Mechanize Your Pages of Testimony Submissions
by Werner L. Frank

Yad Vashem's ongoing program of encouraging world Jewry to submit Pages of Testimony (POTs) on behalf of family victims of the Holocaust has given heightened priority to aging survivors and other eyewitnesses of those times who may not live much longer. The website, www1.yadvashem.org/yv/en/remembrance/names/index.asp provides the background and a message of urgency to fulfill the mitzvah of honoring our deceased. Who is better equipped to respond to such a noble deed than our community of genealogists? Undoubtedly, many of us have accumulated family history that includes the names of our losses due to the Shoah. But have we reported this information to Yad Vashem?

My own history in responding to the call for Pages of Testimony may be typical. I submitted a handful of POTs for immediate family members more than 20 years ago, but I ignored the many other extended family losses that I have accumulated in a database that has now reached more than 32,000 names. There were just too many victims and, for most, only scant information was available regarding their fate. Truth to tell, I became averse to the manual task of filling out the POT form. Nevertheless, my conscience has nagged at me to identify and report the Shoah victims to Yad Vashem. Accordingly, I sought to automatically generate an acceptable report utilizing my genealogy program.

I used Family Tree Maker and easily generated a custom report that included the following fields: Name, Spouse Name, Birth Date, Birth Location, Death Date, Death Location, and Marriage Date. Death Location was the key record selection field that was qualified by specifying named concentration camps or the indicator "Shoah" or "Holocaust" in the event the death location was unknown. The report yielded an astounding 493 names.

I reported my success to Yad Vashem thinking that I was on to something that could be repeated on a mass scale by my genealogy colleagues. I was informed, however, that the information fell short of what they desired. Could I include at least the names of the parents of the victims? The custom report generator of Family Tree Maker (FTM) was deficient in allowing the inclusion of parent names in the resulting table. Nevertheless, it was possible to generate a special Parent Report. My challenge then became one of combining these two reports. I accomplished this task by exporting the two FTM tables to the Excel application and then merging the two spreadsheets as shown below. I sent this product by e-mail to Yad Vashem in 2007, and took satisfaction in having fulfilled that nagging obligation.

Fast forward to April 2010. Within a two-week period, I received several requests from heretofore strangers who contacted me in connection with their own family relationship to POTs that I had submitted. This led me to query the Yad Vashem database utilizing its advanced search feature, which permits retrieving POTs by submitter's name. Indeed, such a query led to a list of the 493 names that I had contributed. My automation experiment had been a success! Furthermore, an unexpected dividend came my way from these inquiries by furthering my genealogical research with newly found family branches.

I urge my fellow genealogists to undertake a similar effort and fulfill the obligation that we owe our martyred brethren. You may be rewarded in unexpected ways. Contact at Yad Vashem: Cynthia Wroclawski, Outreach Manager,The Shoah Victims' Names Recovery Project

