Unto Every Person There Is A Name
לכל איש יש שם

Public Recitation of Names of Holocaust Victims on Yom Hashoah
Under the Auspices of the Speaker of the Knesset

International Committee

יד ושם
YAD VASHEM
THE WORLD HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE CENTER

"Unto Every Person There Is A Name"
Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day 2019

The War Within the War

The Struggle of the Jews to Survive during the Holocaust

Alexander Bogen (1916-2010)
Partisans, 1981-1984
Oil on canvas
Yad Vashem Art Collection

Unto Every Person There Is A Name

לכל איש יש שם

Public Recitation of Names of Holocaust Victims on Yom Hashoah
Under the Auspices of the Speaker of the Knesset

International Committee

Yom Hashoah – Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day

2 May 2019 – 27 Nissan 5779

Letter from the International Committee

"Unto Every Person There Is A Name"

Introduction

The worldwide Holocaust memorial project "Unto Every Person There is a Name", now in its thirtieth consecutive year, is a unique project designed to perpetuate the memory of the Six Million - among them one-and-a-half million Jewish children – murdered while the world remained silent. The project offers the opportunity to memorialize them not only as a collective, but as individuals – one at a time - through the public recitation of their names on Yom Hashoah – Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day. You can help to restore the identity and dignity of the victims of the Holocaust by organizing a name-recitation ceremony on Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day. Links to lists of names taken from Yad Vashem's Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names, and ceremony planning recommendations are included below (see page 4).
The Unto Every Person There Is A Name project focuses attention on the urgent need to retrieve additional names of Holocaust victims, before they recede into oblivion.

A World-Wide Effort

"Unto Every Person There Is A Name" ceremonies are conducted around the world in hundreds of Jewish communities through the efforts of four major Jewish organizations: B'nai B'rith International, Nativ, the World Jewish Congress and the World Zionist Organization.

The project is coordinated by Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, in consultation with the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs and enjoys the official auspices of President of the State of Israel, the Hon. Reuven Rivlin (click here to see President's letter, and letter from Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev).

In Israel, "Unto Every Person There Is A Name" is an integral part of the official Yom Hashoah commemoration ceremonies, with central events held at the Knesset and Yad Vashem with the participation of elected officials, in addition to local events throughout the country.

Personalizing the Holocaust

The most fundamental feature of the Shoah is the systematic murder of six million innocent Jews by the Nazis and their collaborators for the sole reason that they were Jewish. Each of their deaths was a separate,

distinct tragedy that together has caused indelible lasting trauma to the Jewish people. As time passes and fewer witnesses remain, it is imperative to create a personal link between the Jewish people today and those who perished under the Nazi genocidal regime. Ceremonies in which names of Holocaust victims are recited - together with such information as their age, place of birth and place of murder - personalize the tragedy of the Holocaust. Emphasis is thus put on the millions of individuals – men, women and children - who were lost to the Jewish people, and not solely on the cold intangibility embodied in the term "The Six Million". "Unto Every Person There is a Name" rests on the success of Yad Vashem's Shoah Victims' Names Recovery Project that to date has identified close to 4.8 million names of Shoah victims and that continues its quest to recover all the six million names.

The Central Theme for Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day 2019: The War Within the War - The Struggle of the Jews to Survive During the Holocaust

When the battles of World War I came to an end, humanity hoped that never again would another world war erupt.

That hope was crushed on 1 September 1939, when the German Army invaded Poland. World War II was the largest, broadest and deadliest war in human history. At its height, it raged from one end of the world to the other, traversed continents and oceans, and impacted nearly every nation on earth. Tens of millions of people died, most of them unarmed civilians. Violence and death cast their heavy shadow over humanity, diminishing its ability to recognize and deal with a heretofore inconceivable moral collapse.

It was in this battered and indifferent world that Nazi Germany sought to annihilate the Jewish people. Nazi ideology was based on an extreme racist antisemitic worldview that considered Jews a destructive race that was poisoning and undermining the very foundations of human existence. Within two years of the outbreak of war, Nazi Germany had taken control of most of Europe and North Africa. Its military achievements enabled Germany to implement the Nazi "vision" of a world without Jews. The "Final Solution" could not have been carried out other than in the context of a world war. The Nazis strove to obliterate Judaism as a religion and a culture, to eradicate the Jewish people and to wipe every Jewish man, woman and child off the face of the earth.

For the full rationale of this year's theme and texts that can be used in ceremonies, click here

In addition to this collection of texts and readings, Yad Vashem has created several Ready2Print exhibitions on a range of subjects that can be printed locally and displayed as an enhancement to your ceremony. For more information about the different exhibitions available, click here
For any queries, and to receive the exhibition files free of charge, please contact:
traveling.exhibitions@yadvashem.org.il

Recover Names of Shoah Victims

"Unto Every Person There Is A Name" events provide a unique opportunity to gather heretofore unknown names of all the Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

Since its inception, one of Yad Vashem's central missions has been the recovery of the names and personal stories of all victims of the Shoah. While the Nazis sought not only to physically destroy the Jews but also to obliterate any memory of them, The Shoah Victims' Names Recovery Project realizes our moral imperative to memorialize each victim as a human being, and not merely a single collective number. (To learn more about the project click here)

The persistent endeavor has to date identified close to four million eight hundred thousand names of Shoah victims, documented in the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names online at: www.yadvashem.org. Roughly half of the victims' names in the database were derived from various archival sources and postwar commemoration projects. The other half are recorded on "Pages of Testimony" submitted by relatives and others who knew of the victims. The outstanding universal value of the Pages of Testimony Memorial Collection has been recognized by UNESCO, which in 2013 inscribed it in its prestigious Memory of the World Register.

