



THE WORLD ASSOCIATION
OF ZAKARPATIAN - TRANSCARPATIAN JEWS (R.A.)

Newsletter No. 43 - May 2018

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1. **Wreath-laying ceremony at "Yad Vashem"**

On Memorial Day in Vain and heroism, on April 12, 2018, three of our members represented the community of Carpathians and placed a wreath on behalf of the organization at the state ceremony held at "Yad Vashem".



Zeev Milbauer and Yona Rob



Zeev Milbauer and Yossi Kotona



2. The annual memorial service at Yad Vashem

On Sunday, 21 Iyar 5758, 6.5.2018, we gathered with a majority of people to the annual memorial service for the members of our families, who were murdered in the death camps during the Holocaust.

The ceremony was opened in the Hall of Remembrance by lighting the eternal flame, which was lit by two Holocaust survivors: Mr. Froymovitch Zelig, accompanied by his sons and grandson, and Mr. Reisman Mordechai, accompanied by his wife.

The "Kaddish" prayer was carried by Amos Rubin [a Holocaust survivor], the "El Maleh Rachamim" prayer and the chapter of the Psalms was delivered by Rabbi Engelman Mordechai [third generation].

Friedmann Tzvi, who lost seven of his brothers and sisters, sang the song "Hatikvah" at the end of the reunion.

- Mr. Froimovitch Zelig: Born in Krive. During the war he was drafted into the Hungarian labor camps, managed to escape and joined the partisans. A family of 12 brothers and sisters - he is the only survivor!
- Mr. Reisman Mordechai, born in Khust. He was liberated at Theresenstadt on May 6, 1945, exactly today 73 years ago, at the age of 12. A family of parents and six children survived only Mordechai and his sister. Mordechai immigrated to Israel in 1946, where he established his family and the couple has 4 children and 12 grandchildren.



From the right: Zvika Friedman, representative of "Yad Vashem", Rabbi Engelman Mordechai, Rubin Amos, Milbauer Ze'ev, David Hershkowitz, Pnina and Mordechai Reisman, Zelig Froimowicz (left), his two sons and his grandson

The follow-up meeting was held in the "Safra" hall.

Mr. Zeev Milbauer, Chairman of the Association, said:

At the outset, I would like to thank the people of "Yad Vashem", headed by Osnat Levin, for their assistance and dedication to the annual commemoration of those who perished in the Holocaust from Zakarpattya.

I would like to thank the survivors of the Holocaust: Shlomo Engelman, Haberman Menachem, Lieberman Hemda, Sikovitch Gita, Fixler Zippora, Froimovitz Zelig, Kopolovitch Bunya, Kalush Shmuel, Kalush Shraga, Kleiman Chaim In their presence on this exciting day. We are sure that your arrival here involves a physical and emotional effort, but for us - your presence here, with us, represents a whole generation of Holocaust survivors. I would also like to thank the survivors of the Holocaust for their generous assistance.

Thank you to the activists of the Association of Immigrants from Zakarpattya, special thanks to special people; These are people who are willing to donate their time and energy to continue contributing to our community. I will detail only a small part of the activities of our activists

- Locating and honoring Holocaust survivors - over 300 visits were made to the homes of Holocaust survivors in Israel, and certificates of appreciation were awarded for their survival war against all odds.
- Formation and joy events were held during Chanukah and Purim.
- Every month a newsletter is published, which updates all the news of the community and the work of prominent people within it.
- Organizing meetings on the heritage of Carpathian Jews.
- Encounters with Holocaust survivors, who recount their hardships and coping - in order to survive and rebuild their lives.
- We hold meetings during the intermediate days of Sukkot - in order to join the ranks of the third and fourth generations of the Jews of Zakarpattya.
- Building channels of communication with the community, such as our website, which, after many improvements, has received many entrances from our community. (These days it is perfect to insert information in English on this site).
- Every year, we add more activities aimed at consolidating the community and contributing to its development.

All this extensive activity could not have taken place without our dedicated activists:

Indik Michael, Berkovitz Gita, Davidovitz Chaim, Davidovitch Zvi, Hoffman Jacob, Hershkowitz David, Weber Arie, Moshkowitz Moshe, Nimberger Alex, Fixler Ruthi, Yossi Koton, Kleiman Roza, Klein Yitzhak, Rob Yona, Sheinberger Israel and Shimoni Alex.



