



**Bulletin number 138 - September 2025**

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**1. 100th Birthday of Moshe Alon (Ilkowitz) (Bacsó /Cabanivka)**



It is not every day that one gets to celebrate a double anniversary... certainly not from a generation of Holocaust survivors. Me, and Zeev Milbauer, were so happy to participate in the 100th birthday celebration of Moshe Alon (Ilkowitz), born on 1/8/1925, from the town of Cabanivka [Hungarian: Bacsó, Uzhgorod region]. In this town, 202 Jews were counted in the 1941 census.

A year ago, at the annual commemoration ceremony, Moshe came from Haifa, where he lives, to Jerusalem, and lit the eternal flame in the "Yizkor" tent.

In 2018, he was awarded our "Community Beloved" award for his contribution to the community: teaching computers to the elderly.

Moshe has a son [Benny Alon, a talented soccer player, who played for Maccabi Haifa, lives in Arizona] and a daughter, Tali. He has 4 granddaughters and 10 great-grandchildren. Mazal Tov Moshe, good health and happiness with your warm family!

Moshe with his son, Benny,  
his daughter, Tali and his 4 granddaughters



## 2. Sukkot Meeting in the Ben Shemen Forest

As every year [except for Sukkot last year – mainly because of the Iranian threat] we usually meet in a large and exciting community gathering, in the "Ben Shemen" forest where we have established a memorial site. The event will include intergenerational connections, stories, memory and hope.

This year we will hold the gathering on Sunday, Thursday, Chol Hamoed, 20 Tishrei, **12.10.2025** – starting in the morning. We will take care of bringing the 4 species for the blessing. Laze: Ben Shemen Forest, through Kfar Daniel and Gimzu

## 3. Information on first-generation deceased

**A.** At the annual commemoration, held every year at Yad Vashem, we read the names of first-generation members who passed away in the year preceding the current memorial service. The names are commemorated both in a bulletin summarizing the commemoration events and in a file of names on the association's website [carpati.org.il](http://carpati.org.il) – tab: In memory of them.

**B.** At the same time, for several years now, we have made it possible to also mention first-generation members who have passed away and whose names are not commemorated. The update is done once a year, after the memorial service at Yad Vashem.

**C.** The necessary details are: full name [also possible maiden name for women], place of birth, place of death and date of death. Please forward the information to Ruth Fixler [ruthfixler@walla.co.il](mailto:ruthfixler@walla.co.il)

## 4. Comments on previous article

Following the article about the Righteous Among the Nations Nemec Elemer & Agáta and the survivors Carola Bromberger and Erika Cohen [Issue 137 – July 2025] our friend, Tali Poleg, wrote to me: "I was particularly moved by the article about Carola Bromberger. I worked with Carola for many years in the health insurance company. She was an energetic surgical nurse and the right hand of the surgical doctors. Her blue eyes were charming. I was privileged to accompany her in her old age because she moved to live in the assisted living facility, which I managed. An energetic and smart woman, with a charming sense of humor. Her daughter, Erika, and her grandchildren surrounded her with great love. Her grandson is Sagi Cohen, a restaurant critic, a high-tech man. Carola was a die-hard fan of soccer and various sports and knew the names of the teams and players. It was not for nothing that her grandson also became a sports commentator. I know Erika well. And keep in touch with her".

● Erika Cohen asked to add more information about her family members who did not survive:

"My father was born in 1902 and not as it says.[1912]

It is important to note that my mother's eldest sister (Aurelia Klein) had 2 sons: Otto and little Robert. I do not know which of the two went to the crematoriums with his mother and our grandparents; the other died with his father in the labor camp.

The middle sister, Tsili Fishbein, had a daughter at my age, Margitka, who of course, also went to the crematoriums. Tsili's husband, who was a dentist, survived.

My grandmother raised her niece, Magda, who was orphaned as a child and had a daughter; she died in the very last days of the war from exhaustion and starvation.

The stories I remember hearing were that my grandmother understood what was going to happen and begged her daughters to give her the children and that they would go to the side of life - and that was not the case; they refused... **This mention, together with the words about the wonderful Neimetz family, will be a memory for my family."**





5. Righteous Among the Nations: Steinmetz – Many Family Members - Lopukhiv [Tyachiv District] **Roots of Rabbi Berl Lazar, Chief Rabbi of Russia**

The rescue operation by the Righteous Among the Nations took place in Budapest, Neresnytsa and Subotica

Sípos Eleonora lived in Budapest, where she was known to some people for her liberal views. She was only superficially acquainted with a Jewish man by the name of Herman Steinmetz, but despite this, Steinmetz turned to Sípos after the German occupation and asked her to help her in saving his family's life.