The Names Database, uploaded to the Internet in 2004, marked a pioneering use of technology in the service of memory, documenting and commemorating nearly three million names of Holocaust victims. To continue to meet the needs of an expanding worldwide community of users, Yad Vashem has upgraded and re-designed

the database, making use of an innovative platform that allows the accessibility of online information in a fast and user-friendly format.

“Unto Every Person” ceremonies may be utilized to call upon members of your community to complete a “Page of Testimony” for each unregistered victim, or to volunteer to assist others with this urgent task.

For further information, click here

Recitation Ceremony Planning Recommendations

1. Outreach: The International Committee urges organizers of “Unto Every Person” ceremonies to invite all Jewish organizations and institutions in their community, including schools, synagogues of the various streams and community centers, and Israeli diplomatic representatives, to take an active part in the name recitation ceremonies and in the Names Recovery Campaign. The Committee specifically requests that the four sponsoring organizations be actively engaged in each ceremony and that all local agencies cooperate to make the ceremony as inclusive and meaningful as possible. The Committee also recommends that non-Jewish groups and leaders in the larger community be invited to participate in the recitation ceremonies, which can be held in an appropriate public setting.

2. Press: Local and national media, especially television, should be encouraged to cover the ceremonies. Any visual products from the ceremony should be sent to Yad Vashem in order to be archived and exhibited in the future.

3. Family names retrieval: We urge you to encourage members of your community to search for names of relatives and friends who were victims of the Holocaust, to compile your own personal and local lists of names and family members for commemoration, and to submit names to Yad Vashem's Database (see above).

4. Ceremony requirements: The recitation ceremonies require coordination and planning but involve very little expenditure. Basic requirements for the ceremony are:

> Poem “Unto Every Person There Is A Name” by Israeli poet Zelda (Click here for text of poem)

> Lists of names

> Pages of Testimony

> Yizkor and El Maleh Rahamim prayer texts (available in Hebrew)

> Six Yizkor candles

> A sound system

> Professional-standard video equipment

> A table or podium covered in black

> Sufficient volunteers to recite names

> Master of Ceremonies

5. State Ceremony at Yad Vashem: The official State ceremony marking the commencement of Yom Hashoah will take place at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem on Wednesday, 1 May at 20:00 (8 PM.) Israel time. The ceremony is broadcast live on Israel’s Channels 9, 11, 12, 13 and 20 accessible via the internet, which might allow you to incorporate it into your own ceremony.

We are available to answer any questions that might arise and provide additional material as necessary to ensure the success of your event.

Sincerely,

Members of the "Unto Every Person There Is A Name" International Committee: **Inbal Kvity Ben Dov**, **Dr. Alexander Avram** (Yad Vashem); **Alan Schneider** (B'nai B'rith International); World Jewish Congress; **Naftaly Levy** (World Zionist Organization); **Mr. Ran Yaakobi** (Israel Foreign Ministry); **Masha Novikov** (Nativ).

Project Initiator: **Haim Roet**

Referents:

For Yad Vashem
Inbal Kvity Ben Dov,
Commemoration and Community Relations Division;
Dr. Alexander Avram, Hall of Names
POB 3477, Jerusalem 91034, Israel
Tel. (972)-2-6443574; Fax (972)-2-6443569
general.information@yadvashem.org.il | www.yadvashem.org

For more information about the Shoah Victims' Names Recovery Project contact:
names.proj@yadvashem.org.il

For North America
Rhonda Love
B'nai B'rith International Center for Programming
801 Second Avenue, 14th Floor, New York,
NY 10017
Tel: (212)-490-3290 | Fax: (212)-687-3429
Rlove@bnaibrith.org

For Eastern Europe
World Jewish Congress
POB 4293, Jerusalem 91042, Israel
Tel: (972)-2-6333006 | Fax. (972)-2-6333011
wjc@wjc.co.il

For Western Europe, Latin America, Australia
Naftaly Levy
WZO Department for Zionist Activities
POB 92, Jerusalem, Israel
Tel: (972)-2-6202262 | Fax (972)-2-6204099
naftalil@wzo.org.il

For the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Ran Yaakobi, Director, Department for Combating Antisemitism, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jerusalem, Israel
Tel: (972)-2-5303696 | Fax: (972)-2-5303159
Ran.Yaakoby@mfa.gov.il

For the Former Soviet Union
Masha Novikov
Nativ
Tel: (972)-2-5089085 | Fax: (972)-2-5089120
mashan@nativ.gov.il