And of course, thanks to the volunteers: Berger Zvi, Gottesman Jacob, Weinberger Leah, Maltz Efraim, Reizmovitch Mendy and Shaked Yankol.

You are amazing people, with a big heart!

We do not have salaries in the organization, there are no expenses, no coffee and cookies in meetings at the organization's expense. All money received from membership fees, or from donations, is used solely for community activities!

Thank you very much!

Despite the great importance of all activities, the annual memorial service for Holocaust victims is the most exciting event that requires the maximum effort.

The investment is in the logistics aspect of the event, in content, in bringing information to the community and in coordination with "Yad Vashem".

And, of course, to respond to many requests from the community.

Each year, we deal with the question of hall capacity due to the high demand of community members to attend the memorial.

According to "Yad Vashem", we are the only community whose number of participants in the memorial service is increasing ...

We are making a great effort to bring communities of people from Zakarpattya into the world - in order to mark with them this important day.

Last year, three congregations of Carpathians marked with us the memorial day:

The communities of Miami, Uzhgorod and Budapest.

This year we are joined by two more communities: New York and Los Angeles.

We receive reports from the organizers of the events, the number of participants being enormous.

This year, some 80 Holocaust survivors' certificates will be distributed at memorial events in the overseas communities of Zakarpattya.

It is hard for me to explain the great awakening that took place in our community to mark the Memorial Day for our Holocaust victims.

But these are the facts. I can only assume that the answer to the question I ask myself: "Why is this happening?" - Is our sense of responsibility to preserve the memory of our loved ones and our families - if we do not take care of it - it simply will not take place.

There is in this act respect for parents, by whom we were educated!

Yesterday I asked my youngest daughter, Maya: "What if we, the second generation, can no longer hold the memorial in the future, because of age?"

She replied, "Do not forget that your parents are my grandparents, my family roots are as important to me as they are to you."

We, the members of the second generation, must find a way to bring our children and grandchildren into our activities, so that they will continue our path.

I think these are wonderful roots, which included love, kindness, faith, respect for parents and respect for others; Things that are not trivial today and it is worthwhile to encourage those who follow our paths to connect to these roots.

My mother, who is in an old age home, asks every coming holiday: "Is there a Yizkor prayer? She no longer remembers a lot of things, but, to ask the time of the "Yizkor" prayer she never forgets. On the day of Yizkor, I go with her to the synagogue and a few more people gather around me and around my mother. A few who are alive - and this prayer is also important. They look at me questioningly, "Do not we miss?" "Is not it time?" They know that as long as they say "Yizkor", their loved ones who perished, at least, exist in their memory. When you say "Remember" to those who perished in the Holocaust - I try to bring up all the names of my grandparents, my uncles and aunts, cousins and cousins on my mother and father's side. There are so many names, but I feel that I must say them all, as if their existence depended only on me, and if I did not mention their names, they would disappear like the dust of the stars.

Not long ago we marked the "Memorial Day for the Fallen in Israel's Wars and the Victims of Hostilities" - some 26,000 dead, who died for the state.

Almost all 26,000 victims have a date of birth, name, parents' names, children's names, date of fall; All the details that allow to hold a personal memorial to all falls and falls.

In Zakarpattya, some 100,000 Jews perished in the Holocaust. There is no possibility of holding a personal memorial service for each and every one of them. The numbers are enormous, and even if we had the full information, we would not be able to mark the personal Memorial Day. Maybe that was the goal of the Nazis? To erase the Jews and their memory from the face of the earth. But we are here, we remember them, we remember them together. And they will be besieged in our hearts forever!

During the war, when the Germans reached the Carpathians, thousands of Jewish men were recruited to the labor camps. On the historical side, and on the processes that preceded and were carried out during the war, we will receive today a review by Dr. Robert Rozet, director of the library at "Yad Vashem".

I can only speak in my personal aspect.

My father was in Hungarian labor camps [Munkaszazad]. The survival rate in these camps was almost the same percent as in the survivors of this age group in the death camps.

Before our meeting today, I spoke to several people whose fathers were in labor camps.

