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HOLOCAUST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE RUSSIAN RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL
HOLOCAUST CENTER AND THE HOLOCAUST FOUNDATION

Note from the Editor

This year our Center celebrates the twentieth anniversary of its establishment. We are proud to be the first organization in the post-Soviet space striving not only to perpetuate the memory of the victims but also to connect the theme of the Holocaust with contemporary life.

Today the Center has regional branches in 25 cities all over Russia, and thousands of scholars and teachers in the country cooperate with it. The Center marked this jubilee by presenting its work at the UN Headquarters in New York upon invitation by the UN Information Program, as well as at another annual conference at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. We conducted a high-profile international conference in Rostov-on-Don, held memorial events in the Rostov district and Stavropol territory, and inaugurated the Alley of the Righteous, the first of its kind in Russia. Five new books have been published in the series "Russian Holocaust Library".

In this issue we present various aspects of teaching and studying the Holocaust in Russia. The Center organized and held more than 15 seminars supported by grants from the President of the Russian Federation and the Claims Conference. This was done all over Russia, from Siberia (Novokuznetsk and Kemerovo) to Azov Sea (Taganrog). Supported by local authorities, many cities hosted events that commemorated 70 years of the Holocaust in the territory of Central Russia and the North Caucasus. Supported by the IHRA, the Center published proceedings of the international conference on Holocaust memorialization held in St. Petersburg in November 2011.

Representatives of various professions and ethnic communities took active part in International Holocaust Memorial Day. For the first time, this event was supported by the Council of Europe.

The Center's international connections have also grown considerably. In addition to our traditional contacts in Israel, the USA, France, and Germany, we have established new contacts and partnerships with the University of Toronto (Canada), Institute of Contemporary History (Munich, Germany), Holocaust State Commission (New Jersey, USA), and Rutgers University (USA).

Session of the UN Commission Dedicated to the Study and Teaching of the Holocaust in Russia

On November 8, 2012, on the eve of the anniversary of Kristallnacht, a session concerning the UN Information Program took place at the New York headquarters under the topic "From Forgotten Memory to Nascent Remembrance: Holocaust History and Education in Russia Today" where Russian researchers and teachers presented their working results.

Vitaly Churkin, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation in the UN (this appeal was read by the Ambassador Sergei Karev), emphasized the importance of preserving the historical truth about the Second World War and the Holocaust, as well as the intolerability of the distortion of history and support for neo-Nazi movements in Europe. He also underlined the significance of the fact that the session was held on the day of the opening of the Russian Jewish Museum of Tolerance in Moscow.

In his keynote lecture, Dr. Altman presented the latest achievements of Russian historians in the teaching of Nazi crimes, focusing on educational programs on the Holocaust and tolerance in Russian schools and universities. Prof. Yuri Dombrovsky, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of "Memory of the Holocaust" project in the Russian Jewish Congress, discussed the



Near the UN Headquarter
memorialization of the Holocaust in Russian cities. Tatiana Pasman (Pskov) and Alex Feldt (Arkhangelsk) spoke about teaching the Holocaust in Russia's regions, and Alexander Engels introduced the educational programs of the Museum of the Holocaust and Jewish Heritage on Poklonnaya Hill.

In his concluding remarks, Deputy Program Director, Ramu Damodaran, outlined the immense interest of international society in the memorialization of the Holocaust, stressing the fact that the Russian Federation was among the initiators of Res. 60/7 of the General Assembly "Memory of the Holocaust" of 27 January 2005 and expressed his hope that "International Holocaust Remembrance Day" would become an official memorial day in Russia, as well.

At the UN Headquarter



Memorial events marking 70 years after the tragedy at Zmievskaia Balka

The Russian Holocaust Center and Holocaust Foundation, as well as the Russian Jewish Congress and the Jewish religious community of Rostov co-organized an international forum to commemorate 70 years since the tragedy at Zmievskaia Balka.

Early on August 12, 2012, a "March of the Living" was stretched over several kilometers. Thousands of peoples awearing a black armbands came to the site where Rostov's Jews had been executed in August 1942. A memorial ceremony took place near the eternal fire at the memorial inscribed "To the Memory of the Victims of Fascism" in Zmievskaia Balka.

The leading personality attending the ceremony was Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, Chief

Rabbi Meir Lau at (on the left) the grave of his rescuer



Rabbi of Tel Aviv and chairman on the Yad Vashem Board of Directors, previously Israel's Chief Rabbi. In 1945, he was an eight years old boy. He was rescued in the Buchenwald concentration camp by a young Russian whose name was Fedor. Beyond his rescuer's name and he originated from the city of Rostov-on-Don, the Jewish boy remembered nothing. This rescue story was included in the textbook "Russia's Righteous" published by our Center.

Finally, Rabbi Lau was able to realize his dream of attending the grave of his rescuer, Righteous Fedor Mikhailichenko who passed away in 1993, and also of meeting his daughters.



Righteous among the Nations Igor Polugorodnik (in the first line at the center)

Rabbi Lau said at the ceremony: "In one of the premises in Buchenwald where Jews were murdered someone wrote on the glass 'Revenge'. Shall we take revenge by fighting and killing? No! We will take revenge by living, by keeping the past in our memory. We will remember what transpired... Yes. We can change our present. But we will never be able to change our past. Nor shall we forget our past and those who wished to annihilate us. We will remember and live."

Speaking at the ceremony at Zmievskaia Balka were President of the Holocaust Foundation, Alla Gerber, President of the Russian Jewish Congress, Yuri Kanner, Head of Public Relations Department of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Russia Boruch Gorin, and the

Provisional Envoy of the Israeli Embassy in Israel Roi Rozenblat among others.

On August 12, the Rostov Academic Theater for Youth hosted a memorial evening prepared by the Russian Holocaust Center and Holocaust Foundation. It was moderated by Alla Gerber. In a videoconference the poet Evgeni Evtushenko recited his famous "Babi Yar" poem.

Over the course of three days, Rostov hosted the International Scholarly Conference "Holocaust Lessons and Contemporary Russia" (see further in the bulletin), a seminar for teachers of Jewish schools of CIS and Baltic states, and a screening of documentary films on Holocaust. These events were widely covered by Russian federal TV channels and other mass media outlets.

Rav Meir Lau is fourth from the left in the first line



Alley of the Righteous: Russian Protestants completed construction of a memorial dedicated to the Holocaust victims in Lubavitch

On September 27, in the legendary village of Lubavitch (Smolensk district), the first Alley of the Righteous among the Nations in Russia was opened. It complements the memorial of the Jews who were executed there by the Fascists and their collaborators in 1941, which was erected within the framework of the program "Restoring Dignity", initiated by the Russian Jewish Congress, in cooperation with the Holocaust Center, and supported by significant financial

*Taisa Lukashenko (Smolensk),
Righteous among the Nations*



Participants of the ceremony plant trees and organizational contributions by the Russian Methodist community.