Steinmetz's wife, Dóra, lived in the provincial city of Debrecen, together with the couple's three small daughters, \*Tirza [See notes below], Jehudit and Eszter. Sípos traveled to Debrecen and tried to convince Dóra to leave her house and to follow her, together with the three children, back to Budapest. But Mrs. Steinmetz suspected the motives of the unknown woman and refused to join her. A few weeks later, after the Debrecen ghetto had already been established, Sípos appeared again. This time, Mrs. Steinmetz accepted Sípos's offer of help. The woman and her three daughters escaped from the ghetto and traveled with Sípos by train to Budapest. The trip was very dangerous, because the authorities were searching for runaway Jews on every train and in every train station, because Jews were forbidden to travel from place to place without a permit. The Steinmetz girls, among them an infant, fell asleep on the train. In order to avoid discovery by officials who were searching for Jews, Sípos approached a German soldier, asking him, in fluent German, to help her off the train by holding one of the girls in his arms. The soldier accompanied the two women and the three little girls to the street outside the station, and because of this, the women were able to bypass all checkpoints safely.

Sípos hid Dóra Steinmetz and baby Eszter in her apartment until the liberation. She told her neighbors that Steinmetz was a housekeeper who had moved to Budapest from her hometown, because her husband had been drafted into the army.

Sípos found a hiding place for the two other girls in her hometown, outside of Budapest.

Sípos also helped other Jews to survive this difficult period. From November 1944 until the liberation, Sípos hid Mrs. Federer in her house, providing her with everything she needed. She also helped to save the Grifein and Reiman families who had fled from Slovakia to Hungary, by finding them a hiding place.

After the war, Sípos's survivors scattered to the four corners of the globe. Sípos herself moved to New Zealand, but she remained in contact with those she saved for a long time.

On December 22, 1977, Yad Vashem recognized Eleonora Sípos as Righteous Among the Nations.

I found information about the Righteous Among the Nations on a website that documents biographies in New Zealand: <https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/5s22/sipos-eleonora-vera>

Eleonora Vera Lazarek, who was known in New Zealand as Nora Sipos, was born on 7 September 1900 in Černovice, in the Czech lands of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. She was one of six daughters of Catholic parents Johan Karl Lazarek, a foundry worker, and his wife, Huberta Privrel. Eleonora grew up in Szabadka, Hungary, which was renamed Subotica when it became part of Yugoslavia after the First World War. During the war she made bandages and helped to take care of prisoners.

Later, as a member of the Circle of Serbian Sisters, she taught child care and helped to set up a home for orphaned girls.

Eleonora learned to speak six languages, was financially independent from the age of 16, and later became a chartered accountant and city councilor. On 27 September 1927 in \*Subotica she married Milan Vujić, a lawyer [\*This is the name of the place also mentioned on the "Yad Vashem" website as one of the hiding places, where the two eldest daughters of Dora and Herman Steinmetz were hidden]. After her marriage, Eleonora became an assistant manager of a travel agency. She is also said to have owned four cinemas, a transport business, a textile firm and to have been well known in business circles. The couple had no children.

In 1941 Germany invaded Yugoslavia and gave Vojvodina, the area containing Subotica, to Hungary. Because she and her husband were Slavs they were harassed by the Hungarians. Their home was searched and Eleonora was interned for a time. On her release she left for Budapest, where, ironically, she was treated 'with all the respect a high-ranking business woman would expect'. Then in 1944 the German army occupied Budapest. As Nazi persecution of Hungarian Jews intensified and they were herded into ghettos, forced to wear a yellow star and deported to concentration camps, she risked her life on numerous occasions to save their lives. **Among the people she helped was Herman Steinmetz, a business acquaintance. She made it possible for his wife and three children to escape from Debrecen, where they were in imminent danger, to Budapest and comparative safety for a time. She also contributed to the survival of other Jews by arranging safe houses and by being a contact between people needing safe accommodation and those able to provide it. She liaised on behalf of people in hiding and gave money to enable them to buy food and shelter, and to use as bribes.**

When the Hungarian Communist Party came to power in Hungary after the war, private property, including hers, was seized by the state and economic conditions were extremely harsh. Milan Vujić died in 1948; although the specific circumstances of his death are not known, Eleonora attributed it to despair. Shortly after Milan's death she escaped from Hungary. Designated as a displaced person by the International Refugee Organization, she lived in Vienna for about 18 months. There, on 22 October 1949, Eleonora married Hungarian-born Lajos Karoly Sipos, a cabinet-maker and fellow refugee from Subotica.

