“Where are you From?”
Zochrot (Reg. No. 580389526) aims to confront Israeli Jews with the memory of the Nakba and discuss it with them. Our memory of the Nakba is an alternative to that of hegemonic Zionism, opposed to it. The Nakba is the catastrophe of the Palestinians in 1948, destruction of their villages, expulsion and killing, but it is also an essential part of the history of the Jews who live here, and of this place. It is a part of history that has been silenced and almost completely erased from the country's physical landscape. It occurred primarily in 1948, but its consequences continue to resonate today in various ways. The Nakba almost completely destroyed Palestinian culture, as well as the relations that had existed between Jews and Arabs. Zochrot supports the right of return of Palestinian refugees - the personal and civil right of each and every refugee expelled from his or her home - and views the return as an opportunity to establish a different set of relationships between Jews and Arabs in Israel.

In recent years the term “Nakba” has become more widespread in the Israeli media and Israeli culture. Ironically, it was due to the government’s desire to legislate the “Nakba law” to frighten anyone who wished to commemorate it on Israel’s Independence Day that the term became so widely known.
Eitan Bronstein, Director (full time)
Zochrot’s co-funder. Previously involved in political education in various organizations. Born in Argentina; raised from age 5 in Kibbutz Bahan. Father of three sons and a daughter. MA in Hermeneutics from Bar Ilan University.

Norma Musih, Assistant Director (3/4 time)

Raneen Jeries, Testimony Project (1/2 time)
Directs programs for empowering women, parenting and feminism. Active in a number of social change organizations such as Assiwar, The Arab Feminist Movement in Support of Victims of Sexual Violence. Raneen has a BA in social work from Tel Aviv University and is currently enrolled in its clinical social work MA program. Born in Kafr Yassif and lives in Haifa.

Umar Ighbarieh, Coordinator of tours and of Return Project (3/4 time)
Umar is a professional group leader, focusing in particular on the Arab-Jewish conflict. He coordinated the youth section of the Shalom school in Neve Shalom before joining Zochrot in 2006. Until September 2010, he was the localities coordinator in the Karev Project for educational involvement. Studied group dynamics, Middle Eastern Studies and Arabic Literature at the Hebrew University. Born in Msheirfe lives with his family in Neve Shalom/Wahat al Salaam.

Oshra Bar, Office Manager (1/2 time)
Active in the field of animal rights and vegetarianism. Refused military service as a conscientious objector. Learned bookkeeping while working for Zochrot in order to set up an accounting and salary payment system for the organization. Worked for Zochrot until June, 2010.

Tomer Gardi, Editor of Sedek (1/2 time)
Researches and writes about history and culture. Lives in south Tel Aviv. BA in Literature and Education from the Hebrew University; MA in Intercultural Education from Freie Universitaet Berlin.
Zelda Padeh, Coordinator of Resource Development (3/5 time)
MA in Anthropology from Ben Gurion University. Her thesis focuses on Israelis encountering the Nakba in the local landscape through Zochrot’s tours. Lives in Tel Aviv.

Amaya Galili, Educational Coordinator (3/4 time)
Before joining Zochrot she was involved in community work relating to social and economic rights. BA in Sociology and Anthropology from the Hebrew University, and MA in Community Social Work from McGill University, Canada. Grew up on Kibbutz Amir, lives in Tel Aviv.

Aviv Gros-Allon, Graphic Designer (3/5 time)
Mother of Naomi. BA in Visual Communication Design from the Holon Institute of Technology.

Matan Bood, Information services coordinator (1/2 time)
Born and raised in Kibbutz Degania Aleph. Now lives in Jerusalem. Active in “Koach La’Ovdim – Democratic Workers Organization.” Completing MA thesis in the department of Land of Israel Studies at the University of Haifa and beginning his doctoral studies in history at Tel Aviv University.

Tamar Avraham, Coordinator of activities in Jerusalem (1/10 time)
Organizes study groups and activities dealing with the Nakba in West Jerusalem. MA in Catholic Theology. Courses in Judaism, Islam, Religious Studies and History. Lives in Jerusalem.

Efrat Even Tzur, Leads the Jerusalem study group; editorial work on Sedek (freelance)
Studying educational and clinical psychology of the child. Works as an editor.

Yosefa Makiton, Leads the Beersheba study group (freelance)
Graduate of the Group Dynamics course at the Shalom School in Neve Shalom/Wahat al Salaam. Fellow of the Gothenberg Queer Institute, Sweden. Raised in Eilat (Umm Rashrash), currently lives in Bir-e(l)-Saba (Beer-Sheva). Chooses to live with no partner, family or children. Also involved in programming for the internet.

Talia Fried, programmer of the new website (freelance)
MA in Social Psychology from Tel Aviv University, studying for a PhD in Science and Technology Studies at Bar Ilan University. Active in organizations working for peace and gender equality.
The organization’s activities are divided into six areas, as is this report:

Click on a name to get to segment

- Landscape and Space
- Information and Resources
- Education
- Culture
- Practicalities of Return
- Organizational development

Mati Shemoelof, Sedek public relations director and part-time editor (freelance)
Poet who has published three collections of poetry. Blogger and member of the “Cultural Guerilla” group which combines creative cultural activities with social action. Lecturer in the Minshar Art College; directs creative writing workshops.

