



Bulletin No. 121 – May 2024

1. The annual commemoration at "Yad Vashem"
2. "Name and Candle" - a personal memorial candle in memory of those murdered in the Holocaust
3. "Promise and trend" - the event at "Kugel" high school in Holon
4. A story from the past: Dr. Haim Kugel and Moshe Leib Moshkowitz
5. Knesset Sefer Torah - Hershkowitz family
6. Remembrance Day For The Fallen Israelis
7. Volunteering from the USA in the Gaza Envelope
8. "Ambassadors of memory in the first person"
9. From the press: Objects discovered in Auschwitz
10. Jews born in Karpatorus - Prof. Ervin Adam (Rakhov)
11. Ours: General Gershon HaCohen (Monkach)

**The journey to Auschwitz**

**A group was organized for the trip. If there is still anyone interested in joining –  
please contact Ruthie Fixler 050-5643299**

**1. The annual commemoration at "Yad Vashem"**

The annual commemoration at "Yad Vashem" will take place on Wednesday, 14 Be'Eyar, May 22, 2024.

Before the ceremony, in two different groups, we will conduct a tour of the synagogue at "Yad Vashem" or at the Temple of the Names.

Then we will gather in the "Yizkor" tent for the traditional ceremony. From there we will move to the Safra Auditorium, where we will be treated to light refreshments and the memorial event.

As every year we organize transportation. The round trip fee is NIS 75/person.

**2. "Shem Vener" - memorial candles in memory of family members**

**[on the website <https://www.shemvener.org.il/>]**

From the website of the association with this name: "On the eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day, which will fall this year on Sunday, May 5, 2024, we are preparing for the tradition of lighting a personal memorial candle in memory of a person who perished in the Holocaust.

We invite everyone to join the tradition and light a personal memorial candle in memory of one of the six million who perished. On each "Shem Vener" candle, there is the name of a person who perished in the Holocaust, details about him and a reference code to a link for more information about him.



You can print a label independently from the association's website by selecting a name from the name database –

[מילוי פרטים](#) or by filling in the details of a specific person as you wish - [מאגר השמות](#)

The printed label must be cut and pasted on a standard soul candle sold in the markets".

### 3. "Promise and trend" - the event at "Kugel" high school in Holon

On Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> Nisan, April 12, 2024, we gathered at "Kugel" High School in Holon to mark 3 decades: 100 years since the establishment of the Hebrew Gymnasium in Munkach, 90 years since the signing of the "Promise and Trend" document - a commitment by the graduates of the third cohort to meet At the Western Wall, on the eve of Passover, a decade later; 80 years since the partial fulfillment of the promise.

We were honored with their presence by the two grandsons of Dr. Haim Kugel, the first director: Dr. Chen Kugel and Yoel Bar Gil. Also, there were the daughter-in-law and granddaughter of the second manager, the engineer Eliyahu Rubin, Miriam and Ayelet. The host of the event, Prof. Yitzhal Berner is the son of Aharon, one of the three who came to the planned meeting. Aryeh Neuman's son, another seal, also arrived; Absent [due to illness] Leah Yeger, daughter of the third seal, Gershon Yeger. Descendants and family members of the members of this cohort and more also took part.

The opening slide of the presentation - and the welcome sign at "Kugel" high school





The host of the event, Prof. Yitzhal Berner, born in Haifa, is a doctor, a Technion graduate who specialized in internal medicine and geriatric medicine. He managed the geriatric medicine unit of the "Meir" hospital in Kfar Saba and served as its director for two decades, until his retirement. He is, as mentioned, the son of Aharon Berner, one of the signers of the promise.

Dr. Chen Kugel received a certificate from us - Recognition on the occasion of his winning the "Israel Prize" for civil valor

From the right: Prof. Yitzhal Berner, Ruthi Fixler, Zeev Millbauer and Dr. Chen Kugel



ד"ר ניסן תשפ"ד  
12 באפריל 2024

carpati.org.il  
האגון העולמי של יהודים  
יוצאי זאקופטיה - סרנסקופטיה (יער)

• לדי"ר חן קוגל  
• עם הכייתה על זכייתך בפרס ישראל תשפ"ד לגבורה אזרחית  
• בהערכה רבה  
• יום 100 שנה להקמת הגמנסיה העברית במונקץ' / צ'כוסלובקיה  
• על ידי דר' חיים קוגל  
הבטחה ומגמה, 80 שנה למימושה החלקי



Tova Shemer Oren points to a picture of her mother, a high school graduate, from the documentary "Munkach's Children of Hope". Two lines below her - the picture of her aunt, Tsipora.

"The meeting was so exciting and enriching, thank you very much for the initiative, the leadership and the result, where so many students are interested in the distant history of a small community, in an unfamiliar place."