The couple was selected for settlement in New Zealand under its displaced persons quota, and they arrived in Wellington on 18 October 1950 on the Hellenic Prince. After six weeks at an army camp at Pahiatua they settled in New Plymouth. At first, to earn a living, Eleonora sewed (although prior to settling in New Zealand she had not known how), took in washing and cleaned. Louis (as he was known in New Zealand) worked as a carpenter and furniture maker. Later they bought several properties in New Plymouth.

Eleonora was naturalized a New Zealand citizen on 10 April 1956. She joined the New Plymouth Red Cross and helped refugees from the Hungarian uprising of 1956 find accommodation and employment and trace their relatives. She was assistant treasurer of the New Plymouth Red Cross for 10 years before becoming treasurer from 1961 to 1964. She became a convener of Meals on Wheels. Friends and acquaintances commented on her generosity and on her desire to create happiness.

In 1972 she received the New Zealand Red Cross Society Outstanding Service Award.

In 1978 she was awarded a Medal of the Just by the Commission for the Designation of the Righteous, established in Israel by Yad Vashem, the Holocaust heroes and martyr's remembrance authority. **When asked in an interview in 1979 why she had risked her life to help Jews she said: 'first, because I felt a great injustice was being done against the Jewish people who had no country**

of their own; nowhere to go to ... Second, I am a Christian; and a human being. All my life I have helped other people, individually and through movements such as the Red Cross, regardless of religion.'

Eleonora Sipos died in New Plymouth on 5 August 1988, survived by Louis, who died two years later. They had had no children. **She was an exceptional woman who showed remarkable courage in wartime Hungary.**

The Yad Vashem website states 15 survivors, while the description of the rescue mainly mentions Dora Steinmetz and her three daughters: Tirza\* [See notes below], Yehudit, and Esther. Dora's husband and the daughters' father, Zvi-Meir, is Herman Steinmetz, also known as a survivor.

It was necessary to link the main documentation with the list of survivors, and the details became clearer as contact was made with more and more family members and descendants of the Steinmetz family. According to Eleonora's documentation, Dora and the baby Esther were hidden in Eleonora's apartment in Budapest;

Tirza\* [See notes below] and Yehudit were hidden in Eleonora's hometown, Subotica, Yugoslavia. Other members of the Steinmetz family, mentioned as survivors, are Meir-Zvi's parents and sisters: Parents: Shlomo-Dov (Berl/Bernard) Steinmetz (Perl) and Leah-Gitel Perl Steinmetz, born in Lopukhiv [or Brustury, now Ukraine then Brusztura, Kingdom of Hungary];

4 sisters: **Rivka-Ethel (Etya) Brill**, 1913-2005

**Charlotte-Adele (Suri/Sarah) Silber**, 1922-2003

**Hannah (Hanchi) Kahana**, 1927-2020

**Chaya-Rachel Weisberg**, 1929-1999

Chaya-Rachel Yaffe, also known as Ruth, the second of the three daughters of Dora and Zvi-Meir. Two more daughters of Shlomo-Dov and Leah-Gitel Steinmetz were not mentioned in the list of survivors: **Esther-Devora Fried**, 1911-1942, the oldest sibling;



**Frida Feldman**, 1918 – 2013 [pictured] [About the seventh daughter – see below].

All are listed on MyHeritage as born in Lopukhiv, the town of Brister, in the Tyachiv district, who were in Neresnytsa during the war, like their parents.

The information on the "Yad Vashem" website is inaccurate on the following subjects: There should be another sister of Zvi-Meir who survived, because on Wikipedia, Zvi-Meir's name is listed: "Born in the city of Budapest, Hungary, and raised in the village of Brister in Carpathian Russia on the border of Galicia. His father, Shlomo-Dov Steinmetz (originally Perl), was a wealthy merchant and an Utinia Hasid [a Hasidic court that operated in eastern Galicia before the Holocaust, a branch of the Viznitz Hasidism]. His mother's family, were Dolina Hassidim. ...Rabbi Zvi-Meir was the only son of Seven daughters. This fact caused his father to give him special treatment, and he even tried to give his son an excellent education. He hired the best teachers to teach him Torah and manners. ...By miracles, he, his wife, his daughters, his parents and six of his seven sisters survived the Holocaust".

Another detail about the correction of information on the "Yad Vashem" website: On the Chabad website from 13 Elul, 17.9.2005, announcing the passing of Zvi-Meir, another name is mentioned as his daughter: "He was 90 years old when he passed away. He left behind: Yehudit, wife of Rabbi Moshe Lazar, **Rachel**, wife of Rabbi Chaim Yaffe, Esther, wife of Rabbi Berl Toyber, grandchildren and descendants, emissaries scattered throughout the world" (and a sister **Tirza "Ratzi" Kaufman**, 1925 - still alive in 2025).

