

Greetings from midway in the Remember Us outreach trip to Israel. Here are a poem, observations, and developments from our travel. Today we are in Haifa, the beautiful city on Mt. Carmel at the edge of the sea. Friendly people and perfect weather make our time here very enjoyable.



Haifa Harbor from the Bahai Gardens

For most people the core Remember Us concept—empowering children during their encounter with the legacy of the Holocaust—requires a paradigm shift, and is leading to many interesting conversations. Almost always, the decision is to incorporate Remember us into existing programs, and creative discussions about how.

SCHEMES

The educational system here has a dual role. Most of the schools are secular, but even in the secular schools, parents want their children to have some religious education. Several schemes (which is the Israeli concept for networks) have been created to respond to this mandate from the parents. Each has its own unique approach, ranging from curriculum to full architectural solutions that both combine and separate religious education and secular education. Yet another Jewish paradox taken in stride. Compounding the complexity is the very wide spectrum of what parents consider religious education. We've met so far with four—*tali* (sixty schools and classrooms), *metarim*, *morasha*, and *keshet*. In each case,

there is a basis for working together to design a Remember Us component that can be integrated into sixth and seventh grade programs.

SHORESHIM

We met with educators from the Golan school district who have introduced us to a district-wide educational program that they believe will be the appropriate anchor point for the Remember Us project. Students are guided in producing an album of family history (that in *shoreshim* means 'roots.')

Remember Us will be partnering with the Golan educators to bring the project to their school district. We hope soon to have examples of the students' albums available to be seen on the Remember Us website.

INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS

In Jerusalem we had the opportunity to bring the Remember Us concept to two agencies that serve their denominations worldwide outside of Israel and America. Masorti Olami is the agency serving the conservative movement worldwide, and the world union for progressive Judaism performs the same function for the reform movement. We had the opportunity to meet with the executive directors of both and several members of the Masorti Olami staff. We will be working with them to support their committed efforts to bring the Remember Us concept to their international constituencies. We also will be working with a program of the Jewish Agency for Israel called Partners 2000 or P2K.

YAD VASHEM CAFÉ

At Yad Vashem I had the awesome experience of being the only person in the Children's Monument. It had the quality of a myth—repudiation, awe, inspiration. Something changed in me from being there alone with the candles and the voices. I jotted down this idea after touring the new museum .

Eating lunch in the café
Watching the
Sleek scarred fat coiffed lithe broken
Jews
Walk up and down the stairs
I think the museum needs
One more thing:
Next to the last exhibit
A MIRROR
that you have to pass by,
And a sign,
HINENI (I am here).



Memorial Room at Leo Baeck Institute in Haifa where they show continuously the pictures of the young men and women who have died in defense of Israel.