Yossi Baruch, Shlomo Arbel's son-in-law- Tells about the life of Shlomo



Doron Noyman, son of Aryeh, who came to the meeting at the Western Wall, tells about his father



Margalit Kotev - about Uncle Shlomo-Leib Shlomowitz





Samdar Hadad [second from the right], principal of the six-year high school "Kugel" - receiving a certificate of appreciation

The meeting was also attended by students from "Kugel" High School, who participate in the "Talking Stones" project; The project seeks to remember and preserve the vibrant life of the Jewish towns just before they disappeared forever - through community monuments, located in the Holon cemetery.

The students of the class adopted the monument of the Munkach community.



The high school students, documenting the community - And with Yitzhal, with whom they asked to take a picture





From the right: Thalma Baruch (Arbel), Yoel Bar Gil, Chen Kugel, Humi Brown, Ruthi Fixler, Doron Noyman, Yitzhal Berner, Hanoch Lipperman, Tova Shemer Oren, Zeev Milbauer and Zvika Yeger



From the right: Yoel Bar Gil, Dorit Levin [Kfar Yehezkel], Yael Eini, Ruthi Exmit, Hanoch Lipperman, Sarah Gelberg, Tova Shemer Oren, Dorit Levin [Kfar Yona], Roni Avni, Doron Noyman, Ruthi Fixler, Humi Brown, Thalma Baruch, Yitzhal Berner

#### 4. A story from the past: Dr. Haim Kugel and Shlomo-Leib Moskovitz

Ahead of the event we organized to mark the 100th anniversary of the gymnasium, Margalit Kotev, born in 1945, who was born in Rehovot, and whose parents are from Munkach and Verecki (now Vorota, Volovec district), contacted me and shared a family story, that links her family member to Dr. Chaim Kugel.

Shlomo-Leib Moshkowitz worked as a maintenance man at the gymnasium in Munkach. He was married to Malka, who was Margalit's aunt (her father's sister). His eldest daughter, Margula, also studied at the gymnasium. Out of appreciation for his personality, Haim Kugel allowed Shlomo-

Leib to study and take the matriculation exams... he received the matriculation certificate together with his daughter!

However, later, when the Germans entered Karpatorus and the deportation to the ghettos and Auschwitz began, Shlomo Leib wrote a letter to Haim Kugel asking for help.

Below is the letter from "The Story of the Munkach Community - A Jewish City at the Foot of the Carpathians" - the "Yad Vashem" website:

"A letter written by Shlomo-Leib Moskovitz, an employee of the Hebrew gymnasium in Munkach, to Dr. Haim Kugel, the director of the gymnasium, who left for Israel.

On May 1944 Shlomo Leib, his wife Malka and four of his children were sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau in the same car. Shlomo-Leib died at the age of 44 in Bergen-Belsen in March 1945 from hunger and exhaustion, in the arms of his son, Moshe. His wife

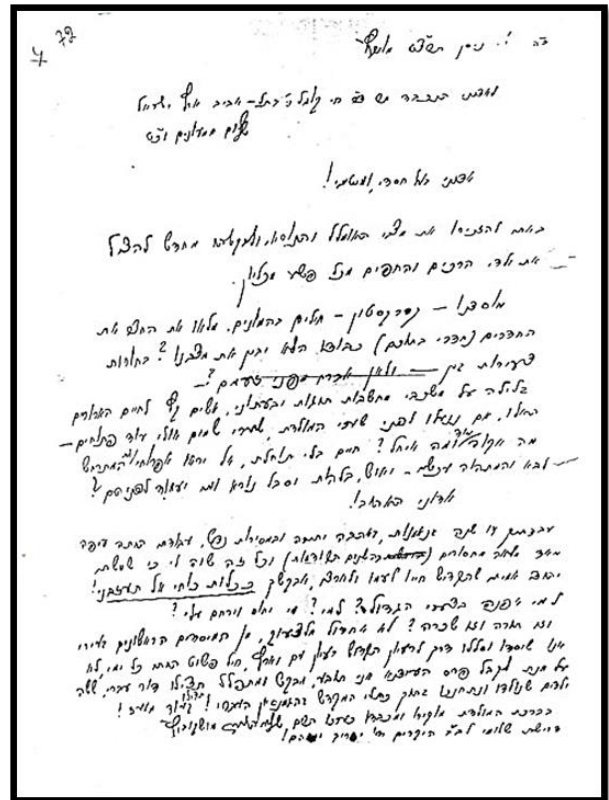
Malka, née Halpert, his 12-year-old daughter Esther and his 10-year-old son Hersh-Haim were murdered in Auschwitz. His two daughters, Margula and Leah\*, immigrated to Eretz Israel already in 1939. His son Moshe and his daughter Sarah survived." [From "Yad Vashem", Document Archive O.75/851]

[\*Lea immigrated to Israel and studied for two years at the "Ben Shemen" youth village. After that, she attended and graduated from the nursing school next to Beillinson Hospital. She was drafted into the IDF in July 1948, and after the war of liberation she joined the regular army. She worked as a nurse, mainly in the operating room. She saw her whole



purpose in life in helping the sick and wounded, and in this work she showed great dedication. She died of illness and was buried in the military cemetery in Nachalat-Yitzhak. Leah is commemorated on our memorial wall in "Ben Shemen", not far from the youth village where she studied...].