The ceremony, in which 13 linden trees were planted by school students and where 97 year-old Taisa Lukashenko recalled her memories, was attended by representatives of various political, public, and religious organizations.

According to Dr. Ilya Altman, Alleys of the Righteous will be established in other regions of Russia.



Memorial event in Stavropol Territory

The unveiling of a memorial plaque in Arzgir

September 9, 2012

Dr. Ilya Altman took part in a memorial event in Arzgir (Stavropol region) dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the massacre by the

Erecting a memorial plaque at the village of Arzgir



Fascists, on which occasion a memorial plaque in remembrance of the 695 victims, of whom 674 were Jews, was unveiled for the first time.

Dr. Altman was highly appreciated for imbedding the memory of the victims and handing it over to the younger generation in order to ensure that this will never occur again.

Mourning ceremony in Mineralnye Vody

September 9, 2012

On September 9, Dr. Altman spoke at a memorial ceremony in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the massacre of Jews in Mineralnye Vody where thousands of evacuated Jews from almost all regions of the USSR lost their lives.

The monument site was prepared by members of regional Protestant organizations under the framework of the project «Restoring Dignity.» Dr. Altman confirmed that the regional authorities agreed to mention the nationality of the victims on the memorial plaque and expressed his expectation that this would occur before the next anniversary.

At the memorial in Mineralnye Vody



Eigth International Conference "Holocaust Lessons and Contemporary Russia"

From August 12-14, 2012, Rostov hosted the VII International Conference "Lessons of the Holocaust and Contemporary Russia". It was organized by the Russian Holocaust Center, Yad Vashem International School for Holocaust Studies, Institute of Russian History at the Russian Academy of Sciences, Southern Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Southern Federal University, and the Simon Wiesenthal Center, with the support of the Russian Jewish Congress (REK), Federation of Jewish Communities of Russia (FEOR), Jewish community of Rostov, Genesis Foundation, and the Claims Conference.

Prof. Altman noted in his speech that for the first time a discussion on Holocaust focused on regional aspects and would be held concurrently with a film festival dedicated to the Holocaust. He also presented a new book by Elena Ivanova, "Calling the Fire Upon Myself" (see p. 9 of the bulletin), which has been printed with the support of the Russian Jewish Congress.

The President of the Russian Jewish Congress, Yuri Kanner, underlined the importance of Holocaust research by non-Jews because they could not be accused of partiality.

The conference was opened with the report from the European director of the



Simon Wiesenthal Center, Dr. Shimon Samuels, "In the Shadow of the Wannsee Conference: The Vanishing Memory of the Holocaust".

Dr. Samuels began his speech by referencing the notions on Simon Wiesenthal and his method to for commemorating the Holocaust by persecuting its perpetrators. He noted that there still exists an intrinsic

Participants of the conference at the house where Alexander Pecherski lived

Producer Yuri Kalugin (on the right) speaking connection between anti-Semitism and the Holocaust. Because of the Holocaust, it is no longer politically correct in the West to lash out at Jews in the contemporary world. This is replaced by a virulent criticism of Israel. In other places this link is even more obvious, as is exemplified by the stance of the Iranian President who claims that the Holocaust did never take place not happen and that Israel should be wiped. Samuels concluded his presentation, Dr. Samuels concluded that it is our duty to inform people about the lessons of the past, lest they recur in the future.

The second day dealt with special aspects of the Holocaust in the North Caucasus region, whereas the last day was dedicated to the fate of Sabina Spielrein, a native of Rostov and one of the founders of psychoanalysis, who shared the fate of other murdered Rostov Jews, as well as that of the Jewish intelligentsia in WWII on both sides of the front line. Johan Beckman, head of the Finnish anti-Fascist Committee, pointed out the different treatment of Jewish intellectuals, depending on their utility to the state.

Dr. Gennady Kostyrchenko (Institute of Russian History at the Russian Academy of Sciences) reported on the only female member of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee, Lina Stern. She was the only



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member of the committee who was one not executed by Stalin because he wanted to make use of her scientific merits. Dr. Grigory Smirin from the Jewish Museum in Latvia and Dr. Irit Abramski from Yad Vashem (Israel) spoke about the fates of Jewish scientists during the Holocaust, in the Riga and Vilna ghettos, respectively.

Tatyana Pasman (Center of Civic Education, Pskov) stressed the Kikoin brothers' contribution to military technology and the victory of the Red Army in WWII.

Professor Boris Kovalev from the University of Veliki Novgorod, the leading Russian expert on collaboration during WWII, spoke about collaborators' repression of the Jewish population and prisoners-of-war in Southern Russia. Alexander Kruglov, from the Ukraine and the most important scholar on the statistics of the Shoah in the Soviet Union, delivered a talk on the Holocaust in the Rostov region based on German documents. His conclusions sparked vivid discussions, as they contradicted the findings made by Rostov's scholars, among them Prof. Yuri Dombrovski, who presented the Rostov scholars' high-quality research based on findings from the local archives. Professor Ilya Altman, representing the Russian Holocaust Center and the Russian State University for Humanities, spoke about new findings from the Holocaust in the North

Caucasus in the Central Archive of the Russian Defense Ministry. Dr. Kiril Feferman examined regional peculiarities of the Holocaust in the North Caucasus.

Of great interest were presentations conducted in Russian by Dr. Jeremy Hicks from the University of London on documentary cinema as a source for the Nazi crimes in Rostov and by Dr. Vanessa Voisin (Deputy Director of the Franco-Russian Centre for Research in Moscow and Universite Paris-Sorbonne, Paris) who explored the famous Krasnodar trial conducted in 1963 and shown on the Soviet screen vis-a-vis the real picture of events known to us. Dr. Igor Schupak of the Tkuma Foundation (Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine) explored a very important aspect of the Holocaust in the region, the Righteous Among the Nations in Southern Russia in the midst of the local Ukrainian inhabitants.

*Participants from
Jewish schools*



International Conference "Kristallnacht: History, Memorialization, Lessons"

The Eighth International Conference "Holocaust Lessons and Contemporary" (marking the 75th anniversary of Kristallnacht) entitled "Kristallnacht: History, Memorialization, Lessons", which will be held in Kaliningrad from November 14–17, 2013.

Co-organizers of the Conference are the Russian Research and Educational Holocaust Center, Russian State University for Humanities, Institute of Russian History in the Russian Academy of Sciences, Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University (Russia), Institute of Contemporary History (Munich), and the Simon Wiesenthal Center – Europe.

Participating institutions: Memorial de la Shoah, Rikkyo University (Japan), Verbe et Lumiere-Vigilance.

The Conference will focus on new research along the following lines:

1. Kristallnacht: history, historiography, lessons. This topic will be explored in the context of its occurrence in Konigsberg, the only place in contemporary Russia where Kristallnacht occurred.