I asked them: "What did your fathers tell you?"

Their answer was: "Almost nothing."

I spoke with my brothers and asked, "Do you know anything, or did Dad tell you something about this period?"

Their answer was that what they remember for sure is that Dad said that "anyone who was not used to a difficult living situation before the war, could not survive the camps, only those who managed to survive - survived.

But I do remember a story of my father telling me that he was cutting down trees, and then he had to carry the logs from the forest toward the stream. At some point, when he felt that he could no longer go on and he would be crushed under the log, because he was already exhausted, he went out to gamble his life. He pretended to be a man who had lost consciousness and knew two things might happen:

He could rest for a few moments and gather strength, or, a Hungarian soldier would shoot him.

Luckily, he was not shot, and he had the opportunity to gain some strength and continue his daily war of survival.

The survival of most labor camp survivors was also an element of luck.

Upon my uncle's release from the labor camps, he was arrested by Russian soldiers and sentenced to death in a field trial.

A firing squad had to be executed the next day, and in the meantime, he was put into a cellar with a small window, that was open. He saw two Russian officers in front of him standing and talking, and he began to shout that he was a Jew and that he was not a Nazi, that he had not cooperated with the Germans. One of the officers went to the cellar, hugged him and began speaking to him in Yiddish, and so he was saved.

But on a day like this, when so few Hungarians helped the Jews to go through this war in life, we should mark eight Righteous Among the Nations who were part of the Hungarian army and helped the Jews, each in their own way:

NAGY VILMOS ,KIRALY BELA ,OZORAY IMRE ,REVICZKY ,IMRE ,SZABO IMRE ,HORVATH KALMAN , THASSY JENO ,GORGEY GUIDO ,GOMABY JENO.

They were all high-ranking officers.

I'll just say a few words about two of them: NAGY VILMOS and REVICZKY IMRE.

Ravitzky Imre was a colonel in the Hungarian army, a commander in the Eastern Brigade, and under his command were 30,000 Jewish forced laborers.

He tried to fight the abuse of Jews, although any display of humane treatment of Jews was dangerous .He smuggled Jews into the cars, which were supposed to supply trees to the front.

Instead of trees, he loaded Jews with them. When the Germans learned of his deeds, they arrested him and he was sent to Dachau.

After the war, he returned to serve in the Hungarian army, but was later thrown out and forced to work in forced labor - because of his positive attitude toward the Jews.

In 1966, he was recognized as Righteous Among the Nations by "Yad Vashem" and named a street after him in Zfat.

Nagy Vilmos was Minister of Defense for a year and a half, from 1942 to 1943.

He tried to curb the anti-Semitic culture in the Hungarian army and the inhuman treatment of forced laborers. He vehemently opposed the Germans' request to send ten thousand forced laborers to the copper mines in Bor, Serbia.

Because of his position on these issues, he was fired from his post as defense minister, accused of being a Jewish Hasid and under constant attack by the extreme opponents. On June 8, 1943, he resigned from the Hungarian army.

In 1965, he was the first Hungarian officer to be recognized as Righteous Among the Nations by "Yad Vashem".

Although these examples do not represent the entire Hungarian population, as Jews, we must not forget the few who risked their lives to save us.

The State of Israel was established very much thanks to Holocaust survivors who fought and built this land. 6,000,000 Jews should have been murdered in the war, by no fault of their own, so that the north of the world will wake up and grant us the approval for the establishment of our state.

It is our duty, as children of Holocaust survivors, to warn each time that what happened in the past can happen again.

We are committed to preserving our state and to doing everything for its security and its future.

Every year we will continue to say, "Remember - and do not forget!"