The Moshkowitz family: the parents, Shlomo-Leib and Malka nee Halpert. From the right in the top row: Margula, Lily/Leah and Sidi/Sara. In the bottom row: in the middle Moshe Meirom who survived; On either side of him are Hersh-Haim and Esther, the younger siblings who did not return from Auschwitz



Margula was a graduate of the Hebrew gymnasium in Munkach and then immigrated to Israel and studied at the agricultural school for girls in Nahalal; She was a classmate of Hana Senesh. She served in the British Army in Egypt.



1946 :Moshe Moshkowitz Meirum (left)

Sarah/Sidi, another daughter of the Moshkowitz family (right)

### 5. The inauguration of Tora scroll- Hershkowitz family (Ganich and Ust-Chorna)

Thus wrote Jacob Hershkowitz, our friend, who lost his son, Yosef-Chaim, in the last war. [The words - with his approval]. "The 1950s of the young state of Israel, to the far north of the sower's seat, after endless hardships, a couple of Holocaust survivors arrive: Chaya and Mandy Hershkowitz. They are not alone; with them are their two young children, Tzipora and Yaakov. They build a glorious farm with their ten fingers and sustain themselves. Mandi Hershkovitz passed away 25 years ago. Chaya Hershkovitz died two years ago, at the age of 98. This year, a Torah scroll was placed in their name in the place where they loved, right after Simchat Torah. No one expected the horrors that happened..

Many of the family members were recruited, and therefore it was decided that until all of them return, no Torah scroll can be brought in! The Torah scroll has been waiting for half a year... and not all of them have returned... Yossi Hershkowitz the 14th, grandmother Chaya's most beloved grandson, fell in battle at Beit Hanun on 26 Chesvan. Yossi used to visit Grandma every week and on every stage he would tell the story of her life.

This week, on the eve of Rosh Chodesh Nissan, the Jurzeit of Mandy Hershkowitz, it was decided that the Tora scroll would be introduced with pomp and splendor.

The descendants of Chaya and Mandi - the Hershkowitz and Koritz families, gathered from all over the country in the moshav Hazorim [near Tiberias]. Yossi was with us in spirit, looking at us, and the will he left echoed in our families: "There is no right-wing, no ultra-orthodox, nothing. There are Jews." Together with their many offspring, Chaya and Mandy and our beloved Yossi danced in the sky. "Israel Lives!"





Hershkowitz – Koritz tribe



The mother Chaya, born in Königsfeld (today it is called (Ust-Chorna)) and the father Mendi, born in Ganich (the 2 towns near Neresnytsa)

Nadav, the grandson of Yaakov and great-grandson of Chaya and Mandy Hershkovitz, whose picture hangs in the back. May their memory be blessed!



## 6. Remembrance Day For The Fallen Israelis.

A few months ago, we uploaded to the association's website extensive documentation (588 pages) of the victims of the war on the way to the establishment of the state. **The documentation [in Hebrew] includes 119 names of girls and boys, born in Karpaturus, who fell in this campaign.** The documentation can be found on the association's website: [CARPATI.ORG.IL](http://CARPATI.ORG.IL)

Tab "In memory of the world"

"From the Carpathian Mountains - to the rise of the state"

Martyrs of the War of Liberation

By clicking on the word "click" the documentation will come up.

I invite you to enter the website and read this respectful documentation.

You can honor their memory by lighting a "virtual candle" on the "Yizkor" website. Write in Google "Yizkor Ministry of Defense"

Go to "Yizkor - Home Page"

Enter the name of the space – search

Next to the name of the space there is an inscription "light a candle"

Write down a few words, your name - and sharing.

You can choose a name according to your wish - familiarity with the space, with his birthplace, or a randomly.

The registration of the names is according to their writing in Hebrew On the "Yizkor" website.

The names marked with \* are recorded on the "la'ad" website - killed as civilians in hostilities.

Their names appears there only in Hebrew.