2. Rescue of Jews and aid rendered to them by individuals, institutions, and states. This topic is connected but not limited to the Evian conference and may be more broadly defined as the attempts to rescue

The last session of the conference dealt with problems in preserving the memory of the Holocaust, pointing out that in the post-war period authorities tried to hinder the Jewish community of Rostov-on-Don from keeping the preserving Holocaust memory. Director of Krasnodar Regional State Historical and Archaeological Museum, Andrey Eremenko, stated that in his museum the Holocaust is not neither represented in any special exposition not included in the total collection of the Great Patriotic War. Leonid Terushkin (Holocaust Center) presented a large-scale program to archive the collection of wartime documents (letters, diaries, memories) which could be used as sources for Holocaust research. Anna Volkovich of the Military Medical Museum in St. Petersburg mentioned that the archive of the museum contains a large number of recollections by Jewish military doctors who survived the Holocaust.

Jews during the Holocaust. The discussion will also note the fact that Chiune Sugihara was a Japanese Consul in Konigsberg.

3. Preservation of historical memory of the Holocaust: teaching, searching for names of victims and rescuers, conducting memorial events.

Inquiries

More details on the application process and the conference are available on the website of the Russian Holocaust Center. Please direct your inquiries to rrehc@holofond.ru or call us at 7-495-9533362 (Dr. Kiril Feferman).

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Life and death of Soviet Jews during the Second World war and the Holocaust

Ilya Altman, representing not only the Russian Holocaust Center but also the Yad Vashem International Institute for Holocaust Research where he was a fellow, spoke on March 25 at the University of Toronto during an annual Rose Wolf lecture with a presentation called "The Holocaust in the Soviet Union: Unknown Pages" attended by more than 150 people. Previously, such lectures had been read by prominent scholars such as Professor Dan Michman (Israel) and Professor Omer Bartov (USA).

The lecture opened the international interdisciplinary conference "Life and Death of Soviet Jews during the Second World War and the Holocaust" attended by scholars from Israel, Germany, the USA, Canada, and Russia (among them, member of the Board of the Russian Holocaust Center, Dr. Gennadi Kostyrchenko). A reception was held in the evening by the University of Toronto honoring Professor Altman, who was greeted by Mrs.

Rose Wolf and the conference organizer, Professor Doris Bergen. Prof. Altman conducted negotiations on cooperation with the heads of the Holocaust Research Center at the University of Toronto and discussed possibilities of cooperation with an eye on participation in international contests and educational programs. Prof. Altman emphasized that "Starting from 2013, Canada will assume the Chairmanship of the Task Force

for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research, and it is of primary importance for us to cooperate with this country". He complimented the perfect organization of the conference. On the eve of the conference, a local Russian newspaper in Russian published an article on the activities of the Russian Holocaust Center and its scholarly publications.

Participants of the conference



Focal points of the historical memory in Russia and Germany after 1945

The co-chairman of the Russian Holocaust Center, Ilya Altman, took part in the Russian-German scholarly conference "Remembering Dictatorship and War: Focal Points of the Historical Memory in Russia and Germany after 1945" held May 22-23, 2012 at the Institute of Contemporary History (Munich) within the framework of the "Russian-German Year of Education, Research, and Innovation". The conference, the first part of which was held in March in Moscow, was attended by renowned historians from both countries, as well as from Austria and Switzerland. The Russian delegation was headed by the Director of the Institute of World History in the Academy of Sciences, Alexander Chubarian. Prof. Altman's lecture on "The Historical Memory of the Holocaust in Russia" opened the first plenary session of the conference.

The theme of Holocaust was also presented in the lecture of Dr. Arkady

Tsfasman (Germany), reporting on the memories of Jewish emigres from the former Soviet Union who were children during the national-socialist occupation.

The main focus of the conference was on problems in individual and collective memory of the war, the politics of memory, and movies films and memorials for the victims of the two dictatorships.

Particular attention raised the The contributions by Elena Zubkova (Institute of Russian History, Russian Academy of Science) on the memorialization of WWII in post-war Soviet society, Irina Shcherbakova (Memorial) on the memory of Stalinist terror, and Alexander Vatin (Moscow State University) on memorialization of the victims of the NKVD firing range at Butovo (place of mass shootings in 1937 and 1938) raised particular attention.

At the occasion of During the conference, Prof. Altman negotiated prospects for



Ilya Altman and Dr. Juergen Zaruski (on the right)

cooperation with his German colleagues (Dr. Juergen Zaruski and Professor Horst Mueller) and also with the leading staff of the Institute of World History (Russian Academy of Science), who expressed interest in joint projects on research and teaching the Holocaust in Russia.

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Scholarly events in Israel. Presentations at Tel Aviv University and Yad Vashem

Prof Ilya Altman, during an internship lecture at the Yad Vashem International Institute for Holocaust Research, delivered a presentation on the problems of historiography and historical sources, particularly those of memorialization of the Holocaust in contemporary Russia, and generated huge interest among the members of the Institute. Prof. Dan Michman, head of the Institute, paid homage to Altman's work in his introduction speech – particularly the Encyclopedia, The Holocaust on the Territory the Soviet Union.

Altman discussed the role of the Soviet authorities in the transit of Jewish refugees from Poland through the RSFSR to Japan, presenting new information about the Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara, based on newly discovered archival documents.

Altman then focused on the approaches and source basis from Russian and foreign historiography concerning the number of

ghetto and Holocaust victims in the territory of the Russian Federation. In particular, he addressed the significance of recently accessible documents of the Main Political Directorate of the Red Army, which collected and published information about the Nazi crimes. This was illustrated by the example of letters written by a Ternopol ghetto prisoner, Salomon Oks, written before his death. The letters were found by Soviet soldiers, published in a special edition, and then sent to Tel Aviv.

The third aspect of the lecture involved the memorialization of the Holocaust in Russia, in particular, the history of erecting the monument to Holocaust victims in Kaliningrad and in Lubavitch, within the framework of "To Return Dignity", a common project by the Russian Jewish Congress and the Holocaust Center. The speaker emphasized the importance of cooperation not only with Jewish but also with Christian, mostly Protestant, organizations in Russia.

Prof. Altman delivered a public lecture "In the Shadow of the Holocaust: Self-identification of Russian Jews" at the Goldstein-Goren Diaspora Research Center. It was attended by students and staff of the Cummings Center for Russian and East European Research and the Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Anti-Semitism and Racism.



Additionally, Prof. Altman informed the audience about the role of the Holocaust Center and the programs of the Russian Jewish Congress in preserving the memory of the Holocaust in the Russian public. He explained the peculiarities in perceiving the war and the Holocaust in Russia, in particular the influence of the memory of war and its victims on the Jewish and non-Jewish population. He traced the relations toward the Holocaust and its influence on the Jewish self-identification in relation to certain groups, such as among Jews in Russia, in general, as well as Jewish leaders, students from mixed families, communities, and philanthropists.

