

American Friends of Yahad – In Unum Appoint New President and Director

Uri Kaufthal and Robert Aronson Named to Leadership Roles at Global Humanitarian Organization Dedicated to Eradicating Genocide

New York, NY, December 11,, 2017 --- The American Friends of Yahad – In Unum (AFYIU), a nonprofit organization working on behalf of the global humanitarian organization Yahad – In Unum, announces that effective January 1, 2018, Uri Kaufthal, an active member of American Friends of Yahad – In Unum’s Board of Directors since 2012, will assume the role of President, where he will lead the Board of Directors in developing and supporting its strategic goals. Additionally, Robert Aronson has taken over AFYIU’s Director position. AFYIU supports the ongoing efforts of Yahad – In Unum and its founder, Father Patrick Desbois, who has spent the past 14 years finding and recording evidence of mass genocide throughout Eastern Europe against Jews and Roma during World War II. Father Desbois has titled the culmination of this research as “The Holocaust by Bullets.”



“Having been an active Board member for several years, I’ve seen firsthand the impact that Father Desbois’ work has had not only on the Jewish community – giving voice to those who were silenced - but its broader role to prevent genocide of all ethnicities and religions,” said Kaufthal. “Yahad – In Unum’s work also focuses on education – teaching the next generation about the “Holocaust by Bullets” and bringing global awareness to the victims of genocide throughout the globe.

Kaufthal’s involvement in Jewish philanthropic organizations is extensive. He currently serves on the Board of Overseers of NYC’s Museum of Jewish Heritage, as well as on the Board of Directors of the National Yiddish Theatre. Earlier, he served on the Boards of SAR Academy, the Riverdale YM-YWHA and The Israel Tribute Committee, (of which he also has been Treasurer), and the New York chapter of Stand With Us.

Kaufthal’s career spans decades in the financial industry, having worked at American Express, Mastercard, and Bankers Trust, where he was Senior Managing Director and Partner. In 1997, he was named President and CEO of a privately-held financial services firm which he led to a successful merger with Citigroup. He later assumed the role of President at AST Equity Plan Solutions, and is currently an Executive Director of Investments at Oppenheimer & Co.

Robert Aronson will take over American Friends of Yahad – In Unum’s Director position.

“The father is doing holy work,” said Aronson. “I am simply grateful that I can help him.”



From 1989 – 2009, **Robert Aronson** served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit. Today, he continues his relationship with the community as the Chief Development Advisor of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit. He also holds the position of adjunct professor at the University of Michigan’s School of Social Work.

Previously, Aronson served as President of the Steinhardt Foundation for Jewish Life, New York from 2007 through 2014, President of Birthright Israel Foundation, New York from 2009 through 2012, and as Executive Vice President of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation from 1983 – 1989.

About Yahad – In Unum

Yahad-In Unum (<http://www.yahadinunum.org>) is a Jewish-Christian initiative founded by Father Patrick Desbois, which investigates, documents and decrypts sites of mass executions in an effort to prevent ongoing genocide.

Originally founded in 2003, Yahad-In Unum is dedicated to systematically identifying and documenting the sites of Jewish and Roma mass executions by the Nazis in Eastern Europe during World War II, in what has been termed “The Holocaust by Bullets.”

For the past 15 years, the French organization has recorded testimonies of participants and witnesses to these events, creating a critical, new forensic and historical record. This is vital, as the generation of Holocaust survivors and witnesses dwindles every day, with all witnesses estimated to be gone within 5 years. Yahad – In Unum has identified over 2,400 execution sites and recorded more than 5,700 testimonies during more than 135 investigative research trips, uncovering approximately 1.7 million new Holocaust by Bullets victims. Yahad has also begun to harness its considerable forensic skills to document and decrypt current crimes against humanity, such as the ISIS assault on the Yazidi people of Iraq.

Yahad - In Unum has also expanded its focus to aid survivors of ISIS’ genocidal attacks in Iraq, having founded 3 workshops in Yazidi Refugees camps to rehabilitate women and children from the terrible acts committed by Daesh against them.

Additionally, Yahad – In Unum also transmits this research by teaching the hidden mechanism of Holocaust by bullets in Europe, the United States and in Latin America, through exhibits and via teaching workshops targeted at professors and educators.

In 2016, Yahad founded the first Holocaust museum of Central America in Guatemala City to teach new generations against anti-Semitism and hate.

Unmasking the Holocaust by Bullets in order to place it in the context of modern mass crimes, teaching the hidden mechanisms of genocidal shootings, revealing neighbors' involvement in the crime and fighting against indifference and Holocaust denial: this is Yahad – In Unum's mission.

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