No.	Name	Place of birth	Parents' names	No.	Name	Place of birth	Parents' names
1	Avramovich Moshe	Khust	Rivka and Dov	61	Yaakovovitch Itzhak	Bilki	Feige and Yehoshua
2	Adler Arie	Solotvino	Batya and Shmuel	62	Yaakovovitch Zvi	Berezny	Frida and Haim-Dov
3	Adler Itzhak	Beregsas	Mindel and Michael	63	Yaakovovitch Tzipora	Dorobratovo	Regina and Haim
4	Adler Michael	Solotvino	Hava and Itzhak	64	Cohen Nahman (Yossef-Iben)	Tisza ujlak	Henya and Yosef
5	Edelshtein Asher (Anshil)	Khust	Miriam and Shalom	65	Cahana Yaakov	Beregsas	Rivka and Avraham
6	Aynoren Shmuel	Yasinya	Hava and Asher Enshel	66	Kenaani Foierberger Hilel (Mahil)	Kenigsfeld	Klara and Aharon
7*	Itzkovich Asher	Vilkhovitz	Pepi and Eliyahu	67	Katz Israel	Khust	Yehudit and Eliezer
8	Itzkovitch Zvi (Hershi)	Teich	Zisel and David	68	Katz (Kitzi) Menahem	Svalyava	Hana and Aharon
9	Altman Yaakov	Beregsas	Sara and Haim	69	Luger Yaakov	Velyiky Bychkiv	Perl and Yosef
10	Angel Shmuel	Zvorivchi	Ahuva and Pinhas	70	Leibovitch Arie Tuvya	Uglya	Malka and Itzhak
11	Apapaldorper Alexander	Brezniky	Tova and Zvi	71	Moshkovitch Lea	Munkach	Malka and Shlomo
12	Akerman Israel	Palanok	Malka and David	72	Moshkovitch Zvi	Sokyrnytsya	Feige and Yechiel-Mihal
13	Erbest Gershon	Bilin	Henchi and Shlomo	73	Maizelik Yaakov	Khust	Rivka and Mordehai

No.	Name	Place of birth	Parents' names	No.	Name	Place of birth	Parents' names
14	Bistrizer Shmuel	Novo selytsya	Yente and Yosef-Mordehay	74	Miller David	Solotvino	Roza and Itzhak
15	Ben Meir Ben-Zion	Khust	Sara-Lea and Meir	75	Mendel Shlomo	Ganich	Sara and Ben-Zion
16	Berkovitch Zvi	Neresnytsa	Zipora and Yosef	76	Marmelshtein Tuvia	Velyiky Bychkiv	Hana-Helena and Israel Leib
17	Gotesman Mordehay	Fedeles falva	Ester and Shmuel	77	Markovitch Zeev	Uglya	Beracha and Avraham
18	Goldshtein Shamai	Kivyashd	Hinda and Zelig	78	Markovitch Yaakov	Iza	Tzipora and Nahman
19	Goldshild David	Khust	Gitel and Yehezkel	79	Naylinger Shmuel-Zalman	Khust	Sara-Lea and Meir
20	Glidai (Aeizler) Shlomo-Yaakov	Rostoka	Ester-Malka and Zeev	80	Salomon Yehoshua (Shaya)	Luchki	Hana and Zvi
21	Gross Meir (Vili)	Uzhgorod	Ethel and Alexander	81	Sandrovitch Israel (Shimon)	Tereseva	Tzipora and Moshe
22	Gross Shmaayahu	Khust	Pessia and Mordehai	82	Panias Shaul-Eliezer (Shani)	Khust	Haya-Sara and Meir
23*	Grossman Asher	Munkach	Sara and Itzhak	83*	Felberbaum Yosef	Khust	Ada and Yaakov
24	Grinberger Moshe	Dibove	Hana and Zelig	84	PromovitchItzhak-Elimeleh	Bilovartsy	Alta-Zata and Shmuel
25	Grinberger Zvi-Hershi	Kolochava	Pessil and David	85	Frid David	Uzhgorod	Ester and Mordehai
26	Grinshtein Shmuel	Munkach	Haya and Moshe	86	Friedman Isashar-Dov	Khust	Sheindel and Yosef
27	Davidovitch Binyamin	Volove	Sara and Efraim	87	Friedman Shraga (Poli)	Sukha	Sara and Yosef
28	Davidovitch Itzhak	Volove	Malka and Avraham	88	Prizant Lea (Ariela)	Dibove	Malka and Yaakov
29	Davidovitch Menahem (Mendi)	Solotvino	Haya-Reize and Tuvia	89	Freizler Efraim	Dilove	Rivka and Zindl-Hanokh
30	Davidovitch Martin (Yechiel Michael)	Zdenovo	Tzipora-Lea and Haim Yehuda	90*	Farkash Yehoshua Yeshayahu	Neresnytsa	Sara and Mihel