Prof. Altman's main conclusion was that the strengthening of Jewish self-identification has been made possible due to a whole complex of measures, including educational programs, participation in fundraising for the erection of monuments dedicated to Holocaust victims, and the projects "To Return dignity" and "Baton of Memory".



Conference "Museum and Holocaust memorial sites in post-communist states: challenges and opportunities"

This international conference took place in Riga from June 4-5, 2012. The Russian Holocaust Center was represented by the head of its archive, Leonid Terushkin, and the head of the youth center, Dmitri Alexeev.

During its duration, leading experts from museums and scholarly centers in Germany, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Romania, and the Czech Republic exchanged their views

on the topics of the conference. Leonid Terushkin delivered a presentation "History of Soviet Jewish Red Army Soldiers and Partisans in the Collections of Memorial Synagogue on Poklonnaya Mountain and in the Archive of the Russian Holocaust Center."

Leonid Terushkin, head of the Center's archive spoke on new findings concerning

Raoul Wallenberg's case at an international conference in Moscow on May 28, which was organized by the Russian Academy of Sciences. He delivered his lecture once again on November 18 in Paris at a conference organized by University of Sorbonne. In addition, he participated in scholarly gatherings in Riga, Kiev, Bryansk, and Rostov-on-Don.

Project "Preservation of personal collections on the history of Jews and Holocaust"

Archive of the Russian Holocaust center continued actively amassing new letters, documents, and photographs. Many of them were included in the third volume "Save my letters..." due to appear in the second quarter of 2013. Of particular value are four diaries of Jewish soldiers conducted in 1941-1943, family correspondence and postcards. Among them there are documents delivered by the authors of the letters or their relatives not only from Russia but also from Israel, Germany, and USA.

Of great interest are the documents from a personal collection by Filip Tenenbaum from Jerusalem. He was evacuated to Stavropol district where he stayed prior to the German occupation in summer 1942. His evacuation permit (which was miraculously preserved by Filip's mother, Tsipora-Zinaida Klementyevna Tenenbaum) is dated from August 4, 1942. The evacuation direction, as stated in the permit, was the country's interior. They failed to implement it, however. In the village of Levolumki the mother and her son were swept by the German occupation. Thanks to the courage of Elizaveta Kononova who registered the Tenenbaums as her children, the latter were able to survive. Filip Tenenbaum witnessed execution of some 300-400 Jews carried out mainly by local Cossacks: "Exhausted people who hardly could stand on their feet were ordered to stand alongside the walls of a huge cow-shed. They were said: 'Who dares sit or rise on his knees will be killed.' During our stay, dozens



Soviet and US navy personnel on the warship "Milwaukee", 1944

of people were killed there; children were mainly slain by butt-stocks".

In October 1942, after a long wandering the Tenenbaums and the Kononov family, their rescuers were detained in the village of Nezlobnaya in Stavropol district. Elizaveta Kononova was compelled to start working as an interpreter in a German military hospital.

Filip Tenenbaum hid in a cow-shed until early February 1943, i. e. before the area was liberated by the Red Army. During this time he was on the verge of destruction but was rescued by Elizaveta Kononova who passed him for her nephew, as well as by Richter, a German military doctor who did not inform Gestapo and his commanders about his suspicions.

In 2008 Elizaveta Kononova was posthumously awarded the title of Righteous among the Nations.

The main addendum to the archive in this year is the documents and a personal library of a famous Jewish historian Saul Borovoi (1903-1989). In 1946 Borovoi wrote an article on the fate of Odessa's Jews for the "Black Book" (published in 1993). Saul Borovoi's archive and library now became accessible to researchers.

The archive's workers prepared several exhibitions, among them "With 'Leika' (literally watering-can, the most popular Soviet camera brand during the war) and a note-book". It was shown from late May until mid-July in the Holocaust Museum on Poklonnaya Mountain and stirred up a much interest among the visitors.

The exhibition consisted of pictures made by famous Soviet Jewish war photographers David Minsker, Mark Redkin, Yakov Khalip, Robert Diamant, Mikhail Trakhman, as well as their personal belongings, photo cameras, military uniform, and awards. The exhibition organizers sought to picture the war history through the photographers' personal views, to show their mastery and a high quality of performance despite war conditions. The key point of the program was the meeting with the descendants of the famous photographers who managed to preserve rich family collections.

Parade of war cadets on the warship "Arkhangelsk", 1944



Picture by Robert Diamant (From L. Diamant's collection)

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Our publications

Elena Ivanova. *Calling Fire upon Myself: Situation of the Jews under the "New Order" of Hitler's Occupiers, 1941–1943.* I.A. Altman, L.A. Terushkin, E.V. Testova (compilers). I.A. Altman (ed.). Moscow: Russian Holocaust Center; Rostov-on-Don: Feniks, 2012. 160 pp. In Russian.

This book has a unique history and a unique author. Elena Alexeevna Ivanova was a great-nephew of Fedor Dostoevski. She authored many books on Soviet partisans and underground workers during the Great Patriotic war, and a village teacher. She amassed a huge documentary collection, which served as a basis of the first Soviet TV series on the war "Calling fire upon ourselves". The last doing in her life, which took her more than ten years, was a collection of evidence on Holocaust and Jewish resistance. Her efforts led to the opening of a memorial dedicated to the Jews murdered in Roslavl in Smolensk district.

In the late 1960-s–1970-s this topic was actually tabooed in the Soviet Union. Nevertheless, Elena Ivanova prepared for publication her manuscript. It is based on the author's field diary in which she recorded information collected through oral history methods, i. e. by questioning her country fellowmen and other respondents. Certainly there was no chance that her book would be published in her life time.

The audience for this publication based on the manuscripts from the author's

personal archive preserved at Archive of the Russian Holocaust Center includes general readership as well as all those eager to learn more on the history of the Holocaust and the Second World War.

Publication of this new series is supported by the Russian Jewish Congress.

Holocaust Memory: Problems of Memorialization. Proceedings of the Sixth International Conference "Holocaust Lessons and Contemporary Russia" (St. Petersburg, October 2–5, 2011). Moscow: Russian Holocaust Center and APART Publishing, 2012. 192 pp. Russian.

The book is an attempt to bring together in one publication professional historians, teachers, and public figures from Russia, Belarus, Germany, Israel, Moldova and Ukraine who work on Holocaust memorialization. Theoretical issues were handled in the articles by I. Altman, S. Shpagin (Russia), Yu. Smilyanskaya (Ukraine), and Wolf Kaiser (Germany). The place of Holocaust in the war memory, its lessons and teaching are explored in the works by S. Kandeeva (Ukraine), I. Gortolum (Moldova), I. Polyakova (Belarus).

Of great practical value are the articles looking into practical experience of Holocaust memorialization by Yad Vashem. They were written by Boris Maftsir, Aron Shneer, and Shlomit Shulchani. Russian experience gained by the Museum of Jewish heritage and Holocaust is analyzed by N. Anisina.