Board of Directors
Shlomit Bauman, Chair
Uri Gopher
Ruti Ginsburg

Oversight Committee
Ahmad Hijazi
Khoulud Edris
Tours of destroyed Palestinian localities
Zochrot conducts tours of Palestinian localities captured by Israel during the nakba. There are two kinds of tours: those open to the general public, organized by Umar Ighbarieh, and those conducted in response to requests by groups from Israel and from abroad.

Zochrot’s tour of Iqrit, October, 2010:
“...Abu Ni’meh had a surprise for us at the church plaza. He unveiled a model of Iqrit as it had looked the day the Israeli army put the villagers on buses and exiled them to the village of al-Rameh in the Galilee. About 80 small, numbered cubes, accompanied by a list of 76 names, the owners of the homes, which Abu Ni’meh had affixed to a wooden board that he set on a table next to the church.”

To the full web report >>>
Open tours
The goal of the tours which are open to the general public is to learn about the localities destroyed by Israel during the nakba (some were subsequently resettled by Jews) and meet refugees from those places.

The tour is the end product of a process that includes interviews with refugees, visits to the site of the village, additional interviews with refugees during a preparatory visit, photographic documentation of the site and preparation of the tour’s route. In order to publish a booklet about the village we collect historical material and transcribe the interviews with the refugees. The booklets, distributed without charge during the tour, are in Hebrew and Arabic, and partly in English.

We bring signs with us to the tour in three languages that identify the village that had been destroyed after its capture. Sometimes we erect signs at the former location of a school, church, mosque or other significant village site. The metal sign gives a sense of permanence to the village. These signs are usually removed shortly after we erect them by people who oppose pointing to evidence of the nakba in the Israeli landscape. Removal of the signs is proof of their importance; the act of their removal relates both to the nakba and to its significance in space and in history.

The village’s refugees host the tour participants and guide them through the site of the village in a virtual tour of village life as it existed before the inhabitants were expelled. The combination of the actual site, the participation of the refugees themselves in the tour and the recollections they share with the others is a wonderful way of recreating the village that no longer exists. In 2010, Zochrot conducted six village tours: to al-Ghbayyat, al-Manshiyya (the Jaffa neighborhood), Khirbet al-Luz, Kufr Bir’im, Iqrit, Elaboun. A total of 440 people participated in the tours, half of them Israeli Jews and half Israeli Palestinians, as well as dozens of people from abroad.

One of the tours- to al-Ghabayyat, next to kibbutz Mishmar Ha’Emek - had to be rerouted. Zochrot asked the kibbutz secretariat for permission to pass through the kibbutz in order to approach the former location of the village. It’s important to emphasize that we only asked to pass through the kibbutz, not remain there – to reach the remains of the village which are located about a kilometer from the kibbutz. The kibbutz, unwilling to cooperate with Zochrot because of our beliefs, refused passage. The kibbutz also asked the police to prevent the planned tour. About
During the tour of Iqrit, one of the refugees unveiled for the first time a model of the village he’d constructed from memory. The active villagers’ organization hosted the guests at the village’s impressive sites, in particular the cemetery and the church.

The tour to the Manshiyya neighborhood, on the coast of Tel Aviv, was led by Abu Sa’id, a refugee from the neighborhood, who lives in Jaffa. He showed us exactly where his house had stood – today a bus parking lot. We prepared a video about Manshiyya which was shown at a number of public events.

In 2010, Zochrot conducted a second tour to the destroyed village of Khirbet al-Luz. An “activism festival” was underway nearby, and the idea was to have participants join the tour.

After many years of contact with the displaced residents of Kufr Bir’im, Zochrot conducted a comprehensive tour of the village and published a booklet about it. The tour was held on the first day of the annual summer youth camp organized by the displaced residents.

Right above: Tour of Kufr-Birim

Right down: Tour of Kufr-Birim, erecting a sign.

Left: Tour of al-Ghabayyat: "members of Mishmar Ha’Emek, who carried flyers detailing their objections to our tour."
By-invitation tours:

There was a significant increase in 2010 in the number of prearranged group tours conducted by Zochrot – 36, compared to 13 in 2009 – with more than 800 participants, compared with 420 the previous year.

Fourteen of the tours, led by Tamar Avraham and Noga Kadman, members of Zochrot and certified tour guides, charged participants a fee. These were tours Zochrot arranged for groups from abroad. The remaining tours were led by Zochrot staff, for groups of Israelis, Palestinians and others. We organized a special tour to Canada Park for parents and children, aged 7 to 13, in which fifty Israelis participated. Two hundred pupils from the bilingual school in Jerusalem and their parents toured destroyed villages to commemorate Nakba Day on May 15. The elementary school pupils and their parents went to Khirbet al-Luz, led by Ahmed Al-Luzi, who is from the village, and Dan Golan, who is researching it. The high school pupils went to Lifta, led by Yakub Odeh, who had been born there. Umar Ighbarieh, coordinator of Zochrot’s tours, led pupils from the bilingual school in Beersheba and their parents (a total of 60 people) to the ruins of the village of Simsim, not far from Gaza. A resident of Tzur Hadassah asked for a tour of the village of al-Qabou; a preparatory tour was held with a refugee who had been born there and now lives in Wadi Fuqin. A number of Jews living in the area participated in that tour, held in preparation for a later, public tour which took place at the beginning of 2011. Umar led a tour for 25 residents of Neve Shalom, where he lives, to the village of Umm Baraj to commemorate Nakba Day.
Commemorative Events
In 2010, Zochrot held three events to commemorate the Nakba:

On the eve of Israel’s Independence Day, Prof. Yehuda Shenhav lectured on his book, “Trapped by the Green Line.” Seventy people crowded in to hear the talk, with the sounds of holiday celebrations in the street and the nearby Rabin Plaza heard in the background.

