Ephraim Kaye has worked in Yad Vashem since 1988, and has held the position of Director of International Seminars at the International School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem for the past fifteen years.

He has coordinated and led hundreds of seminars for educators from dozens of countries, led trips to Poland for high school students, graduates of Yad Vashem seminars, and IDF officers, and managed international conferences. His speaking engagements have spanned the globe, including a trip to Winnipeg in May 2009, thanks to the generous support of the Asper

International Holocaust Studies Program.

Ephraim gave a number of presentations and lectures as part of an educational initiative of the Department of Education, Youth, and Citizenship of the Province of Manitoba, and held at the Asper Jewish Community Campus in Winnipeg. This was the first time that the ISHS worked with a Canadian provincial department of education for a seminar.

He attended the world premiere of 'I Believe' – a concert composed by Zane Zalis, a graduate of the International School's 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Holocaust Education. The concert was attended by more than 2,000 people, including the Premier of the Province of Manitoba, the Mayor of Winnipeg, the Austrian Ambassador, and numerous Holocaust Survivors.

Ephraim led a seminar on [Echoes and Reflections](#) for 65 educators, which included presentations on *The Ghettos*, *The Final Solution*, and *Perpetrators, Collaborators, and Bystanders*. He also gave a lecture to the community on Holocaust denial.



### **Participant Reflections and External Evaluation**

The ISHS has engaged in an external evaluation through the locally-based Szold Institute of many of its seminars in 2008 as well as the last international conference. According to the introduction of this document, "There is no doubt that the International School for Holocaust Studies makes a significant contribution to the knowledge of the subject of the Holocaust and to the commitment to preserve its memory."

Regarding seminars, the report comes to a number of conclusions, including that in general, participants are greatly satisfied with the seminars, most notably with the seminars' pedagogic level and the relationship between instructor and participant. In addition, at the end of the seminar many of the participants feel that the experience changed their life or at least significantly influenced their thinking.

*Dr. Daniel Bitran, Holy Cross College, Massachusetts  
Participant, July 2008 International Conference*

*Our students would benefit greatly from the kind of learning experience I was having. Exactly what I wanted our students to learn was not yet clear to me, but that we should provide ample opportunities to engage in Holocaust studies became an imperative.*