The events can be viewed at the following link: <https://youtu.be/PDfBBJgJzD8>

Photographs of the event were also uploaded to the Organization's website: www.carpati.org.il



Before the ceremony, we visited an exhibition of photographs about the Holocaust

2. The list of the deceased that was read at the memorial ceremony

No.	Last name	First name	Place of birth	Place of death	Date of death
1	Abslender	Etela	Kostrina	Kiryat-Gat	February 18
2	Berenheim	Rachel	Munkács	Yakum	August 17
3	Berkovich	Binyamin	Koshelovo	Rishon-Lezion	September 17
4	Hershkovich	Bernard	Kamienska	Migdal-Ha'emek	September 17
5	Erbst	Ester	Neresnize	New-York	January 18
6	Estreicher	Malka	Munkács	Nordiya	March 18
7	Feig	Sam (Shmil)	Leh	Detroit	January 18
8	Fish	Rachel	Teich	Bnei Barak	October 17
9	Fux	Helena (Henchi)	Zhvorovtzi	Los Angeles	August 17
10	Gershoni	Yitzchak	Teich	Karnei-Shomron	September 17
11	Goldenberg (Maizlik)	Hendel	Zadniya	Brooklyn	September 17
12	Greenstein	David	Ilniza	New-York	March 18
13	Guttman	Menachem Mendel	Seilesh	Bnei-Barak	August 17
14	Guttman	Shlomo	Khust	Jerusalem	September 17
15	Halpert	Shlomo	Munkács	Ashdod	December 17
16	Hercz (Smuck)	Manci	Siget	Toronto	September 17
17	Katz	Bumi	Veliki Brezni	Bnei-Barak	May 15
18	Katz	Moshe-Zvi	Veliki Brezni	Bnei-Barak	April 16
19	Katz (Fixler)	Eva	Teich	Cleveland	July 17
20	Kleinman	Sara	Beregsas	Kiryat Gat	April 18
21	Levkovich (Friedman)	Marta	Uzhgorod	Mazkeret-Batya	November 17
22	Liberman	Roza	Volove	Rehovot	May 17
23	Livnat (Weiss)	Avraham (Bondi)	Munkács	Carmeil-Yosef	June 17
24	Markowitz	Aryeh	Svalyava	Rehovot	August 17
25	Moshkovich	Yaakov (Yankl)	Teich	Rehovot	August 17
26	Perl (Feig)	Hanna	Leh	Toronto	October 17
27	Reizner	Hanna	Rostika	Jerusalem	March 18
28	Rozner	Michael	Koshelovo	Ramat Gan	April 18
29	Shayowich	Israel Haim	Rakhov	Bnei Barak	November 17
30	Shteinmetz	Mendel	Dybove	Rehovot	February 17
31	Solomon	Roza Gitl	Khust	Bnei Barak	January 18
32	Vizel	Shmuel	Khust	Ashkelon	July 17
33	Weinberger	Dora	Munkács	Nazareth	February 18
34	Weinberger	Herman	Munkács	Nazareth	December 17

No.	Last name	First name	Place of birth	Place of death	Date of death
35	Weinberger	Rivka	Osoy	Netanya	May 17
36	Weingarten	Shlomo	Rakhov	Petach-Tikva	December 17
37	Weiss	Berta	Rakhov	Ramat-Gan	May 18
38	Weiss	Neti	Munkács	Rehovot	February 18
39	Weiss	Shmil	Munkács	New-York	April 17
40	Yosowich	Dvora	Khust	Bnei-Barak	October 17



Dr. Robert Roza, Director of the "Yad Vashem" Libraries, lectured on the Hungarian labor battalions

Betty Klein sang in Hebrew, Yiddish and Hungarian



וַיְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר-בָּא יוֹסֵף אֶל-אָחָיו; וַיִּפְשְׁטוּ אֶת-יוֹסֵף אֶת-כְּתָנֹתָו, אֶת-כְּתָנֹת הַפְּסִיסִים אֲשֶׁר עָלָיו. וַיִּקְחֵהוּ, וַיִּשְׁלְכוּ אֹתוֹ הַבְּרָה; וְהַבּוֹר רָק, אֵין בּוֹ מַיִם. (בראשית ל"ז, 24-23)

And when he was added to his brothers; And they spread out his gift, and the stripes which he had on him. And they took him, and they took him away; And the grave is empty, there is no water in it.

(Genesis 37: 24-23)

The striped shirt / Ruthi Fixler

There, in the shower,
She sliced a plexus.
They were pushed naked
Women and maidens.
Identity was stripped,
She was wearing a nightgown.
Along the stripes -
And the face of evil is so glad ...
Were thrown into the pit,
Zero hope and light.
Determined number,
Called the Order.
In the sun and snow -
And only a shirt for the garment.