Articles examining various historical aspects of the problem were written by L. Terushkin and V. Kulishov (Russia), and V. Damyan (Moldova). Of interest is the article by V. Kovalev (Russia) on establishing previously unknown sites of execution of Jews on the basis of archival findings from the archive of the Federal Security Service. The history of the Russian Orthodox Church in the context of Holocaust memorialization is dealt with in the article by V. Shkarovski (Russia). Of particular interest and practical value is the article by K. Plotkin (Russia) on the legal basis of Holocaust memorialization in Russia. Several articles cover local experience of Holocaust memorialization in various localities in Russia and in post-Soviet space, whether as institutional initiatives or by individuals.

The publication of this volume was made possible thanks to the support of Claims Conference, Russian Jewish Congress, and

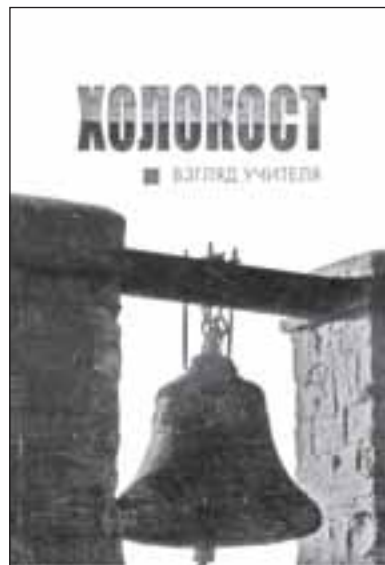
The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (previously Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research).

Alla Gerber. *Once and Now.* Moscow: Text, 2012. 173 pp. Russian.

A new biographical book by Alla Gerber, a prominent Russian political figure, Co-chairperson of the Russian Holocaust Center, and President of the Holocaust Foundation, was recently published by prestigious Moscow's prestigious publishing house "Text". Noteworthy is Alla Gerber's description of "her road to Holocaust", to borrow her expression, which resulted to no small extent from her exposure to Simon Wiesenthal's activities, as well as from her own family history. The publication of the book was made a Russian Presidential Grant.

Holocaust: A Teacher's View. Volume 2. Methodological textbook and collection of works by teachers from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus. I. Altman, T. Manykina, T. Pasman (eds.). Moscow: Moscow: Russian Holocaust Center and "MIK", 2012. 145 pp. Russian.

In this book the Center published works by the winners of the international contest "Holocaust Lessons – Path to Tolerance" who represent many of Russia's very distant regions. The volume seeks to reach out to educators, teachers, and students of history. The publication of this volume was made possible thanks to the support of the Claims a Russian Presidential Grant.



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Annual Seminar for Russian teachers at the
Yad Vashem International School of Holocaust Education

In the spring-autumn of 2012, five traditional internships involving more than 60 teachers from Russia (including their colleagues from Belarus, Lithuania, and Ukraine) were held in Israel, Germany, France, and the USA. Short surveys of these educational seminars are listed below.

In recent years, a growing number of teachers have felt the need to discuss the Holocaust with their classes and to learn together with their students about the origins and lessons of this unprecedented tragedy. The Moscow Holocaust Center invited such engaged and active people from 22 regions of Russia and one participant from the Lithuanian Center to participate in the annual training session from March 18-20, 2012, at the Yad Vashem International School of Holocaust Education. One of the participants, Olga Gorski from Tomsk praised the way in which the discussions were held as participants were given ample opportunity to ask questions, comment, and clarify their positions. Of key



importance were the questions looking into the moral dilemmas of victims and of those who "stood by". Professor Elena Podnebesnykh from Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University (Kaliningrad) particularly mentioned "stories of remarkable people, which will be integrated in my own lessons and serve as a proof that in a situation with no way out everyone is making his own choice." Tatyana Bruskina from Lithuania stated "I am not a historian and therefore, it was particularly important for me to become gradually immersed in the subject, from the history of Judaic religion to medieval Jewish communities, and Soviet Jewish history. All this helped prepare us to come to grips with the topic of Holocaust."

Seminar at Yad Vashem for
Russian Protestants

The second seminar for Russian Protestants, representatives of Evangelical Christians (Baptists) from Moscow and other Russian regions, was held in Yad Vashem from December 24-30, 2012. The nucleus of the group consisted of students of courses conducted by the Holocaust Center and the Museum of Jewish Heritage on Poklonnaya Mountain. Under Natalia Anisina's guidance, the students prepared and defended their course work. Many seminar participants collected money for the commemoration of Holocaust victory memory in Lubavichi and Mineralnye Vody, as well as for setting up the Alley of the Righteous in the Smolensk district.



Seminar in the House of the Wannsee Conference (Berlin)

The seminar "History of the Holocaust as a Subject of Study" took place at the House of the Wannsee-Conference. It brought together fifteen pedagogues and researchers from Russia and the Ukraine, coming from Moscow, St. Petersburg, Volgograd, Yekaterinburg, Vologda, Rostov-on-Don, Yaroslavl, Kiev, and Odessa. The intensive training program comprised lectures by Dr. Wolf Kaiser (House of the Wannsee-Conference), Elisabeth Schwarzbaum (International Tracing Service, Bad Arolsen) and Ulrike Huhn (Research Center for East European Studies, Bremen University) followed by a seminar on "Racism and Anti-Semitism".

In addition to providing general information, the seminar acquainted the participants with interactive methods of learning, such as mutual presentation of parts of the exhibition by working groups and the comparison of the history of the Holocaust in Germany, Russia, and the Ukraine.

During a visit to the Schiller Gymnasium, the Russian and Ukrainian guests had the opportunity to exchange experiences with German teachers of history.

Only a short amount of time was left for visiting the historic district of Berlin. The group visited many places that are connected with the tragedy experienced by European Jews, including the Grunewald train station where the deportation started and the Sachsenhausen Memorial. This left a deep impression on the visitors, as did the visit to the Jewish museum, where the group was introduced to the architecture of Daniel Libeskind, who tried to express an atmosphere of fear and abandonment in some parts of the building, evoking the Shoah.

At the German Russian Museum in Karlshorst, the group saw the "Topography of Terror", an exhibit highlighting the most important institutions of the National Socialist persecution and terror at the site where the headquarters of the Secret State

Police (Gestapo), the SS, and RSHA (the Reich Security Main Office) were located. The last point of the Berlin excursion was the monument to the murdered Jews in Europe, consisting of a site covered with 2,711 dark towers arranged in a grid pattern on a sloping field, designed to produce an uneasy, confusing atmosphere.

The seminar's success was only possible due to the active and dedicated participation of the whole group and, last but not least, to the perfect preparation and kind guidance by Tatyana Manykina (Holocaust Center, Moscow).



