

**RICHARD S. HIRSCHHAUT
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January 2024

Dear Friends:

Along with my brother Bruce, whose last visit to Israel came before opening of the “new” historical museum, we had the privilege of visiting Yad Vashem on the morning of Friday, January 5th, amid the ongoing crisis of the Hamas-Israel War.

We were grateful to have been able to arrange a special guided tour led by Adi Rabinowitz Bedein, a talented and experienced educator whose passion for conveying the essential and enduring lessons of the Holocaust was evident from the outset.

I understand the unique qualities that define an outstanding museum docent – a mix of historical knowledge, an ability to impart key themes in an age-appropriate manner, and a devotion to honoring memory and empowering current generations to recognize the strength that resides within us all to speak out against hate in its earliest stages. I know this through my service as Founding Director of the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, where we enlisted a cohort of over 100 docents in an intensive, graduate-level training and orientation before they took to the museum galleries.

In each of these core areas, and more, Adi shines. She is a brilliant, articulate, and caring educator, framing each stage of the Holocaust narrative by first posing key questions that engage the visitor and further enrich the immersive experience that Yad Vashem offers. The result is a deeply personal encounter with this history and clear delineation of the role of individuals as perpetrators, bystanders, rescuers, victims, and survivors. It is a powerful and ever-relevant learning experience.

A deeply spiritual person, Adi brings an added dimension that is relatable to all – the power of resistance, both physical and spiritual – that preserved individual dignity, humanity, and hope amid the most inhumane, dark, and choiceless circumstances. Most importantly, Adi is thoughtful, approachable, and warm. A truly inspiring educator and remarkable person.

I highly recommend Adi for any group that wishes to have a meaningful and memorable encounter with Holocaust history and its continuing relevance for our world today.

Sincerely,

Rick Hirschhaut