As it does every year, Zochrot took part in the Procession of Return which the Committee of the Uprooted holds on Israel’s Independence Day. The 2010 procession was to the village of Miska, where Zochrot has been very active. Our booklet about the village was distributed to people who took part in the procession. Claire Oren, a teacher and Zochrot activist for many years, spoke, calling on the audience – its Jewish members in particular – to support the Palestinian refugees’ right of return.

About thirty people participated in a commemoration of the Deir Yassin massacre. They toured the site of the village, which today is Jerusalem’s Giv’at Sha’ul neighborhood. Some of the village’s houses still stand along Kanfey Nesharim Street. Despite the fact that the Deir Yassin massacre was a serious, well-known incident, there’s almost no physical reference to it in Israel – certainly not on the site of the village. The village center is inaccessible, because its buildings are used by the Kfar Sha’ul psychiatric hospital, which is not open to the public. Most of the impressive village buildings still stand. The tour culminated in a ceremony held behind the hospital, at the place from which the villagers fled toward Ein Karim, in fear of the fighting and the massacre. For a number of years Zochrot has been the only organization commemorating one of the Nakba’s foundational events.
Advocacy

In 2010, Zochrot’s advocacy activity continued to focus on the Jewish National Fund (JNF - HaKeren HaKayemeth - KKL), challenging its racist character. Activity focused on Canada Park, with tours for organized groups (see above) as well as efforts to approach contributors to the JNF to complain about its activities and their support.

In April, 2010, workers from Canada Park re-erected a sign at the ‘Imwas cemetery noting that Palestinian villages had stood here until 1967. An identical sign had been erected two years earlier, as a result of a suit Zochrot brought in the High Court of Justice, but had been removed a few weeks later. Zochrot did not publicize the restoration of the sign, which is probably the reason it is still there.

In 2010, Zochrot staffers led thirteen groups from abroad and from Israel on tours to Canada Park, in which 270 people participated. Rachelle Friesen, from the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), one of Zochrot’s supporters, posted an interesting comment following a tour for members of Habonim Dror from South Africa in which she participated.

More about Canada Park on our website >>>
A sign placed because of court cases brought by Zochrot acknowledges the existence of the Imwas cemetery. // photo by Ryan Rodrick Beiler

Martin Luther King, on the Donors names plate posted at Canada Park.
Ad Hoc Activities

In 2010, Zochrot carried out one direct-action activity on the streets of Tel Aviv. Following tradition, its activists joined members of “I Almost Forgot” on the eve of Independence Day to hang posters showing “Srulik” referring to the Nakba, despite the law threatening anyone commemorating it.

(More about “I Almost Forgot” activity on our website)>

Another ad-hoc activity was conducted as part of an exhibit in which Zochrot had been invited to participate. It had been organized by the architects Amnon Baror and Sergio Lerman and their architectural students. Its subject was Jerusalem Boulevard in Jaffa, and was shown in a gallery on Rothschild Boulevard in Tel Aviv. Eitan Bronstein and Raneen Jereis, from Zochrot, along with Ben Ronen and Samih Jabarin, produced a video dealing with the refugee issue, called "On the day Jaffa's refugees return." The video was translated into English, French and Italian and posted on YouTube, where it was viewed 4,000 times.
The Jerusalem group, coordinated by Tamar Avraham, continued its research on the Nakba in West Jerusalem. It has nine permanent members (as well as occasional guests). The group learned about neighborhoods where the Nakba occurred and met eight times. Four of the meetings were held in the Barbour Center, focusing on the Katamon, Abu Tor, Mamila and Musrara neighborhoods, using architecture books, memoirs and articles from the Hebrew press of the time. Four other meetings comprised tours to which members of Zochrot were also invited, and sometimes a few people from Zochrot’s seminars also participated. The tours were of western Katamon, eastern Katamon, Abu Tor and Mamila. A tour of Musrara is planned for January, 2011, which will complete the study of that neighborhood and of the nakba neighborhoods within Jerusalem. The group will conclude its activities in February, 2011, with a meeting open to the public at which Tamar Avraham, the group’s coordinator, will review what it learned.
Website
Zochrot’s website is continually updated with its activities and with new information. In 2010, 104 new pages were added (compared to 68 in 2009), most of them in Hebrew, along with some in Arabic and in English. There are about 212 page-views on an average day – 63% from Israel, 4% from the West Bank and from Gaza and 12% from elsewhere in the Middle East. The site provides an opportunity to ask Zochrot questions and to comment on its activities. In 2010, Zochrot received 290 emails on various topics, in addition to requests for information (see below).

Here’s an example of a letter we received:

“My name is Yiftah (...). I live in Karkur, and have two daughters who go to the (...) school. About a month ago the school planned an event to commemorate the Nakba. The event, which had been planned by two teachers, was to include a tour of the demolished village of al-Sindi’ana (near Moshav Avi’el), learning about the village’s history and undertaking activities like cheesemaking (because of a cheese factory jointly owned by Arabs and Jews that had operated there until ’46). Unfortunately, the event wasn’t held because of opposition by a number of Jewish parents. Despite this fact (or, perhaps, because of it), I’d like to do something to commemorate the village (whose remains are still visible), as well as two other villages nearby – Sabarin (next to Moshav Amikam; its well still exists) and Qanir (near Kibbutz Regavim; one of its buildings still stands in the kibbutz). How can Zochrot help?
Sincerely,
Yiftach.”