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Seminar for Russian and Belorussian teachers in France

From July 2–5, 2012, the Moscow Holocaust Center organized a training seminar for Russian teachers on the Holocaust for a second time in Paris at the Memorial de la Shoah, attended by 12 teachers from 6 Russian cities (Moscow,

Nizhny Novgorod, Pskov, Dubrovka, Yoshkar-Ola, Ivanovo) and two representatives from Belarus.

The exhibit at Drancy left a strong impression on the visitors, provoking a lively

At Drancy memorial, in the Paris' suburbs



discussion about the methods of preserving the historical memory of the Holocaust.

The seminar dealt with the history of the Holocaust in France, the Nazis' ascension to power, Nazi ideology and politics, and the role of the "Jewish question". These topics clearly showed the need to study the Holocaust in our time. The participants highly appreciated the constructive and dedicated approach of their French colleagues Nicolas Werth, Georges Bensoussan, Tal Bruttman, Helene Dumas, and Iva Ternon.

The Russian side the seminar was led by Professor Ilya Altman (Russian Holocaust Center) and Professor Alexander Danilov (Academy of Pedagogical and Social Sciences), who presented their approaches in Holocaust teaching and Holocaust remembrance. The seminar included a visit to the monument on the site of the Drancy transit camp.

Russian Teachers Completed Traineeship in the US

An international seminar on problems of teaching genocide and the Holocaust was held at Rutgers University (New Jersey) with participants from the USA, Russia, Finland, and Armenia. Prof. Alex Chinton (Rutgers University), Chair of the International

Association of Genocide Researchers, lectured on genocide in Cambodia. Prof. Ilya Altman analyzed the system of teaching the Holocaust in contemporary Russia. Suren Manukyan, Deputy Director of the

At the Museum of Tolerance. With Mark Weizman (second from the right)



Armenian Genocide Museum in Yerevan, outlined the significance of the Holocaust and others forms of genocide in the 20th century in Armenian secondary school textbooks. Dr. Igor Kotler, President and Acting Director of the Museum of Tolerance (New Jersey), lectured on specific aspects of teaching the Holocaust in the US.

A significant part of the traineeship included visiting museums and research centers dedicated to the learning and teaching of the Holocaust in Washington, D.C. (Holocaust Memorial Museum) and New York (Anne Frank Center and Museum of Tolerance). At the Museum of Tolerance, the group was welcomed by its director, Mark Weizman. The head of the Anne -Frank Center recalled his experience working with younger children while introducing literature for younger school children. A round table at the Holocaust Museum provided the opportunity to exchange experiences and to discuss perspectives of cooperation between teachers from Russia and the US.

Preparing Russian teachers in Holocaust studies

In 2012, the Center selected about 65 participants from Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus for training seminars at the House of the Wannsee Conference (Germany), Yad Vashem (Israel), Memorial Shoa (France), and USHMM (USA). The Center has been conducting educational seminars all throughout Russia's vast space since the beginning of the twenty-first century. In 2012, there were fifteen such seminars. A chief goal is to select participants who will be later prepared for the courses held by the Center in Moscow and who will engage permanently in teaching the Holocaust on the ground. In the first half of 2012, these seminars took place in Central Russia and Siberia. These areas have common features: they were not occupied by the Germans, they host relatively small Jewish communities, and the number of mixed families in these regions is high.

- From February 3–4, an educational seminar “Lessons of the Second World War and the Holocaust: Overcoming Ethnical Stereotypes and Educating Tolerance” was conducted at the Vladimir district's Institute of Teachers' Professional Advancement. It was attended by more than 40 teachers of secondary schools and gymnasiums from Vladimir (city and district);

- From February 15–16, an educational seminar “Lessons of the Second World War and the Holocaust: Overcoming Ethnical Stereotypes and Educating Tolerance” was conducted at N. Ushynski Yaroslavl State Pedagogical University for the teachers of



Opening the seminar in Stavropol

Yaroslavl (city and district). It was attended by more than 30 participants;

- On February 16–17, an educational seminar “Lessons of the Second World War and the Holocaust and the Formation of Tolerance Awareness in Contemporary Russia” for teachers of social studies in Kostroma (city and district) was conducted at the Kostroma district Institute of Teachers' Professional Advancement. It was attended by more than 40 participants;

- On May 12–13, an educational seminar “Holocaust Memory – Path to Tolerance” for local teachers was conducted at the Novosibirsk district Institute of Teachers' Professional Advancement. It was attended by more than 30 participants;

- From May 14–15, the educational seminar “Holocaust: Memory and Warning”

Seminar at the North Caucasian Federal University



was conducted at Kemerovo State University. It was attended by more than 70 participants from Kemerovo (city and district);

- On July 18, an educational seminar on the Holocaust was conducted at Moscow's Memorial Synagogue for representatives of Russian Protestant community; In summer and autumn, the Center's employees held several seminars in Moscow and St. Petersburg, as well as in Russia's south where several Holocaust memorial dates have been commemorated.

- One of the most important venues of the Center's activities, alongside the Museum of Jewish Heritage and Holocaust on Poklonnaya Mountain, was an ongoing preparation session for teachers of Russian Protestant communities. In the course of one year, a group of 25 teachers from Moscow and Central Russia studied using the Center's e-learning program. At the end of the course, they submitted their written works. On July 18, the educational seminar was conducted at Moscow's Memorial Synagogue. Fifteen participants were selected for a seminar in Yad Vashem.

- A traditional three-day Summer Session of International Holocaust courses for teachers from 24 regions of Russia was organized in the Memorial Synagogue at Poklonnaya Gora in Moscow by the Yad Vashem International School, the Holocaust Center and Fund, and the Museum of Jewish Heritage and Holocaust

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Seminar in Taganrog. Oxana Serbina, the library worker speaking

which was met with an extremely knowledgeable audience. Some of the participants delivered lectures and practical instructions by themselves. Lectures and round table discussions on the Holocaust and anti-Semitism, xenophobia, and contemporary organization of research work were organized by staff members of the Holocaust Center: Alla Gerber, Ilya Altman, Kiril Feferman, Tatiana Manykina, and the chief archivist of the Museum at Poklonnaya Hill, Natalia Anisina. For the first time, heads of the Office of Education (Yekaterinburg) and libraries (from Taganrog and Chelyabinsk) participated. A significant number of the participants came from leading centers for teachers' education, 11 regional training institutes, the Federal Academy, and various universities and schools. In autumn 2012,

the Center conducted a seminar for the first time in the Republic of Udmurtia (in the Volga region where thousands of Jews were evacuated during the war).

- From October 18-19, the educational seminar “Holocaust Memory – Path to Tolerance” was conducted in Izhevsk. It included a lecture at Udmurt State University and was attended by more than 80 participants.

Conducting seminars interwoven with memorial events throughout Russia's regions is part of our educational program strategy. Four such seminars were held in the Rostov district and, for the first time, in Stavropol territory.