Taken hair,
Gate closed.
Zero mercy,
Tears grew.
Where is water?
Where is Heaven?
Terrible,
Deep in doom!



Ruthi Fixler reads the names of the deceased and the song she wrote (in the background, the names of the deceased are screened)

A girl with braids / Martin (Mickey) Kalush

A brave little girl with two braids,
From a small village to a big city she went to study.
With daring and determination she found an apartment and
the year 1944 in Europe was a difficult year.
She managed pretty well at first
until the Germans came to the big city.
Then in the morning on the way to work, out of the station,
The Jews and the girl were taken to the death camp.
And instead of the braids the girl got a bald spot, Mickey Kalush reading his poem.
Instead of beautiful clothes she got a rag in the smell of fever,
And on the ugly and fateful tattoo arm number 8156, the 6th looks like 0,
"Shut up," the tattooist screamed. "That's what it is!"

The girl with the bald spot learned to survive in the extermination camp.
Every day a small slice of bread, shouting, beating and hard work.
But the hope and faith to get out of here helped to survive the period
Until one day another train arrived with a younger girl, who was also her sister.
The girl with the bald spot felt that she had to meet them, they had to !!!
And despite the guards she managed to move from her camp to the sister's camp.
There were hugs, tears, information about who was alive, who was dead, how to survive,
And also three slices of gift bread, which she managed to save for the nurse.
Time passes quickly and after the moving meeting
We have to go back to roll call and count to get through.
But that German in the aisle was alert this time

And yelled at the girl with the bald head - "Right back to the train, come back!"
"But I'm from there," the girl pointed out. "I passed by mistake."
The German was surprised, "You'll pay for it," he said viciously,
"Show me your arm, I'll find you for sure."
And write down the number, which at the end looks like 0, and that has meaning!
And so the girl returned to the count and the end of the work day,
And another cold night's sleep on planks in stale blankets.
But this time with a sweet childhood dream from meeting her sister,
And the thought, that for a moment did not stop, how they came together from the camp.
The morning came quickly, as always before dawn,
And then again and again, despair for a day's work.
But outside they all suddenly noticed a pillar in front of the plaza
A woman's body hangs from the death camp.
The "Yemach Shemam" laughed and screamed with pleasure at all the girls:

"Look what happens to those who leave the camp in violation of orders!"
And on the arm of the poor woman on the pole in a swinging square,
A number emerges, almost like that of the girl whose sister is still dreaming.
The number was the same, only with zero suffix instead of six
Fate played for her, this is life and that's what it is!
And so fate played both for my own good and mine -
Because the girl with braids years later will be - my mother!





The audience filled the Safra hall at "Yad Vashem".



Thank you for your honorable participation in this important ceremony!

4. Annual memorial service in communities abroad

Many photos and videos will be uploaded to the Amuta website in Hebrew and English.

We thank all the event organizers in the various communities and, no less, for all the dozens of Holocaust survivors, together with the families of the second, third and fourth generations, who honored the ceremonies with their presence. Let them have health and longevity, Amen!

• The community of Uzhgorod

The event was organized by David Rosner for the second year, which managed to gather 40 people from Uzhgorod and the surrounding towns. The ceremony was held at the Jerusalem Cafe in the city, with refreshments donated by David Rosner.

The guest of honor was Marshall Katz from the United States.

The program included watching the broadcast of the ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance at "Yad Vashem". Mr. Rosner and the "El Maleh Rachamim" prayer by Rabbi Wilhelm Mendel, the rabbi of the Jewish community in Zakarpattya, recited the Kaddish prayer. Memorial candles were lit at the ceremony: Holocaust survivors - Ms. Halpert and Mr. Noybauer, lighted the first two candles; Leo Kessler, Marshal Katz, Yefim Rosenthal and Rabbi Mendel Wilhelm lighted the other candles.