We reply to every letter quickly, except for those which show no interest in dialogue, but contain only slander and vilification.
New website

At the end of 2010 a “beta” version of Zochrot’s new web site went online. The new site will be up in a few months, thanks to the intensive effort of Aviv Gross-Alon who led the project, Talia Fried, the site’s designer, and Nir Har’el, the programmer. The site was designed in cooperation with Zochrot staff members, so that each activity would be appropriately represented. The new site will be a virtual information center about the Nakba and will include a wealth of films and images. The innovative site design will enable many ways of learning.

Visit us on www.zochrot.org/en >>>

Nakba

A catastrophic event that occurred in 1948, when over 700,000 Palestinians were expelled from their homes, and their land taken over.

Zochrot

Zochrot is a project of the Israel Committee Against House demolitions in East Jerusalem (ICAHD) that works from a non-violent perspective to end the occupation, protect the rights of refugees, and encourage coexistence and dialogue between Jews and Palestinians in Israel.

Library

Articles
Borders
Images
Press
Video

Zochrot

Education
Gallery
Actions
Sedek
Who we are

Palestinian employees at the Customs Department, Haifa // Dr. Johnny Mansour

The Nakba destroyed the fabric of relations that existed between Jews and Palestinians before 1948. In recognizing and materializing the right of return lies the possibility for Jews and Palestinians to live in this country together.

Zochrot carries out different projects to advance understanding of Nakba and its legacy. This website is one of these projects. The site presents information about the Palestinian localities that Israel destroyed in 1948 and about the Nakba’s place in our lives today. The Nakba is spoken in different voices on this site — in photographs, testimonies, maps, prose, and more. Zochrot is one of these voices, a voice that seeks recognition for injustice and new paths toward change and repair.

Sign up for our newsletter.

New

Sedek // Towards return of Palestinian refugees

New video: Remembering Khubbazia // Video report from the tour of Khubbazia, 2006

Sedek: A Journal on the Ongoing Nakba // A discussion evening at the ICAHD office, Sunday, November 15, 2009

Visit us on www.zochrot.org/en >>>

This site is under construction.
Thanks for your patience as we build.

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Join

Visit us on www.zochrot.org/en >>>

Visit us on www.zochrot.org/en >>>
**Information center**

Zochrot receives an average of ten requests for information each week. They arrive by email, telephone and from visitors to our library. We received 124 email requests about topics related to the Nakba. In April, 2010, Matan Boord took a half-time position in charge of Zochrot’s information center.

Here’s an example of a request for information:

“I was surprised you indicated that my kibbutz had been built on lands belonging to the Arab village of Hulda. You should make sure you’re right. There’s a letter from the end of the 19th century from a rabbi in Jerusalem to Montefiore which says there’s land for sale next to the village of Hulda that belongs to the Ottoman government. That’s the land on which [kibbutz] Hulda was established. Your information is misleading, and I suggest you correct the information in your table, or prove that it’s correct.

All the best!

Uri”

(He received a detailed response to his letter, and thanked us warmly.)

The library also contains articles – most of them in Hebrew – about topics related to Zochrot’s activities, such as the Nakba, the right of return and one state for two peoples. In 2010 we identified 59 articles on topics such as the Nakba law, the right or return, etc. There were also media references to the nakba that were worth noting, even if they weren’t directly related to Zochrot’s activities: the episode of “Avoda Aravit” [“Arab Labor”], Channel 2’s prime-time TV sitcom, about the tension caused by the juxtaposition of Independence Day and Nakba Day, received a great deal of media coverage; the connection between the Nakba and opposition to the expropriation of Palestinians in Sheikh Jarah, al-Araqib and Lod received much greater emphasis than in the past; media coverage of the Ministry of Education’s opposition to teaching about the Nakba in the Sha’ar HaNegev school.

Zochrot distributes a weekly newsletter with updates about its activities. Since the beginning of the year, the newsletter has been distributed via “Rav Meser,” which provides information on the number of people who read it. The newsletter, designed by Aviv Gross-Alon, is sent to a list which, by the end of the year, included the names of some 2,370 people who wanted to receive regular updates. An average of 450 people open each
issue. The issue of the newsletter which had the most readers was the one reporting on messages from Israelis to Palestinian refuges – 611 people opened that newsletter, and 950 read the texts. In addition to the newsletter, Zochrot has a Facebook group which had 310 members at the end of 2010.

**Booklets**

In 2010 we published five new booklets in Hebrew and Arabic about the following locations: al-Ghabayyat, **al-Manshiyya** (the Jaffa neighborhood), **Kufr Bir’im, Iqrit, Eilabun**. They were distributed during the public tours to those villages, they’re available to visitors to Zochrot’s library, and also appear on our website. The booklet about Eilabun was prepared at the initiative of, and in cooperation with, Ramez Eid, a resident of the locality, who contacted us to offer his help.

*Find more Booklets on our website >>>*
Visual materials
An important component of Zochrot’s activities involves presenting information visually, including the collection and creation of films and photographs, as well as extensive use of graphic design. Zochrot is committed to the use of graphic methods to create a visual vocabulary that forms an integral part of a new language for thinking and speaking about the Nakba and the return.

In 2010, Zochrot expanded its use of graphic design in projects such as Sedek, the Nakba Study Guide, our gallery, the newsletter and the new web site, among others. Aviv Gross-Alon, our graphic design coordinator, increased her hours of work accordingly.