No.	Name	Place of birth	Parents' names	No.	Name	Place of birth	Parents' names
31	Davidovich Shlomo	Volove	Malka and Avraham	91	Farkash Meir	Velyatyno	Rachel and Avraham
32	Davidovitch Shimon	Apshe	Ita-Rachel and Moshe	92	Farkash Moshe Yaakov	Muzhoy	Sara and Shmuel
33	Doitsh Leizerovitch Bunyamin	Solotvino	Bracha and Yaakov	93	Zukerberger Haim (Haimke)	Nelipyno	Miriam and Yaakov
34	Hai Natan	Munkach	Matil and Yaakov	94	Chik Israel	Nyágova	Fromid and Yaakov
35	Hoizman Zvi-Yehezkel	Munkach	Rachel and Shalom	95	Kaufman Mordehay (Motale)	Solotvino	Hana and Benyamin
36	Holander Moshe	Kivyashd	Rahchel and Ben-Zion	96	Koyfman Zalman	Ternovo	Kreindel and Yehuda
37	Hoifman Israel Moshe	Apshe	Devora and Yehoshua	97	Kopolovitch Shmuel (Kopo)	Khust	Lea and Yaakov
38	Hofman Moshe (Max)	Volove	Ester and Leo	98	Klar Michael (Written Keler)	Volove	Miriam and Shraga
39	Hofman Arie Shaul	Teich	Feige and Yechiel	99	Klein David	Irshava	Rivka and Haim-Itzhak
40	Hor Yosef (Yushke)	Uzhgorod	Rivka and Benyamin	100	Klein Paltshak Israel-Meir	Dovhe	Rachel and Zvi
41	Heizler Bezalel	Volovets	Malka and Moshe	101	Klein Michael	Munkach	Klara and Eliyahu
42*	Heimfeld Yehezkel Shraga	Khust	Feige and Nahman-Haim	102	Kenigsberg Shmuel	Uzhgorod	Yuta and Zvi
43	Harman Yaakov-Arie Yehuda	Tiszauljak	Yente and Haim	103	Kesler Zvi Yehiel	Munkach	Yafa and Itzhak
44	Hartshtein Avraham	Cserleno	Hana and Natan	104	Rozmovitch Yehezkel	Solotvino	Rachel and Avraham
45	Harmel Akiva	Volove	Sara and Yaakov	105	Rozenvasser Itzhak	Uzhgorod	Lenke and Lajosh [not Itik]
46	Herskovitch Arie	Bushtino	Sara and David	106	Rozental Yaakov	Szollos	Ester-Rivka and Mordehai
47	Volf Mordehay - Shmuel (Muki)	Csop	Sara and Yaakov	107	Rot Alexander	Terebla	Rivka and Moshe

No.	Name	Place of birth	Parents' names	No.	Name	Place of birth	Parents' names
48	Vigdorovitch Binyamin	Teich	Ester and Zalman	108	Rot Baruh	Irshava	Yehudit and Zvi
49	Weinverger Shamai	Khust	Miriam and Haim	109	Rotman Menahem	Volove	Sara and Moshe
50	Weiss Yaakov	Munkach	Helena and Yosef	110	Rizmovitch Geza	Tereseva	Krindy and Yosef
51	Vilinger Moshe	Uzhgorod	Frida and Baruh	111	Swartz David (Dudi)	Irshava	Sara-Feige and Mordehai
51	Weiss Aharon	Irshava	Yafa and Moshe	112	Shwarz Zvi-Yehuda (Adom)	Munkach	afa and Moshe-Yehoshua
53	Weiss Shalom	Munkach	Rachel and Eliezer	113	Shwartz David	Solotvino	Lea and Shlombo
54	Virtzberger avraham	Velikiy Berezny	Nehama and Haim	114	Shore Zvi	Sasovo	Lea Avraham
55	Zegelshtein Yehuda	Majdan	Rivka and Efraim	115	Shiler Zvi (Bendi)	Uzhgorod	Gavriela and Friedrich
56	Zegelshtein Rahel	Majdan	Rivka and Efraim	116	SheinfeldZvi-Haim-Yaakov	Munkach	Shoshana and Naftali
57	Zigelshtein Efraim	Munkach	Bluma and Zvi	117	Shmuelevitch Menahem-Mendel	Teich	Tzipora and Moshe
58	Zinger Hana	Loza	Beille and Naftali	118	Shmueli (Cahana) Ben-Zion	Khust	Ester and Shlomo
59	Zeira (Klein) Shimon	Khust	Naha and Yosef	119	Shreiber Shmuel-Mordehai (Arno)	Tisza ujlak	Yoheved and Moshe
60	Yaakovovitch Haim-Yehuda	Drahovo	Penina and Anshel				

**This year, unfortunately, more casualties from the "Iron Swords" war were added, members of the third generation:**

**Aloni Eran, Bronshtein Roman, Hershkovitz Yosef Haim,  
Lavi Tzvika, Tsadikovitz Omer.**

**May the memory of the martyrs of Israel be blessed forever!**

## 7. Volunteering from the USA in the Gaza Envelope

I received those photos from our friend, Hanna Hoffman, who lives in New Jersey. Her son Moti and his daughter, Yael, her granddaughter, came from the USA to volunteer in picking vegetables. The cabbage was picked in Moshav Shuva, located about 4 miles from the border.



