"Unto every person there is a name, given to him by God and by his parents", wrote the Israeli poetess Zelda. Every single victim of the Holocaust had a name. The vast number of Jews who perished in the Holocaust - some six million men, women and children - is beyond human comprehension. We are therefore liable to lose sight of the fact that each life that was brutally ended belonged to an individual, a human being endowed with feelings, thoughts, ideas and dreams whose entire world was destroyed, and whose future was erased. The annual recitation of names of victims on Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day is one way of posthumously restoring the victims' names, of commemorating them as individuals. We seek in this manner to honor the memory of the victims, to grapple with the enormity of the murder, and to combat Holocaust denial and distortion.

This year marks the 27th anniversary of the global Shoah memorial initiative "Unto Every Person There Is A Name", held annually under the auspices of the President of the State of Israel. In addition to name recitation ceremonies conducted all over Israel, the project aims to reach out to as many overseas communities and institutions as possible. With this in mind, we are sending you the attached materials, in the hope that you will join us in this essential mission, and hold a name-reading ceremony on Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day.

The theme of this year's observances is:

**The Struggle to Maintain the Human Spirit during the Holocaust**

In the diary that he kept in the Warsaw ghetto, teacher and educator Chaim Aharon Kaplan wrote, "Everything is forbidden to us, and yet we do everything."

With these words, Kaplan expressed the struggle of the Jews to maintain their human spirit under the impossible conditions in which they found themselves during Nazi German occupation. This year, we mark the remarkable efforts by Jews to preserve moral values and religious traditions, and even to maintain cultural activities in their communities, in the ghettos and in the camps during the Holocaust period. Mutual aid organizations, clandestine youth movement activities, the composition of art, music and poetry, writing secret diaries - these are some of the means by which Jewish men, women and children sought to transcend an unprecedented brutal reality and preserve their human spirit.
The attached materials include texts and readings on this year’s theme that can be incorporated into your ceremony.

To date, approximately 4,600,000 names of Holocaust victims have been recorded in Yad Vashem's online Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names, with close to 2,700,000 names registered on Pages of Testimony.

You can assist in our ongoing names collection campaign by downloading and distributing Pages of Testimony, or by submitting them online through our website: www.yadvashem.org.

Sadly, the generation of survivors is dwindling rapidly. As the bearers of their legacy, we must do everything possible to perpetuate the memory of the Holocaust's victims. By reciting their names, ages and places of death, we keep their memory alive, and remind ourselves that each man, woman and child was, and is, an entire world.

Avner Shalev
Chairman