Zochrot collects images and develops visual materials as part of its various projects: lectures, exhibits, study guide, etc. Our videos are used in our educational activities and are also shown in Israel and abroad.

Testimony project
In 2010, Zochrot gathered twenty video testimonies from Palestinian refugees, all of which have been published in booklets and appear on the web site. We also transcribed and translated into Hebrew five testimonies of refugees that appear on the web site, www.palestineremembered.com. Raneen Jereis coordinates the Testimony project. To insure that the testimonies will be seen by as many people as possible, including the educational activities, Sedek and the tours. This year Raneen completed a new video about the Manshiyya neighborhood in Jaffa which was shown at the Palestinian film festival in London as well as elsewhere. In preparation for the tour to ‘Iqrit, Raneen contacted children of the refugees and trained them to interview members of the older generation. After participating in Raneen’s workshop they gathered six new testimonies.

Zochrot, for the first time, conducted a public hearing, with Amnon Neumann, who had been a soldier in the Palmach. Neumann told about participating in the capture of Palestinian villages in the south of the country, and also in atrocities. The event was organized by Amir Hillel, a Zochrot activist; twenty people attended. Both the complete transcript of Neumann’s testimony, and an
His testimony was also filmed, and the video will be ready in 2011. Additional testimony from a person who had been a soldier in the Haganah was recorded at Zochrot’s offices by Eitan Bronstein.

“Longing” Effi Banai’s documentary film, was first shown in December, 2010, as part of the film festival in Van Leer. Zochrot supported the film, with the help of funding from the Dutch group ICCO. Raneen Jereis and Eitan Bronstein assisted during production.

Another documentary in which Zochrot is involved, about the Manshiyya neighborhood, is directed by Anat Even. It is scheduled to be shown in 2011. Raneen is helping to gather and film testimonies for the film.

Zochrot staff discussed their work on the Testimony project in two conferences of educators in Nazareth, in which a total of 180 participated.

Find more testimonies on our website >>>
Zochrot in the media

In 2010, Zochrot continued its policy of not running after the media, but it was decided at an evaluation seminar to expand its PR activities in 2011. Fifty stories appeared about Zochrot, 39 in Hebrew, eight in English, two in German and one in Italian; 39 appeared online and eleven in print.

Zochrot had two significant media appearances in 2010. The first was an op-ed piece on YNET by Eitan Bronstein about the revised Nakba law, which received more than 200 comments, not a few of which were positive. The second was a response to our plan for a conference of pre-school educators on the topic, “Can we teach the Nakba to preschoolers?” The Legal Forum for the Land of Israel responded wildly to this initiative. The Ministry of Education intensified the scandal when it asked educators not to cooperate with Zochrot (From the Press: jpost; thenational; alternativenews). It’s worth noting that the media coverage had the effect of increasing the number of conference participants.

Eitan Bronstein was invited six times during 2010 to be interviewed on Shmuel Platto-Sharon’s program, “Platto Doesn’t Think Twice.”
Dissemination of the Nakba study guide
Amaya Galili coordinates Zochrot’s educational activities, focusing on working with educators in formal and non-formal educational systems. In 2010 her efforts were devoted to disseminating and encouraging the use of the Nakba study guide that we published at the end of 2008, and to providing tools and ideas for teaching about the Nakba in schools, as well as dealing with the challenges and the questions that arise in doing so.

The study guide is available to educators at no charge. By the end of 2010, more than 300 copies had been distributed to teachers and to educators in non-formal educational frameworks and in colleges and universities.

The goal of Zochrot’s educational department is to bring the study guide to the attention of as many educators as possible, to encourage them to read it, respond to it, use it in class, use its contents in the various educational frameworks they’re involved in. Zochrot gained a great deal of practical, “field” experience during its first two years distributing the study guide, and examined how educators have used it. As part of the process of teaching, evaluating and examining the study guide, this year we investigated how useful it was to educators – if it was, how did they use it; if not, why not? And – what could be changed to make it more appropriate for its audience?

Most Israeli educators lack information about the Nakba. Moreover, learning about the Nakba raises many questions for Israelis relating to their individual and collective identities. It confronts them with many personal, political and educational challenges. It is necessary to deal with these questions and challenges so that teachers can teach the Nakba in class. Zochrot conducts workshops to train teachers how to teach the Nakba and deal with the pedagogical and political issues that arise.

In the summer of 2010, Amaya Galili and Efrat Even Tzur led a workshop for teachers to provide tools for using the study guide in schools. Eighteen teachers participated.

In 2010, Zochrot initiated a series of one-day workshops for educators who are already familiar with the study guide and who wish to learn more and use it more effectively. Ten teachers participated in the first two workshops.
Here’s what a tenth-grade teacher who’d used the study guide wrote us:

“This is a valuable educational project. Obviously, much thought has been devoted to it. I use the study guide in lessons I adapted for that purpose. I can’t see how I could include the content of the study guide in the regular lessons I teach. To do so, one could devise specific lesson plans related to the different subjects ordinarily taught. I’d like the units in the study guide to be more structured and detailed, down to the questions that the teacher should ask in class. The existing units assume the class discussion will flow freely, and don’t provide enough ‘triggers.’ I wish the study guide included additional supplementary material for the teacher, background articles, relevant historical information. I taught most of the lessons in the study guide in conjunction with lessons I created especially for that purpose dealing with history, narrative and politics. They were required courses for ninth graders, in which pupils choose a topic to study, about which they write a research paper. Many lessons were based on the study guide, which was supplemented and adapted as necessary. As I said, the study guide doesn’t contain enough additional background material for the teacher which can be used to enrich the lessons. In many cases the pupils incorporated the new information without resistance, but their attitudes didn’t change. To my surprise, there were no unusual responses, but that may be because the experience wasn’t significant enough to them. It’s definitely something to be discussed in the teachers’ lounge, though in a more sensitive manner. I also intend to teach a similar course this year. I’d be happy to receive more help from Zochrot. The problem is that during the year I became caught up in my ongoing obligations and wasn’t able to devote the necessary time and thought to preparing the lessons and the materials. I don’t imagine that Zochrot’s staff is still in the office at 2 AM….”