BBQ at one of the bases near the Gaza border: Moti and Yael Hoffman





Hana Hoffman's daughter, Rachel Klein, also came from the USA to volunteer at the IDF base in Otef



### 8. "Ambassadors of memory in the first person"

Our friend, Vera Reznik from Rishon-Lezion, born in Uzhgorod, nee Klein, brought to my attention the information about the project "Telling the memory of the Holocaust in the first person". From the website of this association: "The responsibility for preserving the memory passes to us, the future generations. To ensure that every person in Israel can experience and connect with the personal story of Holocaust survivors, we have taken it upon ourselves to train ambassadors of remembrance in Israel and around the world. The project operates in the cities and local councils. The graduates volunteer to tell the story at city ceremonies, in the community, at schools and at memorial gatherings in the living room.

Link to the association's website <https://begufrishon.org.il/>

Vera's father, Rudolph (Rudi), was born in 1914 in Chop; When he was 18, his family moved to Uzhgorod. On 1.10.1940 he was recruited into work for forced labor of the Hungarian army - until 10.1.1945. Then he was taken, under the German army, to the Mathausen concentration camp, from which he was released on 5.1945.

A similar fate was experienced by many men on Carpatorus.

The mother, Rosa Govner, was born in Uzhgorod in December 1918, and like everyone else - was sent to Auschwitz in May 1944. She returned to Uzhgorod only in December 1945.

The parents married on March 8, 1946.

Vera presented her father's story in Israel at the beginning of April.

See the link in Israel: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/qYwC32YccjC3VuTQ7>

From an article from a local newspaper in Israel from April 7, 2024:

"Last week, a particularly exciting project came to an end: for the first time in Rishon Lezion, an exposure event was held for the "Ambassadors of Remembrance" course, which provided unique training to 20 residents and residents of the city who learned to tell in the first person the heroic stories of Holocaust survivors and followers of the nations of the world - so that the story will also be passed on to future generations.

...As part of the course, which was spread over ten sessions, the participants learned to conduct an investigation, collect evidence, write and edit the story in order to present it to the general public, thus preserving the story for future generations.

The exciting unveiling evening took place at the Culture Hall, where seven memory ambassadors presented several episodes from the stories of the Holocaust... For an hour and a half, the residents of the city listened to the fascinating stories and touching songs, which did not leave a single dry eye".

Vera highly recommends the project, even if you don't appear with it - if only thanks to the experience of researching the parents.

Vera Reznik, "Ambassador of Remembrance in the First Person", Rishon-Lezion, April 2024. In the background - a picture of her parents.





## 9. From the press: Improvised chess pieces used by Jews in Auschwitz were found

"During preservation work in the extermination camp, in what could shed some light on everyday life in an impossible reality, an improvised collection of cardboard toys that were used by the Jewish prisoners was found: "There was a huge urge to escape from the reality of the camp" Itamar Eichner, Ynet, 4/14/2024

"People tried to spend the little free time they had, from the evening service to the announcement of the curfew. Chess and cards were popular games, which people could make for themselves using pieces of cardboard. The performances help us understand the enormous urge to escape from the reality of the camp." So says Magdalena Urbaniak, one of the heads of the exhibition team that will present the attempts of the prisoners to maintain a little routine in the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp.

A chilling discovery was found in the extermination camp that was liberated 79 years ago: during conservation work in block 8 of the camp, 35 cardboard squares of various sizes were recently found, on which miniature chess pieces were hand-painted. The collection, which is located under the floor of the first floor of the historic building, was used by the Jewish prisoners in Auschwitz: "It is possible that some drawings are a bit blurred, but it is still possible to easily distinguish the drawings of a tower, a horseman and a runner. However, the set is not complete and in some squares there are no traces of The painting. The objects are in a good state of preservation, now they will be treated," said Elizabeta Kazher, head of the museum's collections, adding: "The discovered chess pieces are unique, in that they were made of cardboard in a relatively primitive way. We assume that the focus was not on the aesthetic qualities but on the functionality.'