- Concomitantly with the international conference in Rostov (see p. 4 of the newsletter), a seminar for teachers of Jewish schools in the CIS supported by the Claims Conference was held. Its participants discussed methodical and organizational problems of Holocaust education in Jewish schools and the preservation of Holocaust memory.

- The Center, alongside the Yad Vashem International School for Holocaust Studies, conducted a seminar for the teachers of Rostov's non-Jewish schools.

- From September 9-10, an educational seminar on lessons of the Holocaust was conducted in Mineralnye Vody and Stavropol. It included a memorial ceremony on the site where Holocaust victims were

N.I. Eliasberg speaking. St.-Petersburg



Rabbi D. Shvedik speaking. Znamensk

annihilated and a lecture at the North Caucasian State Federal University.

- On October 21, an educational seminar “Holocaust memory – Path to Tolerance” was conducted in Taganrog. This was at the main library named after Chekhov. As it was held for the first time in a public library, this signaled a new phase in the Center's policy aimed at expanding beyond its outreach group, as it endeavors to out in expand its educational programs further into the public sphere.

- In November 2012, a traditional seminar that brought together more than 50 teachers was conducted in St. Petersburg. It included lectures for the students of the Russian State Pedagogic University.

- A new venue of the Center's work involved the conduction of a small seminar in the town of Znamensk in the Kaliningrad district (previously East Prussia), which brought together teachers from 12 local schools. They shared their experiences and views concerning the methods in which the fates of perishing Jewish communities should be studied.

All the seminars were held with the support of Russian Presidential Grants, the Claims Conference, and the Moscow branch of the JDC.

Contributions by Russian students to the International Competition on Holocaust Studies to be published under the auspices of UNESCO

This was announced on July 9 in the UNESCO headquarters in Paris by the Director of the International Programs of the Wiesenthal Center, Shimon Samuels, introducing a joint project of the Wiesenthal Center, “Verbe et Lumiere” Charity Fund and the Russian Holocaust Center. The winners of the International Competition on the Holocaust presented their results in Paris for the eighth consecutive year.

This year’s winners came from Arkhangelsk, Moscow, Rostov-on-Don, Tambov, and Yaroslavl. The presentation of the students from Russia was attended by the ambassadors to UNESCO from the United States and Israel, as well as and by the Deputy Heads of the Belgian, German, and Russian mission. In her welcoming remarks, the UNESCO Director General, Mrs. Irina Bokova, expressed her appreciation for this international project and the efforts of the

Russian Holocaust Center to perpetuate the memory of Holocaust victims and to broaden its work with young people. A representative of the Russian Embassy, Tatiana Balykina, underlined the importance of preserving the memory of the war and the Holocaust for Russia. Soo-Hyang Choi, UNESCO Head of the Department for Early Childhood and Inclusive Education, underlined that the subject of the Holocaust constitutes one of the priorities in the educational programs of the organization. The Honorary President of the French Committee for Yad Vashem, Paul Schaffer, showed the audience the cap given to him by a Soviet soldier during the liberation of Auschwitz. He appealed to young people and educators to search for new forms of communication about the Holocaust. His vivid memories can be regarded as a bridge between historical facts and the formation of their historical memory in the modern world.

The second part of the ceremony was dedicated to the guests from Russia. Professor Ilya Altman, Co-Chairman of the Holocaust Center, explained the aims of the contest and introduced the winners. The students’ contributions dealt with both nearly unknown and current problems of the



Russian students, Dr. Graciela Samuels (third from the left) and Dr. Shimon Samuels (first from the right) at the UNESCO Headquarter

history of the Holocaust. The international character of the conference reflected the research on different states. Kristina Murashova (Yaroslavl) reported about the Japanese Counsel Sugihara who rescued many Jews; Irina Golovashina (Tambov) analyzed the experience of The House of the Wannsee Conference in Germany, and Maria Gileva (Arkhangelsk) analyzed US policy during the Holocaust. The reports of the graduates of the Russian State University for Humanities, Yekaterina Lazareva, and of the Southern Federal University, Anna Arsenova, focused on the problems of oral history and the preservation of Holocaust memory at the regional level. The presentations aroused great interest in the audience, in particular among Holocaust eyewitnesses, such as Ms. Laura Rusk, and also among social actors. Showing a genuine interest in the students’ research results, the speakers stressed the need for students from around the world to study Holocaust history.

The Russian participants had the opportunity to discuss some additional aspects not reflected in their reports in a more informal atmosphere. It is important and pleasant to note that the efforts of the young researchers were recognized on such a high level.

For each student, this meant a significant step forward into the future, both in terms of professional accomplishments and

experience gained in being involved in activities on the international level. On July 10, despite the fact that the conference was over and the beauty of Paris was not fully explored, Russian delegates showed strong devotion and desire to continue their Holocaust studies.

On this day, it was the time to a guided visit to the Holocaust Memorial was scheduled. During the tour, Philip Boukhara, a member of the Memorial educational staff, described the main venues of the museum activities and showed some of the most interesting exhibits. During the first two days, the group had the opportunity to get to know Paris. These days were filled with fresh and intensive impressions stemming from visiting the main attractions of the French capital (Notre-Dame, the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre) and losing their way found it again by contacting but being helped by Parisians who did not always understand English but who had some command of Russian, and walking under the pouring rain through the nocturnal city, trying to keep up with the time. Their time was filled with touching and emotional impressions – but the main purpose of the trip was never lost from sight: presenting the contributions at the conference at the UNESCO headquarters.

Maria Gileva and Irina Golovashina, participants of the presentation

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Our volunteers from US and Germany: 10 years of cooperation

The Russian Holocaust Center has a lot of work for those who share our principles and are eager to contribute. Recently, we have to have the ability to translate from Russian into English, French, and German, as well as those who can edit texts in English. Although the Center has never published any appeal in this respect, people continue to find us themselves. This was the case of Alisa Babikova, a Moscow native who spoke fluent English because she graduated from a school in New York. She helped with our translations over the course of her summer vacation in Russia. She is currently a student in one of the US universities. We have recently received a letter from Alisa:

"On the occasion of the International Holocaust Memorial Day, I wish to express my respect to the Center, which conducts important work in order not to let new generations forget this tragic event. I wish every success to you and your center. If there is something with which I can help you, please feel free to write to me".

Starting from the fall 2012, our Center has been privileged to work with a young and highly-motivated volunteer from the US — Alana Holland. Below we publish her recollection on cooperating with the Center:

"It is not often that someone from a rural town in the American south ends up spending a year living in a small provincial town in Russia. It is equally unlikely that someone from such a background would choose the Holocaust as a lifelong academic and personal

pursuit of study. Yet, somehow, I have made my way from the Ozark hills of Arkansas to the Ural foothills of Russia and have been spending my time this year interning for the Russian Research and Educational Holocaust Center.

I developed a desire to study the Holocaust when I was eleven years old. The subject was mentioned toward the end of our history books, but we never made it to that part in class until a few years later. I took it upon myself to learn about this horrific and tragic but inexplicably fascinating phenomenon, and I have been developing my studies in the area ever since.