All her pupils wrote research papers as part of the course.
Five teachers in Jerusalem began meeting with Amaya Galili to create a Nakba curriculum focusing on Jerusalem. This project may be expanded in 2011, if funding becomes available. A one-day conference was held at the initiative of pre-school educators who wanted to consider how to discuss the nakba with young children. As noted above, this initiative was met with an irate response from the Legal Forum for the Land of Israel which was covered by the media. The conference itself was extremely successful, and about thirty educators participated.
Hagit Gur Ziv gave a talk about the importance of anti-militarist education for pre-school children.

**Nakba study groups**
The three study groups that began in 2009 in Beer Sheba, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem completed their activities in 2010. A total of 47 people participated in fourteen sessions based on the study guide, “How do you say Nakba in Hebrew?”

Four new study groups began in 2010: a fourth year in Tel Aviv, a third year in Jerusalem, in the upper Galilee and in Sapir College. The two latter groups were initiated locally by people who wanted to learn about the Nakba. Alon Gayer, the Dean of Students at Sapir College, asked Zochrot to establish a study group at the college. His initiative was met with some internal opposition, and managed to annoy Ben Dror Yemini, the journalist from Ma’ariv, who reported on it in disgust. Eight people are in the study group, including two mothers and their daughters. One of the mothers was a soldier in 1948, and in a tour of the group to the destroyed village of Simsim she shared her memories of the Nakba. The initiative in the north came from a student at Tel Hai College. That group began in 2010. The Jerusalem group had difficulty recruiting participants, but a favorable article in “Time Out” improved the situation.

In addition to training workshops and group meetings, Amaya Galili, Zochrot’s educational coordinator, began individual training and mentoring sessions for educators wishing to use the study guide. The training combines a more intensive approach to the study guide and the use of additional materials not included in it, and provides an opportunity to discuss difficulties and challenges facing students, teachers, school administrators and parents when teaching about the Nakba.
Dvora was a member of the Jerusalem study group, an experience which made a great impression on her. Here's a letter she wrote to Zochrot a few weeks after the group had stopped meeting:

“Hello,
The eve of Memorial Day…
I photocopied the list of Palestinian villages that could be said euphemistically to “no longer exist.” I bound it in a booklet, which tomorrow I’ll place on our dining table around which family and friends will gather to celebrate independence.
I hope it goes well…
I don’t plan to get into discussions, arguments or begin ‘preaching’, but anyone who’s interested can take a look (it’s a 108-page Excel table).
Let me tell you what my two sons and daughter said…which I think is connected to my “brainwashing” them during the past few months…
The whole family knows about Zochrot.
Anyway, one son, Daniel (25), said Saturday night: “Boy, I really don’t feel like doing reserve duty this summer and stopping Arabs at checkpoints. Enough – I really don’t want to stop any more Arabs…” My other son, Yosef (26), at first said he has absolutely no desire to celebrate independence when “another people” still lives as they do, their situation still unresolved…His wife was annoyed at first, but later got together with Arab friends to have an alternative Independence Day, have a discussion around a bonfire…
But we had to put it off…And our daughter, Lara (28), who’d never wanted to listen to me, said she also wanted to come…
Bottom line, our work pays off…
Thank you. You’re doing God’s work.
The ceremony, now, on Mt. Herzl, right above my head…
I can hear it from home…
It’s tough…
I wish something would happen, something good for all of us…
Dvorah”
Lectures
In 2010, Zochrot activists spoke to fourteen different groups from Israel and from abroad, attended by some 1,300 people. Of them, 187 were Israeli Jews, 66 Palestinians and 102 from other countries. Amaya Galili and Eitan Bornstein gave two talks, at Binah College and Kibbutzim College. Raneen Jereis gave two talks to Palestinian groups. Umar Ighbarieh and Efrat Even Tzur led a weekend seminar on the Nakba to a group of 35 Israelis and Palestinians in their 20’s, some of whom were dealing with the issue of the Nakba for the first time.

Umar Ighbarieh and Amaya Galili held a seminar for ten organizers from Mahapakh-Ta'ghir, about accepting responsibility in the context of the Nakba.

Participation in conferences
In 2010, representatives of Zochrot participated in eleven conferences in Israel and abroad, attended by some 1,300 people. Efrat Even Tzur attended a conference in Oslo and one organized by Psycho Active, where she described Zochrot’s activities. Norma Musih spoke at a conference at Tel Aviv University devoted to Yehuda Shenhav’s book. Raneen Jereis and Umar Ighbarieh participated in Palestinian conferences where they described Zochrot’s work. Eitan Bronstein lectured in a number of Italian cities at the invitation of Pax Christi.
Zochrot Gallery

The Zochrot Gallery presented four exhibits in 2010 curated by Norma Musih. The gallery, which is also an archive and a cultural laboratory, organized meetings with artists, researchers and theoreticians as an integral part of these exhibits, to allow participants to broaden discussion of them and continue the process that each of them initiated.