There is a Wikipedia entry on Zvi-Meir Steinmetz, which includes his biography, as well as a Google reference to his being a poet.



His grandson, Rabbi Berl Lazar, son of his daughter Yehudit, is a Chabad emissary and Chief Rabbi of Russia. [from Wikipedya]



The MyHeritage website records that some of the survivors of the Righteous Among the Nations were born in Lopukhiv, Tyachiv District. Investigation revealed that this was the town of Brustury, which until 2023 was called Lopukhiv. In "The Book of Maramuresh", pp. 296-298, members of the Steinmetz family are mentioned: "The sensitive and gifted poet, Zvi-Meir Steinmetz, also hails from Brister, Born in 1915 to his father, Rabbi **Shlomo-Dov Steinmetz**, a descendant of R Jehuda Kahana, R of Sziget, the author of Kuntres Ha-Sfekot, a wealthy Hasid and timber merchant; on his mother's side - a descendant of R Yitzhak Chajes, R of Prague, author of Afi Ravrevei, a book on the laws of prohibition and permission (kashrut, wine of non-Jews, Nida, etc.).

picture from "The Book of Maramuresh"

His first book of poems appeared in 1942 under the literary name 'Ben Shlomo'. In his books, that appeared after the war, the author's name is 'Zvi Yair'. Today Zvi-Meir Steinmetz lives in New York and is an active Hasid of the Chabad movement. ...The Steinmetz family, with 4 children from Brister, hid in the forests and survived. It should be noted that the house of Rabbi Shlomo-Ber Steinmetz was widely open to the city's poor. He and his wife extended help to every needy soul. Their name spread throughout the area as pursuers of charity and kindness".

Shlomo-Dov Steinmetz was born in April 1890 in Sighet and from there, apparently, came to Brister. He died in October 1959 in Vienna. His body was transferred to Israel in 1961 and he is buried in Bnei Brak.

**Zvi-Meir Steinmetz: 1915-2005**



I managed to find Rabbi Yosef Gavriel Bechhofer from New York, who documented the Steinmetz family on the Geni website, and with his help, the connection was established with Dr. Michael Silber, a historian from the Department of the History of the Jewish People and Contemporary Judaism, Faculty of Humanities, University of Jerusalem, who immigrated to Israel in 1972, and is the son of Sarah Silber, one of Zvi-Meir's sisters, and the grandson of Shlomo-Dov Steinmetz.

Michael updated me on all the inaccurate details in the description of the Steinmetz family on the Yad Vashem website – and for that, many thanks.

The order of the Steinmetz children, children of Shlomo-Dov and Leah-Gitel Steinmetz:

**Esther-Devora Fried**, 1911-1942, killed in the Holocaust; was married to Avrohom Iber Eber Fried;

**Rivka-Ethel (Etya) Brill**, 1913-2005, was married to Leon Yehuda Leib Brill; Lived in Brooklyn and in Tel-Aviv; Buried in Petah Tikva;

**Zvi-Meir**, 1915-2005; was married to Dora-Devora, née Eisenberg, 1919-2007;

**Frida Feldman**, 1918-2013, was married to Menachem Mendel Feldman; Lived in Brooklyn; Buried in Bnei Brak;

**Charlotte-Eidel (Syrian/Sarah) Silber**, 1922-2003, was married to Joseph A. Silber; Lived in New-York; Buried in Jerusalem;



**Tirza (Raci) Kaufman**, born 1.4.1925, [100 years old] is the other daughter/sister, mistakenly listed as Zvi-Meir's daughter – not as his sister. She is the only one still alive among the children of Shlomo-Dov and Leah Gitel Steinmetz; was married to Avraham.

**Hanna (Hanchi) Kahana**, 1927-2020, was married to Shraga Feivel Kahana; Lived in Tel Aviv; Buried in Petah Tikva;

**Chaya-Rachel Weisberg**, 1929-1999, was married to Chaim Weisberg; Lived in Givatayim; Buried in Yarkon Tel Aviv;

**Ruth** is the other name of **Rachel Yaffe**, who is the middle daughter of Meir-Zvi, meaning that she is not someone else, but the other name of Rachel, the middle daughter of Zvi-Meir and Dora Steinmetz.

When I asked Michael why so many members of the Steinmetz family appear in the Sipos Eleonora memories, what is the connection to Neresnytsa - and what is the connection to the information appearing in the "Book of Maramures" ["The Shlomo Ber Steinmetz family, with 4 children from Brister hid in the forests and survived"], he explained that indeed, they hid in the forests, probably around Neresnytsa . Eleonora apparently took care of providing them with food - either directly by visiting the area, or by paying for the food, which local villagers provided to the family members in hiding.