Rabbi Mendel Wilhelm



David Rozner





● **The community of Budapest:** Kolya Solomon organized the memorial ceremony this year. People who helped him:

Mrs. Zsófia LEFKOVICS, Director of ERZSÉBETVRROS MUSEUM OF JEWISH ARCHIVES

Mr. Gábor DEKK, Leading activist of Hungary's Jewish community

Mrs. Zsuzsa RÓZSA, Mrs. Éva KELÉNYI, Mr. Sándor HALPERT,

Mr. Ferenc JAVORI, composer, pianist, Ms Eszter ADAM, opera singer

Ms Katalin DOMAN, Opera House pianist

Mr. Benjámin KELEMEN (Israel), businessman, voluntary photographer

Although the entire ceremony was particularly moving, the following are the main events:

1. Awarding a certificate of appreciation to Mrs. Bella Kirshenbaum and the "Kaddish"
2. The participation of the Újlaki couple, whose family saved Ilona Weiss (Kraus after her marriage), a girl from Munkács. It was a surprise to those who came to the ceremony!
3. Three musical excerpts ("The Hope," "Eli" in Yiddish), sung by Eszter Adám, with the audience joining the song with the words of the songs that were distributed in advance and" A Yiddishe Mamme"
4. A lecture on the work battalions of the Hungarian army, given by Dr. Miklós Solomon
5. Giving flowers to Eszter Solomon, the only granddaughter of the third generation, who participated in the ceremony.





Kolya Solomon lectures on the labor battalions



The third generation



● The Los Angeles Community

The ceremony was held for the first time this year – organized by Kathleen (Kati) Weinberger, assisted by Clara Furston, Mark David (founder and conductor of the Voice of Yiddish, second generation) and Myra Gabbay (director of Shelters for Israel, second generation).

"Hatikvah" singing accompanied by Cookie Segalstein, violinist (second generation) and Neil Brustoff, pianist.

A prominent spokesman: Amram Deutsch, a survivor

"Memories of the Carpathians" were told by Tibor Weinberger, a survivor.

Memorial candles were lit; Avraham Berger, a survivor, delivered the Kaddish prayer;

Amram Deutsch, a survivor, performed the prayer "El Maleh Rachamim".

"Zug nisht keinmul" by David Lange, survivor.

Special thanks to Neil Brustoff for the musical program, former coordinator of Jewish Music programs at the University of California;

Kuki Segalstein, who specializes in instrumental Jewish folk music from the 19th and 20th centuries in the Carpathians;

Audio / Video / Photography: Mark Franklin (FranklinVideoProductions.com); Allen Gabby; Eitan gabby; Andres Somogi (photo), print: Eugene Moskowitz (B & B Fine Printing)

In appreciation: Debbie David, Keren David, Anne Reisman, Leslie and Scott Schlutter, Tibor Weinberger.

The events can be viewed at the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kYoMjVhJ_XE



Tibor Weinberger





●The Miami Community

This year's ceremony was organized by Prof. Asher Milbauer (this is the second year), together with Aharon Newman. We would like to thank them and the following people, who helped with time, effort, food, and the place of the ceremony:

- Sam Schwartz, President of Balmoral Condo association;
- Michael Spiegel, Treasurer, and the entire Board of Directors, for opening and hosting the event in this beautiful facility;
- Boris Vertsburger, for sponsoring the Tikkun collation;
- Henry Ramos, Concierge, for facilitating the room, seating, and the Media outlet for our visual presentation.
- Dr. Krieger, for assisting with the set-up of the video presentation.
- All women and men, volunteers who helped to set up the collision tables and directing the traffic to the Hall.

Special thanks to Alex Spiegel (Sandy) for helping organize the event.

We would also like to thank Gali Milbauer-Levkovitz and Sam, her husband (third generation), technological operations and preparation of the presentation, and Randy Narkir (third generation) who gave a lecture on the journey to the concentration camps.





●The New York / New Jersey Community

In November 2017 we met with Hannah Hoffman in Israel and raised the idea of holding the memorial service in New York. Hannah willingly joined in and began recruiting people, who helped to hold the ceremony: Alex Roth invited The Brooklyn Borough President, Eric Leroy Adams, who delivered a moving and unusual speech.

The main lecturer was David Mandler, Ph.D.

Guest lecturer was the historian John C. Swanson, Ph.D. From the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga,

Great help was received from Alex Roth.