Three evening discussions were also held at the beginning of 2010 in conjunction with 2009’s final exhibit, “Snapshots,” curated by Hagit Keisar, in which 65 people participated.

The first two exhibits dealt with the return of Palestinian refugees.
“Re:Form Model”, is about the destroyed village of Bir’im. The exhibit displayed a proposal to rebuild Kfar Bir’im, preserving and renovating the historic village core as a center for public services and establishing new residential neighborhoods around this core. Six public discussions were held in conjunction with this exhibit, with a total of 185 participants. The text Norma Musih prepared for the exhibit will be published in 2011 as an article in Pitronot [Solutions], edited by Yehoshua Simon.
This Exhibition displayed the “De-colonizing Architecture” project, organized by Sandy Hillal, Alessandro Petti and Eyal Weizmann. Hillal and Patti presented the project to a group of sixty people, and discussed it. The project is primarily architectural in nature, focusing on de-colonizing the settlements and villages destroyed during the Nakba. In other words, it considers how the settlements established after ‘67 can be adapted for the use of the Palestinians living nearby rather than being demolished. And with respect to the destroyed Palestinian villages, the project focused on the village of Miska, proposing to rebuild it beginning with a cultural center that will resemble the one in the Deheishe refugee camp. The Miska project was part of a joint endeavor by Zochrot and refugees from the village to think about actually returning.
The third exhibit was called “Photos not taken.” It was curated by Ariella Azoulay as a continuation of her project, “Foundational Violence 1947-1950.” This follow-up exhibit can be seen as a kind of mirror-image of the earlier one. In the first exhibit Ariella looked at photographs that had been taken, while in the second she examined those which hadn’t been taken – for example, documenting atrocities that had occurred during the Nakba. Two photos taken by Boaz Arad and Mikki Kretzman show locations where Palestinians were massacred – Ein Zeitoun and Safsaf. One hundred eighty people participated in three public events related to this exhibit. ArtAsiaPacific, the prestigious journal, published an article on the Zochrot Gallery, focusing in particular on these three exhibits.
For its final exhibit in 2010, the gallery invited artists to undertake a fundamental reconsideration of what we see and what we don’t see in connection with the Nakba. Called “Nakba – Who saw? Who heard?,” its 26 participants – artists, art teachers and art students – responded in a variety of ways. An article appeared in Ha’aretz before the exhibit opened, and a report broadcast on The Social TV was devoted to the exhibit and the evening it opened.

To view more images from this exhibiton >>>
Sedek

In 2010 Sedek, edited by Tomer Gardi, published three issues that were very different from one another.

The first was a book, Tell it not in Gath, edited by Prof. Hanan Haver, together with Ayman Siksak, Moran Banit and Matti Shmuelof, on which they had been working for more than a year. The book deals with Hebrew poetry in the decade after the Nakba. It aroused media interest, and by the end of the year almost none of the thousand copies printed still remained. We organized four discussion evenings around the book, in which 230 people participated. One hundred people attended the book launch event at the ZOA House in Tel Aviv. An evening devoted to a critique of the book was held at the Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem, attended by 70 people.

The second issue was Sedek No.5, which was based on, and an extension of, the many discussions held in connection with the exhibit “Foundational Violence 1947-1950,” curated by Ariella Azoulay and shown in the Zochrot Gallery in 2009. This issue differed from its predecessors – it was printed in black-and-white, and most of the texts were transcripts of discussions in Zochrot’s gallery space. We held three evening discussions of Sedek No. 5, one at Zochrot, one at the Minshar school in Tel Aviv, and one in Haifa, in which a total of eighty people participated.

The third issue of Sedek appeared on-line, in three languages, Hebrew, Arabic and English. It contained texts dealing with the return of Palestinian refugees that had appeared in previous printed issues of the journal. This publication allows us to reach a wider audience than Israeli Jews who read Hebrew. Sedek then becomes a means to encourage discussion of the practical aspects of the return of Palestinian refugees, a topic Zochrot has been addressing for the past three years. One example of a discussion held together with Palestinians is the issue of Haq al-Awda, from July, 2010, published by Badil, and devoted entirely to texts written by Israelis about the return, which had appeared in Sedek and been translated into Arabic.

In 2010, Sedek began a new project, “Sedek tours,” which will appear in 2012. Sedek asked the public to assist it by providing photographs and texts for tours of Palestinian villages that had been destroyed in the Nakba. Thirty people responded, writers as well as photographers.
Discussion evenings
Zochrot continues to hold public discussion evenings in its gallery on a variety of topics related to the Nakba and its implications. Amaya Galilee remains the project’s coordinator. Eight discussion evenings were held in 2010, in which 195 people participated:

1. Nurit Elhanan Peled discussed her research into the portrayal of Palestinians in Israeli schoolbooks.
2. Amana Oth'amna spoke about women in Jaffa during the Nakba.
3. Amnon Neumann talked about his experiences as a soldier in the Palmach who'd participated in the capture of villages in southern Israel.
4. Mark Braverman, an American Jew, spoke about growing criticism of Israel by American Jews.
5. A screening of the film “Stranger in my home,” and a discussion with Sahara Dirbas, the director.
7. What do(n’t) we read in children’s books? Arabs in children’s literature, with Shira Lapidot and Bat Shahar Gurfinkel, Bikurim publishers.
8. The Prime Project - a textbook dealing with the Israeli and Palestinian narratives, with Eyal Naveh and Michal Wasser.
In 2010, Zochrot continued working on a project addressing the practical aspects of the return of Palestinian refugees, based on the right of return. Umar Ighbarieh, from Zochrot, is in charge of the project. Its purpose is to develop practical plans for the return of Palestinian refugees that can be implemented when the right of return is recognized. Such plans don’t yet exist, and it is important to formulate them. We also hope that a discussion of the practical aspects of the return will contribute to a rational discussion of the right of return, something that is almost entirely absent in Israel today.