Michael Silber put me in touch with Donna Haltzband, Rachel Weisberg's daughter. Following a conversation with her, I was informed that Grandpa Shlomo-Dov was hiding with his wife and 4 daughters in a bunker he built in the forests [the eldest, married daughter lived separately and perished, as mentioned, in 1942; Zvi-Meir and his family were in Debrecen and Budapest, thus survived].

From Donna I received the picture of Shlomo-Dov/Bernard and Leah-Gitel Steinmetz

Shlomo-Dov /Bernard next to his sawmill



Leah-Gitel Steinmetz on the eve of her marriage







...and the picture of the 3 Steinmetz sisters.  
 This is what Donna wrote about the details of the picture  
 From left to right:  
 My mother (sitting), Rachel Steinmetz / Weisberg;  
 My aunt (sitting), Hanchi, Hanna Steinmetz / Kahana;  
 My aunt (standing) – Ratzi/Tirza Steinmetz / Kaufman

Michael Silber connected me to Chaya Regev, the daughter of sister Tirza Kaufman. In a conversation with her, I was told that indeed, the two daughters, Frida and Etel were already adults. Thus, only the parents and their 4 young daughters remained in the forest.

In a conversation that Chaya Regev had with her mother, Tirza [end of March 2025, a few days before her 100th birthday] - she confirmed the information about Eleonora, who saved the family of her brother, Zvi-Meir. The one who saved them [in Neresnytsa] was a village woman, who hid the matter of hiding from everyone, because she was afraid very much that she would be caught; she had a son. She cannot tell if she is registered as Righteous Among the Nations, she does not even know

her name, only as "Babu" [grandmother]. There were also two cousins with them.

From right to left: Suri (Sarah) Silber, Ratzi (Tirza) Kaufman, Etu Brill and Hanchi Kahana –  
 4 of the 7 Steinmetz sisters



הדודות של דונה



I received more exciting information in a conversation with **Yehudit/Judy Lazar**, one of Eleonora's survivors, , the daughter of Zvi-Meir Steinmetz, who was only 3 years old when the rescue mission began; **Yehudit is the mother of the Honorable Chief Rabbi of Russia, Rabbi Berl Lazar**. The rabbi was named after his great-grandfather, Rabbi Shlomo-Ber Steinmetz. Rabbi Berl's full name is Shlomo Duber Pinchas Lazar. Yehudit said that her grandfather, Shlomo-Dov, had lost his mother in childbirth, of the **Perl family**, and was adopted by an aunt and an uncle who were childless, whose last name was **Steinmetz**. He adopted this last name to honor his adoptive parents, who. This is, in fact, the explanation for why his last name, which appears on the Geni website, is listed as: Shlomo Dov "Bernhard" Steinmetz (Perl) (1890 - 1959).

He married the niece of their common aunt and uncle , whose last name was also Steinmetz.

I received confirmation that Ruth is the other name of her sister, Rachel Yaffe, Rachel-Ruth, so **this is not another survivor, but the other name of Rachel (Rochel)**.

Circumstances of the rescue of Dora, Zvi-Meir and 3 daughters: Dora had difficulty saying goodbye to her parents in Debrecen, but her mother was ill and asked her to save the family. Therefore, Dora was in no hurry to leave Debrecen. Her husband, Zvi-Meir, worked in various jobs in Budapest to support his family. The couple had 3 daughters: the eldest is Yehudit, born in 1941; the second is Rachel-Ruth, born in 1942; The youngest, Esther, was born in 1944.

A 17-18-year-old boy, Tulli Friedman, was the one who, at great risk, rescued Yehudit and Rachel to Budapest, where their father, Zvi-Meir, was staying. He dressed an Arrow Cross uniform [Nyilaskeresztes], went to Debrecen and brought the girls to Budapest. Many years later, Charlie Friedman, Tully's son, wrote a letter to Judy, when his father was already ill and thanked her for her prayers for him, he mentions this trip and his father's resourcefulness and heroism: "Retelling my father's story, you were indeed the little girl, who woke up during the train ride and said: '**Tully Bachi [Uncle Tully], why aren't you wearing a Jewish star?**' So, the people on the train started asking 'What is this man doing with these children, is he Jewish?' At that point the conductor on the train was pressured to do something, and he said he was not a policeman; but when he reached his destination, the central station, he would hand the group [Tully and the girls] over to the police and they could sort it out. But, fortunately, it was a long journey and Tully Bachi managed to get you all off the train at an earlier station; I don't know if it was one, or two, or three, earlier; I think I remember three. He was so physically strong, fast and mentally sharp and a good soul".