The Auschwitz Museum will present the chess pieces in a new exhibition that will present daily life in the camp and will be displayed at the original site where they were discovered: Block 8. The soil of the Auschwitz camp continues to this day, 80 years after the Holocaust, to emit objects that belonged to the Jewish prisoners. 'There are constantly new objects that we find during the preservation process,' said the director general of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation, Witek Sosviche, in the past. 'It is a muddy area and every time, especially after rain and after the snow melts, the ground emits objects'.

So, for example, says Sosviche, that during the preservation work of one of the prisoners' huts, a gold ring with a specific mark was found. "After an examination we discovered that this ring was made by jewelers who worked in the Lodz ghetto." A prisoner hid it under the floor in one of the pavilions. 75 years after the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, we worked to restore the pavilion and removed the stones to insulate them from rain and mud, and then suddenly this spectacular ring was discovered'.

During the restoration work of Pavilion 7, the preservationists found another amazing discovery: a pocketknife with a wooden cover, on which the name 'Yaakov Zeliko' was engraved. An examination revealed that it was Jacob Zeliko, prisoner number 117966. **He arrived in Auschwitz**

in a transport from Czechoslovakia on April 24, 1943. It is known that he was transferred on August 25, 1944 to the Neuengamme concentration camp in Germany and finally arrived in Buchenwald. "The penknife is between the ceiling of the pavilion and its roof. When the Nazis designed the pavilions they used a special material to insulate against moisture. It is made of concrete, pieces of wood and sand. They glued everything together and the ceilings were very fragile. When the guards removed the ceilings, they found the penknife. One of the detainees Hide the knife,' said Sucevica".

The people who save what is left of Auschwitz

<https://www.ynet.co.il/judaism/article/yokra13882845#autoplay>



The improvised chess pieces found (Photo: Auschwitz Museum)

#### **10. Jews born in Karpaturus: Professor Erwin Adam Adlerstein (Rakhov) 1922-2024**

Professor Erwin Adlerstein was born in November 1922, Rakhov. He died in Houston in March 2024, aged 101 (and 4 months).

He was Professor Emeritus in the Department of Virology and Microbiology at Baylor University College of Medicine in Houston, USA.



The initial information about him was brought to my attention by our friend, Tali Polg, who is a distant relative of hers.

Irwin changed his last name from Adlerstein to Adam [see below]. From an article from May 2016, by Ruth SoRelle, in preparation for this year's Holocaust Day. The original article was published in the February 2013 edition of From "the Labs" and was updated in 2016. "We share Dr. Irwin Adam's story of surviving the Holocaust and his successful career in science and research".

<https://blogs.bcm.edu/2016/05/05/holocaust-remembrance-sharing-dr-erwin-adams-story/>

Supplementing information from Wikipedia (the original was in Czech):



"Ervin was born into the family of a Jewish lawyer in the city of Rakhov, then sub-Carpathian Rus. After the breakup of Czechoslovakia in 1939, this territory passed to Hungarian administration. It began to implement Nazi racial laws. Ervin graduated from high school in June 1941, but his parents were taken Soon by Hungarian gendarmes to Kaminitz-Podolsk on July 12, 1941, where they were murdered by Nazi special deployment units (Einsatzgruppen) on August 27 or 28, 1941.

However, Irwin and his sister, Sophia, managed to escape.

In 1944 Irwin was imprisoned in the Monowitz-Buna concentration camp (Auschwitz number 3). In January 1945 he completed the death march to Gleivitch. From there the prisoners were transferred to the Buchenwald concentration camp and soon to Dachau. He was eventually freed by American soldiers. As he himself says, he was only one step away from hell.

After returning home in July 1945, he decided to go to Prague and study medicine there. So he also **changed his last name from Adlerstein to Adam**. He graduated in 1951. He joined Bulovka Hospital, where his wife Vlasta, also worked. Both were involved in the fight against the polio virus. The vaccines of Yona Salk and Albert Seibin were verified here. At the same time, Czechoslovakia's own vaccine was also developed. The medical team led by Erwin Adam was responsible for Czechoslovakia becoming the first country in the world to eradicate polio.

...after 1989, Mr. and Mrs. Adam established a foundation in Prague (the Vlasta and Ervín Adamový Foundation), from which since 1997 socially needy students from the Second Faculty of Medicine of Charles University have been supported, with excellent academic results in the form of scholarships.

Since 2013, the same faculty has awarded the Vlasta Adamová Award for outstanding work in the field of oncology and hematology and the Ervín Adam Award for outstanding work of preventive importance to population health in the fields of etiology and pathophysiology (diagnosis and treatment).

He died on March 21, 2024 at his home in Houston".