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1		**Roster of Extended Frank Family Members Who Perished in the Holocaust**							
2		**Name**	**Parents**	**Spouse**	**Birth date**	**Birth location**	**Death date**	**Death location**	**Marriage**
3	1	ABRAHAM, Abraham		HERZ, Anna	Aug 1854	Lorsch, Hessen	2-Nov-44	Holocaust	
4	2	ABRAHAM, Gustav	Abraham, Abraham Herz, Anna	WEINGARTEN, Else	25 Oct 1890			Holocaust	
5	3	ABRAHAM, Rosa	Abraham, Abraham Herz, Anna	JAFFA, Jacob	Apr 1888	Lorsch, Hessen		Auschwitz	
6	4	ABRAHAM, Siegmund	Abraham, Abraham Herz, Anna	WACHENHEIMER, Johanna	27 Sep 1892	Lorsch, Hessen	16-Sep-42	Holocaust	
7	5	ADLER, Olga		LION, Max	12 Sep 1897		1942	Auschwitz	
8	6	AUERBACHER, Gerda	Auerbacher, Josef Bernheimer, Pauline	AUERBACHER, Salomon	21 Jan 1895			Gurs	5-Mar-24
9	7	AUERBACHER, Herman (Hirsch)	Auerbacher, Salomon (Salme) Weil, Helena (Hevel)	KORNMANN, Sofie	9 Sep 1867		29-Nov-40	Gurs	
10	8	AUERBACHER, Josef	Auerbacher, Hirsch Baum, Babette (Braunel)	BERNHEIMER, Pauline	13 Dec 1863	Kippenheim	27-Dec-40	Gurs	13 Mar 1894
11	9	AUERBACHER, Marx	Auerbacher, Isaak Dietesheimer, Fanny	WIMPFHEIMER, Mathilde (Min	18 Mar 1872	Kippenheim	29-Jan-42	Gurs	
12	10	AUERBACHER, Salomon	Auerbacher, Isaak Auerbacher, Mathilde	ROSENFELD, Auguste	28 Nov 1886			Gurs	
13	11	AUERBACHER, Salomon	Auerbacher, Marx Auerbacher, Sophia	AUERBACHER, Gerda	22 Nov 1888			Gurs	5-Mar-24
14	12	BAENDEL, Elfriede		KAHN, Leo (Yehuda Louis)	12 Mar 1889	Ruda	1942	Auschwitz	14-Aug-22
15	13	BAER, Albert	Baer, Moses Oestreicher, Fanny					Holocaust	
16	14	BAER, Helene		LOEWENSTEIN, Jacob	27 Jul 1881	Untergrombach	Abt. 1942	Auschwitz	
17	15	BAER, Regina	Baer, Moses Oestreicher, Fanny				Abt. 1941	Holocaust	
18	16	BAER, Rosa	Baer, Moses Oestreicher, Fanny					Holocaust	
19	17	BAMBERGER, Ferdinand (Feidel)		LOEWENSTEIN, Jenny	5 Sep 1878	Edelfingen	Bef. 1945	Holocaust	
20	18	BAR, Bertha	Bär, Moses (Moritz) Rosenthal, Mina		11 Feb 1874	Weingarten		Auschwitz	
21	19	BAR, Betta (Betty)	Bär, Moses (Moritz) Rosenthal, Mina		18 Mar 1875	Weingarten		Auschwitz	
22	20	BAR, Jeanette Cäcilie	Bär, Moses (Moritz) Rosenthal, Mina	WERTHEIMER, Semy	29 Sep 1881	Weingarten	Bef. 1945	Holocaust	25-Apr-12
23	21	BAR, Johanna	Bär, Aron Oppenheimer, Emilie	HELD, Max	3 Oct 1889	Graben	Abt. 1943	Auschwitz	1-Jan-11
24	22	BAR, Julius	Bär, Bernhard Nathan Blum, Wilhelmina	SCHWARZWALDER, Zilly	17 May 1881	Untergrombach	Mar-41	Gurs	1907
25	23	BAR, Karl Josef	Bär, Berthold Rothschild, Michaíl (Wilhemine)		29 May 1891	Weingarten	Bef. 1945	Holocaust	
26	24	BAR, Karola	Bär, Julius Schwarzwälder, Zilly	MUNZER, Xnn	3/1/1911	Karlsruhe		Auschwitz	
27	25	BAR, Sigmund	Bär, Jesaias (Isisdor) Elkahn, Fanny		19 Mar 1883	Weingarten	Bef. 1945	Auschwitz	
28	26	BARTH, Miriam	Barth, Wolf Benjamin Weingartner, Bertha (Bochele)					Holocaust	
29	27	BAUER, Trude (Fanny)	("Dickersohn"), Moses Moritz Bauer Maier, Marie	KAHN, Alfred	3/19/1905		1944	Auschwitz-Birkenau	
30	28	BERLINGER, Pauline	Metzger, Simon B Lauchheimer, Brenda	STENGEL, Nathan	17 Aug 1854	Unterdeufstetten	22-Mar-42	Rivesaltes, FR	24 Mar 1885