Judy and Rachel were later transferred by Eleonora Sípos to Subotica. Judy was only about 3.5 years old, and Rachel – a year younger than her. She remembers that the woman who looked after them was disabled, and that there was an incident where they hid in a cave – because of the bombings.

After the war, when they were returned to their parents, their cheeks were rosy, which indicated that they had not suffered from hunger, but their heads were full of lice.

About her grandparents and aunts who were hidden in the Neresnytsa area, she knew how to say that they hid in a cave in the forest, carved for them by a Gentile, who also brought them food at night. Perhaps he was the son of that "babu" that Tirza mentioned. It is possible that her grandfather, Shlomo-Dov, had offices in the Neresnytsa area. He owned a sawmill and forests, employed many Gentiles and was on very good terms with them. They were probably the ones who helped them to be saved, even if they were not officially recognized as Righteous Among the Nations.

Judy sent me the following photos of her sisters and their mother – Thank you very much!



Rochel-Ruth Steinmetz Yaffe



Esther Steinmetz Tauber



Esther Steinmetz Tauber with Eleonora Vera Lazarek, who was known as **Nora / Eleonora Sípos - Righteous Among the Nations.**



Childhood photo of the 3 Steinmetz sisters



Dora with her 3 daughters  
From right: Judy, Esther and Rachel-Ruth





Dora and Zvi-Meier's daughters:  
Yehudit, Esther and Rachel-Ruth



Rachel-Ruth's wedding:  
From right: Sarah, Judy, Deborah, Rachel,  
Mindy, Esther and Zvi-Meir



From right: Esther, mother Dora and Rachel

And finally – completing details about 3 more survivors, documented as having been rescued by Sípos Eleonora, all the members of Dora Steinmetz's family, née Eisenberg:

**Iser Jose Eisenberg**, rescued in Budapest, born in 1909, died in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1990. He was Dora Steinmetz's brother. Another of their sisters was **Berta "Bina" Garfein**, so Andre [below] is her nephew.

**Erwin Moishe Eisenberg**, born 1936 in Debrecen, is the son of Iser Jose Eisenberg; survived in Subotica, as did his two cousins, Yehudit and Rachel.

**Andre Garfein** born 1933, Debrecen, son of Berta "Bina" Garfein (nee Eisenberg), another cousin of the 3 Steinmetz sisters; it is unclear where he survived; lives in the USA.

Link to Yad Vashem website: <https://collections.yadvashem.org/en/righteous/4017498>

## 6. Israelis Born in Carpatorus: Helman Avraham (Bogdan)

I came across Avraham (Bumi)'s name years ago from a Facebook post, on a site called "History Enthusiasts Group," which his daughter, Michal Helman, posted on October 9, 2019. This is what the website said: "1939, Khust, a small town on the border of Czechoslovakia, Romania and Hungary, in the Carpathian Mountains.

My mother, the beautiful Dori Duv, an actress in the Yiddish theater and a house model for wedding dresses - falls in love with my father, Avraham Helman, a Zionist activist who distributes charters [certificates] for immigration to the Land of Israel. After he kisses her forcefully, on stage, in front of her parents, she says 'yes'. They get married in the garden of her parents' house (my grandparents, whom I never knew).

My father, Avraham, the son of a family full of children and a day laborer from the village of Bogdan in the Carpathians, was the only one of 11 children, who dared to finish his studies at the famous gymnasium in Munkach and did not remain, like his brothers, to be a woodcutter. The Jewish Zionist training people perceived him as a talent for propaganda and began sending him, in 1936, to Jewish villages and cities - to spread the good news of the Land of Israel and teach the youth about the kibbutzim.

At the same time, even before the outbreak of the war, when there was still only the smell of Nazism in the air, the Ukrainians, who were even more cruel than the Germans, began to carry out pogroms in Jewish businesses, and every day my mother saw carts, loaded with corpses, crossing the main road in Khust [where her mother was born]. Therefore, when my father arrived in Khust, and stayed in a different house every week, and gave information about the Land of Israel - he seemed to them like an angel, sent to save them.

All his young apprentices immigrated to Israel and established the kibbutzim Ma'anit and Ein-Shermer. My father and my mother managed to board the last train, the day before the Nazi invasion of Czechoslovakia, and without any means, did they cross Europe, through Turkey and Lebanon - straight to the prison in Atlit by the British, even though they had the famous charter in their hands, but they were suspicions. After a few days they were released - straight to Kibbutz Ma'anit and lived for a year in a tent - with lots of love.

Then they lived for three years in Avikhail [Moshav] - and then in Givat Haviva, in an abandoned house, with an Arab guard, a horse, dogs and a small baby, my eldest sister, Avishag.