Special thanks to: Michael (Mendu) Spiegel, Dave Maskoupf, Ervin Roth and Lily Mauskop
And to the many who helped Hannah Hoffman organize this





5. A film about the second generation

the local television channel [Channel 98] created a film about the second generation of Holocaust survivors. In the film, our company, Ruthi Fixler, tells us about the activities of our association (in Hebrew).

The film has been uploaded to the organization's website: carpati.org.il and can be viewed on the You Tube at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=28cukOxag9g&feature=share>

6. Carpathian prominent people: Israel Moshkovich.

Israel was born in 1926 in Mittel-Apshe [now called Serednje Vodyane; In Russian: Середни Водяне], a village in the Rakhov district.

His parents were Meir and Malka. The parents raised 14 children in a spacious house. The mother was a housewife and the father served in the Czech police until 1940. On one Saturday, the father was arrested in the synagogue - saying that he was a Russian spy, but was released a day later. In 1941 the family was deported to the East (like anyone who could not prove his citizenship), but they managed to return home.

On Passover 1944, the family was deported to the ghetto in Okna Slotina (in Hungarian: aknaszlatina). Israel worked in the ghetto cleaning a pigsty. The family found refuge in the synagogue in the ghetto. The father fell ill, was hospitalized in a unit, and on one Saturday it was their last meeting ...



On Shavuot, the family was sent to Auschwitz and Israel was sent by Dr. Mengele to the right, and he had to undergo three huts in the first: to throw away all the equipment he brought in, to strip completely and in the third hut he had to get a full haircut. At that time, Israel managed to sneak into the first hut and extract a large loaf of bread, where half of the bread was distributed to all the people for dinner, and the next half was distributed the following morning.

After a week in Auschwitz, Israel was sent to Buchenwald, to Block 8, the children's barracks; His personal number was 57035. In the camp they worked half a day. On the other half of the day they learned Russian from a Ukrainian prisoner. Israel testified that he was very curious and used to turn around and know the camp where he was arrested.

On one of the orders, Israel was sent by a German officer to the crematorium - but managed to escape; For a month he hid and then returned to the hut. The officer recognized him again at roll call - and again he was sent to the fire chamber. He was asked to wait a few minutes - and again he ran away ... When he returned to the hut, the man in charge of the place chose him. He was one of the ten children to work in a factory in the Gleiwitz camp. A Nazi officer, who shouted at them and cursed them, supervised them. But when no one would see - he would give them food and drink ... The officer's house was at the edge of the camp and occasionally he would send two children to the house to clean the yard. While they were in his house, his wife fed them with soup and other food.

Toward the end of the war, he gave them a note with his real address in the nearby town and told them that if they needed help they would come and he would help them. When the Americans released Israel and the other children, they went home to him on the fourth day of Passover 1945, and to their surprise, he was dressed in the uniform of a British officer ... It turned out that he was a British spy!

During his stay in Buchenwald he was often referred to as the "Dog". Revenge was not long in coming: when the camp was liberated by the Americans, they brought in German citizens to show them what they had done to the Jews. This commander pretended to be a civilian and came with them to the camp. Israel recognized him, the man was taken to the POW camp near the gate and the Nazis saluted him. When asked why they did this, they replied that it was their commander! Israel decided to liquidate him - and so he did ...

At the end of the war, Israel returned home and found a pigsty in his house. He obtained poisoned wheat seeds, sneaked into the house and "fed" the pigs, which until morning had mostly died of the poisoning. Israel had to escape because the Russian police were behind him. He escaped to Romania and from there to Hungary, where he began his immigration training. From there he reached Yugoslavia and Italy and spent some time in the Chinchita refugee camp in Rome. From there Israel went to Argentina, but when they reached the shore they did not allow the Jews to disembark. The publication of the issue summoned the JDC staff and with their assistance, approval was received for their absorption. Israel joined the Habonim Dror youth movement and began preparing for immigration to Israel. He accompanied the group that boarded a ship and boarded the ship illegally. The Brazilian police arrested him and he was returned to Argentina.

In 1948, after so many hardships, Israel came to Israel, to Kibbutz Mefalsim [in the northwestern Negev, where South American immigrants live].

In 1956, Israel reached Rosh Pina, developed a farm and worked in the barbershop.

He has 7 children (5 boys and 2 girls), 29 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren! More the better!