A fascinating interview with Ervin at the Houston Texas Holocaust Museum, in English - about his life and childhood area: <https://hmh.org/survivors/ervin-adam/>

From this interview - Erwin tells about his parents: "...when I was born, my parents, Mor Adlerstein and Karolina Ellis, nee Davidovich, lived in a large house on the main street of Rakhov. My father and his sister inherited the house from their parents. When my aunt got married and moved to Uzhgorod, my father bought her share of the house. ...My father never worried about the future ...until the 1930s, when the economic crisis brought the whole world to its knees, my father went bankrupt. He lost his law practice and his house, and he could not find a job ... Let's go back a few years, to a time when my father was a respectable lawyer in Rachov and his wife, eighteen years younger than him, one of the most elegant ladies in town. And their house? It was a castle that I loved and knew every corner of it."

## 11. Ours: Gershon HaCohen (Munkach)

I came upon the name of Gershon HaCohen by chance, from wandering through the net as the grandson of **Shmuel HaCohen Weingarten**, born in Munkach, November 1899.

From Wikipedia: The grandfather "immigrated to Israel in 1929. He was a member of the Haganah organization in Jerusalem. In the 1950s, he served as chairman of the religious council in Jerusalem. In those days, this position had great political and public importance, and by virtue of his position, Weingarten had a great influence in shaping the spiritual-religious face of Jerusalem in those years The country's firsts. He was active in many organizations, including the Hungarian Immigrants Association and the Carpathian Russians. He helped Holocaust survivors from these regions in their first stages of absorption in Israel.



Along with his preoccupation with public needs, he also engaged in religious and historical research. He published books and studies in these fields, in particular on the life of Hungarian and Carpathian Jews. He also published an autobiographical memoir, which sheds light on the life of the Jewish settlement in the Land of Israel in the period before the establishment of the state, and especially on the life of the religious and ultra-Orthodox public in Jerusalem. Participated in writing in the series "Cities and Mothers in Israel" - about the Jews of Pressburg and Munkach, and also participated in writing entries in the encyclopedia of religious Zionism."

The apple did not fall far from his grandfather...

Gershon was born on December 4, 1955. He holds the rank of colonel in the IDF reserves. In his last position he served as commander of the general staff.

He grew up in a religious family. He is the son of Rabbi Yedaya HaCohen, one of the founders of the Har Etzion yeshiva.

Gershon holds a master's degree in philosophy and comparative literature from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

He enlisted in 1973, as part of the Nahal, and fought in the Yom Kippur War on the Egyptian front. During the "Peace of the Galilee" operation, he was recruited, during his studies, and served as deputy commander of an inorganic force called "Nomart Force."

He finished his last post in the IDF on September 2, 2014, after 38 years of service.

Gershon HaCohen serves as a researcher at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies and the chairman of the executive committee of the Momentum association [an association established in 2008 with the aim of helping IDF soldiers integrate into civilian life in an optimal way after the end of military service]. He publishes articles in the "Liberal" monthly and is active in the project 929 - Bible Together.

In 2020, he joined the "Habithonist" movement, which calls for the annexation of Judea and Samaria, and is a member of the executive committee.

In 2021 he was appointed to serve as a member of a government inspection committee regarding the Nahal Tsfit disaster.

Gershon HaCohen was one of the founders of the Nimrod settlement in the Golan Heights, where he lives. He is married and has three children.

Although he does not wear a kippah, he stated that he is "religious with a transparent kippah." Gershon HaCohen is the author of the book "What is national in national security?" which examines fundamental concepts in national security issues and describes how national security considerations are essentially committed to an extensive conceptual framework, the core of which also includes fundamental values, national aspirations and worldview.

Many links can be found on Google under Gershon HaCohen's name.



The ascension of Gershon HaCohen's father and grandfather, Yedaya HaCohen and Rabbi Shmuel HaCohen Weingarten to the Temple Mount, two days after his release. Gershon's mother discovered the photo as a surprise on the cover of the "Lematchil" newspaper. In the photo, the grandfather and father are seen dancing excitedly on the Western Wall plaza, while in the corner of the photo (bottom right) the poet Uri Zvi Greenberg is seen wearing a tallit and tefillin.

Gershon tells about his father and grandfather: "When [his father] went on a mission on behalf of the state to bring immigrants from Morocco in the early 1950s, he deleted the surname Weingarten from his name and was left with only the name Yedaya HaCohen. When he told his father Shmuel HaCohen Weingarten feared that it

would cause disappointment, but the opposite happened. Grandpa Shmuel hugged him and said that they needed the name Weingarten [which was] the name in the exile; and now it's good that you can get rid of that name, but he, Grandpa Shmuel, explained that he must stay Weingarten because Jews come from there, who know him by that name - and that's how they find him in order to help them. "

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