And then an army was formed - and Yigal Alon, his friend - called on him to conquer the Negev - because Arab armies had begun to operate.

At the end of the War of Independence, my father wrote to my mother: I found us a wonderful city, with a climate that suits you just right; you don't like the humidity of the center.

And so, my father **became the first civilian governor of the city of Beersheba** - together with Hanegbi [Michael], who was the military governor. Yigal Alon returned to the kibbutz to the north.

**My father took in the first 200 residents.** Each one was given a house and a shop - and each one renovated the buildings for himself and they were happy, with the snakes, scorpions and camels. It was real fun building and creating.

**Father founded the legal department in the municipality and Department of Education and Engineering.** He also founded the first bank, "Zerubbabel" - later the American Bank, which was merged with Bank Hapoalim. **He established the first shopping malls, the first and current Beersheba Market,** after which he was invited to establish markets throughout the country; the **G Center, Batey Rothstein, Zion Shopping Mall, and Migdal Sheva Tower.** He would proudly drive me around the city and mutter, half to myself and half to himself: 'Well, who would have believed... the days of the Messiah have come'..."





In a conversation with Michal, she added more details about what was said above. The mother, whose full name was Dorothea, or Dori for short, née Dub, was from a wealthy family, with 5 children, 2 daughters and 3 sons. The father was one of 11 children, from a wealthy family. Avraham excelled in his academic achievements and from Bogdan he attended the gymnasium in Munkach. He was spotted by the Zionist leadership and sent for kashrut training. That is how he met Dori and wanted to marry her – but her parents did not look favorably on this match, as they wanted a son-in-law from a wealthier and less Orthodox family. But then, during a play about Israel, in which they both participated in leading roles, they kissed even as the curtain rose, and then her parents gave in. The couple immigrated to Israel, married, in 1939.

When they were arrested in the Atlit camp, the authorities suspected them of being brother and sister and they were forced to have another wedding.

Avraham managed to convince 2 more brothers [**Yaakov** and **Zvi**] and 2 sisters [**Yafa** and **Sarah**, who married Arie Eizikovitz] to immigrate to Israel; the 2 brothers and Sarah had settled in Kibbutz Ha'ogen and were among its founders.



Arie and Sarah Eizikowitz,  
Bumi's sister [from Arie's  
biographical book]

Right: Bumi Helman's siblings –  
Zvi, Sarah, Yaakov and  
Arie Eizikovitz, brother-in-law



From the testimonies in Brother Yaakov's testimony pages, two more names of brothers emerged: **Yosef**, born in 1911, a carpenter, who was killed in 1943 on the Russian front; **Moshe**, born in 1922, was killed in 1943 in forced labor in Ukraine.

Michal added more names: **Rivka'le**, who survived and remained in the USSR;  
Another sister lived in Kibbutz Ha'ogen;

The brothers **Leib** and **Michael**, carpenters, immigrated to Israel in the 1970s. Avraham made sure they settled in Beersheba and practiced their profession. [About Leib and his son Itzik – see the article in the "Ours" section]

The father's name was **Mishael**, born in 1885 [or 87], a carter; the mother was Ada/Adel, née Petranker, born in 1901 [see reference below]. Michal said that Mishael was a funny man and had



a beautiful voice; he served as a cantor. He was taken to forced labor. There, he made the guards laugh and drink, they fell asleep, and all the forced laborers from Bogdan were able to escape back to their village...

A painting by Bumi's daughter Michal, of recipes he told her about the town of Bogdan



Bumi, as a young man, chopping wood in Bogdan, floating the tree trunks on the river



More information from Michal: Helen (left), who was the eldest daughter in the Duv family, decided to marry at a young age to her beloved Shmuel, left her parents' home and began an independent career as a milliner and fashion designer for weddings and events. Her salon made a name for itself in the area and women arrived in fancy carriages

to make orders. After two years, she began to bring clothes and patterns from various European countries, taking Dori, the beautiful younger sister (on the right) as her house model. In return for her work, Dori was the first to receive the latest European fashion patterns and her aging parents received financial support. Meanwhile, there was joy at home - the first granddaughter, Hanha'le, was born - already at a young age she showed genius in playing the violin - and then came the cursed year of 1939....

