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**Lisa Cogan,
president**

American Indians to Erect Peace Totem in JNF Forest

Four Native American Indian Chiefs in ceremonial garb, members of the Indian Tribal Leaders Reconciliation and Peace Brotherhood, recently met with KKL-JNF World Chairman Yehiel Leket and made him an offer he couldn't refuse: a totem pole in one of KKL-JNF's Jerusalem forests as a harbinger of peace in the Middle East. The totem pole is to be four metres high, made from three tree trunks and decorated with various symbols.

A totem is a bone or an animal considered to be a god or a symbol that protects the tribe or the family, based on the belief that they have an indigenous closeness. It is their custom to place the totem image on top of a tall pole decorated with assorted inscriptions and drawings.

White Feather, Red Sun and other Indian leaders visited KKL-JNF head office during their week in Israel. They said that totems have proved useful in bringing peace and brotherhood to the region where they were set up. They expressed the hope that it would prove to be effective in the Middle East as well. In a letter presented to Mr. Leket they expressed their appreciation of KKL-JNF's efforts on behalf of trees, which, in Native American lore, are likened to one-legged humans.

Independence Day Sees One Million+ in Forests

About 1.6 million Israelis visited KKL-JNF parks and forests on Israel Independence Day this year. From north to south, KKL-JNF offered a wide range of special activities focusing on themes related to the history of modern Israel and Zionism. Although everyone identifies KKL-JNF with planting trees, ecology, reservoirs and waterworks, which is true, Independence Day afforded an opportunity to realize the depth of KKL-JNF's connection to making the Zionist ideal a reality for the general public.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Inscriptions

Mazal Tov and Yasher Koach to the one dozen Bat Mitzvah celebrants whose names have been inscribed in the Sefer Bar/Bat Mitzvah to mark the simcha: **Joshua Abraham Baum** by his parents Ulle and Doug Baum, **Netanya Cohen** by her parents Sharon and Eli Cohen, **Sebastian Davids** by his parents Elizabeth Gottman and John Davids, **Calli Rayna Freedman** by her parents Carol and Mark Freedman, **Ariel Yakir Kagedan** by his parents Shoshana and Ian Kagedan, **Amy Lighter** by Marilyn and David Akman and family, **Shawn McGeough** by his parents Alanna and Joe McGeough, **Tamara Morrill** by her parents Marian Leimovici and Steve Morrill, **Jessica Claudine Ostroff** by her parents Karen Shiller and Gerry Ostroff, **Rebecca Ostroff** by her parents Shelley and Percy Ostroff, **Tamara Abra Saslove** by her parents Debbie and Jay Saslove, **Zachary Silber** by his parents Shari and Lawrence Silber.

Golden Book Inscriptions

On the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah, **Kobi Jonah Joffe** has been inscribed in the Golden book by his proud cousins Isaac and Miriam Farbiasz.

On the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah, **Jared Swedler** has been inscribed in the Golden Book by his proud grandparents Sarah and Arnie Swedler.

On a daily basis you can plant trees for all occasions. An attractive card is sent to the recipient. To order, call the JNF office (798-2411).



Initiative announced to bring Nazi war criminals to justice

By Diane Koven

June 6, 2006 marked 62 years since D-Day. In Ottawa on that day, a rally was held on Parliament Hill to remind the Canadian government there are still war criminals at large, living lives of freedom in Canada, who must be brought to justice.

The rally served as the official Canadian launch of "Operation Last Chance," an initiative of the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center that aims to bring to justice the remaining Nazi war criminals, and to present the Center's sixth Annual Report on the Worldwide Investigation and Prosecution of Nazi War Criminals.

Ambassador Alan Baker addressed the rally, calling on our government not to rest in the mission to root out and deal with war criminals.

"It is incumbent upon all of us to do whatever needs to be done first of all in order that they be brought to justice. These people cannot get away with having participated in the deliberate and systematic murder of millions of human beings, – the most terrible crime of genocide ever to occur. They are still out there. They must be found," he said.

The ceremony was attended by a number of members of parliament, including the Honourable Irwin Cotler and Susan Kadis, who spoke in support of the initiative.

The Annual Report, covering the year between April 1, 2005 and March 31, 2006, indicates a dramatic increase of 320 per cent in the number of convictions of Nazi war criminals that occurred around the world. It highlights both the continued failure of countries such as Austria to take successful legal action against Holocaust perpetrators and the continued success of the United States in its investigation and prosecution of Nazi war criminals.

Canada was given a C grade, denoting a failure "to obtain any convictions or indictments during the period under review, but have either advanced ongoing cases currently in litigation or have



Dr. Efraim Zuroff

(OJB photo: Ariel Vered)

opened new investigations, which have serious potential for prosecution."

In his keynote address, Dr. Efraim Zuroff, Israel director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, lamented the Canadian government's failure to make it a priority to denaturalize and deport Nazi war criminals who have sought refuge.

"These people do not deserve the privilege of living in a great democracy like Canada," Zuroff noted.

Leo Adler, national affairs director of Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center, said the Report's purpose was to focus public attention on the issue and "encourage all the governments involved to maximize their efforts to ensure

the rally. "If we were to set a chronological limit, it would mean that you could get away with genocide ... we think that would be the worst possible message to send and it is a message that would encourage genocides of tomorrow."

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies held a screening of the Center's Moriah Films documentary "Ever Again" that evening at the Canadian Museum of Civilization. The film examines the resurgence of violent anti-Semitism and terrorism in Europe.

The screening and dessert reception that followed were organized by a committee chaired by Cantor Daniel Benlolo. Honourary chairs included the ambassadors of Israel, Turkey and Poland; Senator Mac Harb; MPs Susan Kadis, Irwin Cotler and Stockwell Day, minister of Public Safety; and The Hon. Ed Broadbent.

– with files from Ariel Vered

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