In 2010, the “Miska Project” was completed, planning the return to that village. Participants included eight Israeli Jews and five Palestinians who’d been uprooted from Miska. The Israelis, guided by Eitan Bronstein, met six times to discuss various practical aspects of the return of Palestinian refugees in general, and to Miska in particular. The group visited the site of the village and met with people who’d been displaced; heard from Adam Friedman, a member of the group, about the status of the village lands that had been taken over by Israel; and met twice with the architects/artists Hanna Farah Kfar Bir’im and Alessandro Petti and Sandy Hillal to discuss their work on Kfar Bar’am and decolonized architecture. Umar Ighbarieh and Isamat Shbeita, who had been uprooted from Miska, went to Jordan to meet refugees from the village. They had interesting discussions about planning an actual return to Miska. The idea met with various responses.

The most important activity dealing with Miska was a workshop for all the members of the group, Israelis and Palestinians, whose goal was to plan the refugees’ return to Miska. It was a “counter-mapping” seminar, led by Einat Manof, an urban planner, who’s working on a doctorate in that field. Participants in the three-day workshop prepared maps to plan the return of Miska’s refugees. The results were presented to a wider audience during the workshop’s final evening. Umar Ighbarieh and Eitan Bronstein participated in a workshop of an expert group dealing with refugees that was held in Salzburg by the Institute for Historical Justice and Reconciliation – IHJR, an organization associated with the European Union. The workshop had ten participants, Israelis as well as Palestinians. Participants decided to adopt Zochrot’s approach and develop a practical plan for the return of refugees to a specific location. The project, which seemed initially very promising, fell apart after the organization understood its political implications and realized it would be unable to participate in a project explicitly supporting the Palestinian refugees’ right of return.
Toward the end of the year a seminar was held in Istanbul for participants from Zochrot and from Badil with funding from Heks/Eper, to continue thinking about the return of Palestinian refugees, following the joint visit in 2009 to Belgrade and to Kosovo. Twenty-four people participated in the Istanbul workshop – ten Jews and fourteen Palestinians, who came from various places throughout the world. The workshop was a great success, particularly the portion devoted to beginning to plan the return to the al-Manshiyya (Yafa) neighborhood in Tel Aviv – Jaffa. Four working groups developed plans for different aspects of the return, which will be published in 2011 and will provide Badil and Zochrot with tools relevant to topics such as restoring property; the culture of return; integration and rehabilitation; justice and reconciliation.

In 2011, Zochrot plans to establish a focus group which will be presented with practical ideas about the return. In 2010, Eitan Bronstein met with an initial such group, five residents of Tzur Hadassah, Israeli neighbors of the village of al-Qabou, to which we conducted a tour.

During 2010, Zochrot also presented practical ideas for the return in three conferences in Israel.
“Practicalities of Return” - Joint seminar with Badil in Istanbul. Photos: Osnat Bar-Or, Amir Hillel
Financial administration
Since the start of 2010, Zochrot has, as planned, been managing its finances internally. Oshra Bar established an accounting and payroll system with outside assistance. This change improves our financial management and reporting to contributors. After Oshra finished working for Zochrot later in the year, our internal financial management has been administered by the accounting firm of Limor Avraham.

Strategic planning
Zochrot’s strategic planning is conducted by the entire staff, together with its Board of Directors. As in 2009, the activity was coordinated by Zelda Padeh, who is in charge of resource development. The organization held six meetings, guided by staff from Shatil, who helped us think anew about our activities. One important outcome of this activity was developing a plan for Eitan Bronstein to leave his position as Zochrot’s director and assume another role in the organization.

Evaluation
Zochrot’s 2010 evaluation program was formulated during an intensive weekend seminar with the participation of staff, board and other members of the organization. They discussed Zochrot’s various activities and stressed once again, even more strongly than before, the need to actively involve people in addition to Israelis.

Fundraising
Zelda Padeh is responsible for this activity. In 2010, Zochrot received contributions from the following organizations: HEKS-EPER, Trocaire, CCFD, Broederlijk Delen, MISEREOR, ICCO-KerkinActie, Oxfam GM, Oxfam Solidarity, Mennonite Central Committee, medico international. Many participants in our various activities contributed to cover expenses.
Activities in the United States
A group of activists in New York has begun adapting Zochrot’s nakba study guide to an American Jewish audience. They have met four times, and are working on an adaptation which will have six units.

Volunteers
Zochrot had dozens of volunteers in 2010. Helen Berube helped develop the project dealing with the JNF. At the end of the year, Helen became a member of Zochrot. Charles Kamen continued faithfully to translate texts into English. Fiona Wright helped prepare material for the educational program. Additional volunteers translated texts for “Tell it not in Gath,” which were published on the web site. Dozens of other volunteers participated in Zochrot’s various activities.