I graduated from Arkansas State University with a BA in history in May of 2012. After graduation, I decided to wait one year before applying to graduate schools so that I could move to Russia because I wanted to spend a year continuing to learn Russian. I moved to Izhevsk without connections to a specific program, only with the plan that I would study Russian at Udmurt State University. However, I knew that I wanted to find some sort of internship or study with a Holocaust organization. I searched various sites and programs, but I could not find any official internship offerings. I came across the Russian Research and Educational Holocaust Center during my search and immediately thought that this was a great organization and certainly a place with which I would like to work. I decided to simply e-mail the

foundation directly and ask if I could be of use in any way. It was that easy!

I explained myself and my interests and after a short time, I received an e-mail from Dr. Kiril Feferman. He inquired if I would be interested in volunteering as a native- speaker English editor. I was elated! I began editing articles for the center's Encyclopedia of the Holocaust in the USSR. I found the work to be extremely fascinating and intellectually stimulating. Working with the Center staff has been an affable experience, and I have greatly benefited from their guidance.

In January I had the fortune of visiting Moscow and spent some time at the Center. I was impressed with the plethora of sources and documents, and my interaction with the volunteers and staff was pleasing, informative, and full of good-nature. The highlight was participating in the Center's International Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony.

I am impressed with the extensive work and effort that Dr. Ilya Altman and Alla Gerber put into furthering the extent of Holocaust education in Russia. I believe that the work of this center is of the highest caliber and is indispensable to Russian society.

In September I will begin my Master's Degree in Russian and Eastern European studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where I will focus on Holocaust commemoration in the former-Soviet and post-Soviet space. I look forward to continuing my work with the RREHC. The Center staff is approachable and delightful, and I encourage anybody interested in Holocaust studies not to be discouraged or intimidated to volunteer for what I believe is the most noble cause".

Russian students and schoolchildren reflect on Holocaust lessons

We cannot keep silence. Schoolchildren and students on Holocaust. Volume 9. I. A. Altman, D. V. Prokudin (comp.). I. A. Altman (ed.). Moscow: Holocaust Center and Foundation, MIK, 2012. 136 pp. In Russian.

The volume contains works by winners of the Tenth International Contest of works on Holocaust. It includes researches, essays, drawings, by schoolchildren and students from 12 Russian regions, as well as from Ukraine

and Belarus. Many of the works emerged from conducting interviews with Holocaust witnesses and survivors, archival research, independent reflections in literature and philosophy. The volume may be of interest to the researchers of the Second World War, teachers, students, schoolchildren.

This volume has a dedication: In the memory of David Khulten (1987–2012). A German volunteer representing Action Reconciliation

Service for Peace (Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste — ASF) worked in our Center during one year in 2005–2006. He was a handsome blond guy with a permanent smile and an open look/sight, and wrote nice verses. They are published in the volume in German original and in Russian translation. Upon completing his work in Moscow, he went to study in Italy. All the Center workers were shocked to learn about David's death of incurable illness...

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January 27, Moscow

International Holocaust Memorial Day

Several events dedicated to this day took place for the first time in Russia's capital in 2012. The Central House of Cinema hosted a presentation of a new film by the Israeli producer, Boris Maftsir. An international conference organized by the movement "World without Nazism" was held, involving the participation of the Russian Council of Federation and the Council of Europe. It culminated in a memorial evening at the Museum of the Holocaust on Poklonnaya Hill. It was followed by an awards ceremony for the winners of the X Annual International Competition for teachers, pupils, and students, "The Holocaust: Memory and Prevention", and an exhibition of children's drawings on this issue. Memorial meetings dedicated to Holocaust Memorial Day took place in more than 40 regions all over Russia.

Relay of Memory

A new project "Relay of memory" was launched by the Russian Jewish Congress, alongside the Russian Holocaust Center and the Yad Vashem Names Collections project. It envisages a more active search for names of Holocaust victims and their transfer to Yad Vashem. It has been suggested to focus on questioning non-Jewish Holocaust witnesses. Initiative groups have been created in various Russian regions (Smolensk, Taganrog, Tomsk, Kostroma, Yaroslavl, Voronezh). Instruction on the logistics for searching for these names was established for those conducting research, including teachers and students, researchers of a particular region, employees of museums and archives, as well as representatives of veteran and other public and religious organizations.

RREHC Turns Twenty

Two meetings dedicated to this event were held in Moscow. On September 6, the Moscow Jewish Community Center hosted an evening moderated by Professor Ilya Altman, which included speeches by Alexander Gorelik (Director of the UN Information center in Russia), Professor Alexander Bezborodov (director of RGGU Institute of history and archives), and Andrei Sorokin (ROSSPEN editor-in-chief and the head of the RGASPI, the leading Russian archive), among others. On October 17, the Central House of Literary workers hosted the evening conducted by Alla Gerber, which included speeches by the RJC President, Yuri Kanner, producer, Mark Rozovski, writer, Arkadi Arkanov, and others. The event included the presentation of Alla Gerber's latest book, "Once and Now".



Alexander Gorelik (Director of the UN Information center in Russia) speaking

April 19, Moscow

A traditional marathon of memory dedicated to the Day of the Holocaust and Heroism was held on April 19, 2012, in the Memorial Synagogue on Poklonnaya Mountain Hill. It was attended by more than 300 schoolchildren, students, and teachers. They were greeted by the RJC president, Yuri Kanner, and President of Holocaust Fund, Alla Gerber. The Marathon ended with a ceremony attended by the Ambassadors of Israel and Poland, the singer Yosif Kobzon, and others.

July 15, Smolensk

On July 15, the Co-Chairman of the Russian Holocaust Center participated in a memorial ceremony dedicated to the 70-th anniversary of the execution of Jews in Smolensk near the village of Vyazovenka. He emphasized the special place of the Smolensk ghetto in the history of the Holocaust in Russia: it was the most populated and existed more than one year. The ceremony was attended by a delegation from the Hillel youth organization from Moscow, which visited Holocaust memorial sites in Smolensk district.

Ceremony near the village of Vyazovenka



September, Nalchik-Vladikavkaz

In late September, Professor Ilya Altman conducted negotiations with the heads of local educational authorities in Kabardino-Balkaria and North Ossetia on teaching and memorializing the Holocaust. Among other things, he discussed the erection of a monument honoring the Red Army and the people of Kabardino-Balkaria who rescued Nalchik Jews from destruction and the creation of the educational and museum program "Children – victims of terror and Holocaust in Beslan".

November 27, Moscow

On November 27, Alla Gerber spoke at the Round Table session "On the Order of State and Public Expertise of Anti-Nazi Activity" at the Council of Federation. The session was attended by representatives from the FSB, Ministry of Interior, and the Duma, as well as by those from various public organizations.

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