Khust, 1939: The wedding of Dori and Bumi Helman



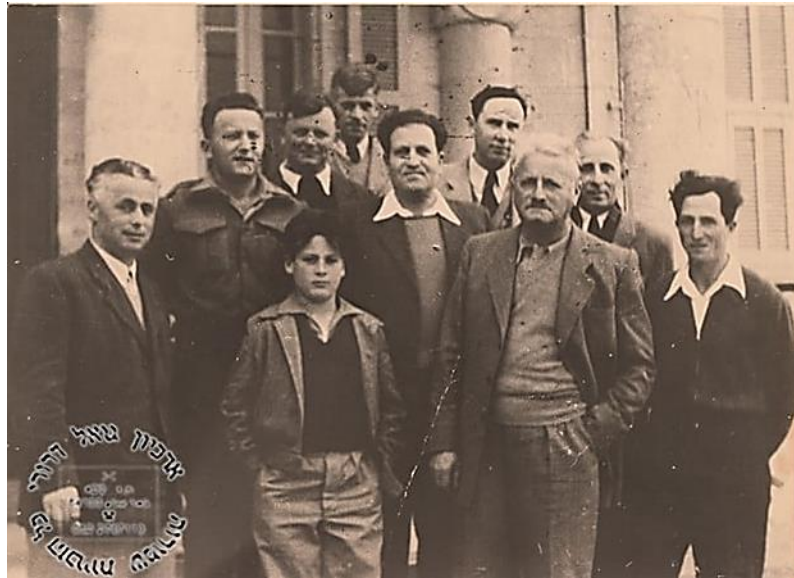
What is the origin of the village's name? According to Wikipedia: "There is a belief that the village was named after the Ukrainian national hero Bogdan Khmelnytsky, who was a troublemaker for the Jews. According to another version, the origin of the name is that the villagers, who were working in the forest and could not return home at nightfall, suddenly discovered a deer among the trees and decided that it was a gift from God and decided to call the village Bogdan, which translates to 'God's gift [In Russian].'"





Givat Haviva: Dori, Bumi Hellan's wife, on horseback and with the Arab guard, who guarded her when Bumi went out to guard her.

"HaBoker" newspaper from 15.6.1949: In its article on the inauguration of the post office in Be'er Sheva, it is noted that Avraham Hellman was the director of this office



1950: The first appointed committee of Be'er Sheva: Avraham Hellman stands first on the left in the first row. To his right, in uniform, stands Michael Hanegbi, the military governor [who was mentioned in the documentation of daughter Michal]

במעמד מימ מנהל הדואר בישראל, מנהל  
שירותי הדואר, בייכ המושל הצבאי ושלטר  
נות הצבא ובייכ ישובי הנגב, נפתח אתמול  
חגיגת המשרד הממשלתי הראשון בנגב,  
משרד הדואר בבאר שבע, אשר יענה לאור  
חיים בשירותי הדואר — עמים ביום — ומכ  
רקים.  
המברק הראשון נשלח למר רמז: "שר  
התחבורה, ברשתות נפתח היום דואר באר  
שבע, ברכות שלוחות אליך במברק הראשון  
היוצא מארץ. על התחום: חיים בן-מנחם,  
מימ מנהל הדואר הכללי, בין המכתבים הראי  
שונים שנשלחו היה זה של שייך בירואי וכן  
אל בנו המשרת אישם בצבא ישראל, ושל  
תלמיד בית הספר המקומי להכשרה.  
"כשלושת אלפים מכתבים הוחלטו אתמול  
עיי המנהל המקומי מר משה ציצילניצקי ועיי  
טוריקו, מר דוד חי משקל, סקיד ראשי בדור  
אר תלאביב, מרבית המכתבים היו של אוספי  
בולים מובהקים שבאו ממקומות שונים בארץ.  
**מאורע בחיי עיר-האבות**  
פתיחת הדואר עודדה את אורחי העיר.  
המאורע צוין והוגש במסיבה חגיגית  
שנערכה במשרד הדואר, בראשותו של מר  
אברהם הלמן, מנהל המחלקה המוניציפלית  
של הממשלה במחוז באר שבע. היו"ר אמר:  
"כל פתיחת שירות ממלכתי בבאר שבע שלב  
חדש הוא בהתפתחות הנגב כולו. בקשת  
פאנשי המנהלה הארצית של הדואר: חידוש  
הטלפון במקום. בקרוב — כך אמר — יעבור  
משרד הדואר לבנין חדש וגדול יותר.  
בייכ חברת "אפיקים בנגב" הוסיף: הדואר  
חדש יקום בבאר שבע החדשה.  
הוסיפו על המברקים: הרב של באר שבע  
ומנהל בית הספר המקומי.

More newspaper clippings documenting Avraham Hellman's work:

●Be'er-Sheva and Negev News, Danny Beller, 12.04.2017: The municipal market was established in 1969. Before that, it was located in the old city, at the beginning of Palmach Street, where a sign for the "Artists' Quarter" is now located. The market is called **"Helman Market"**, after the deputy mayor of Be'er-Sheva, Avraham Helman, the late, who initiated the establishment of many civic institutions in the city.

,13.06.2018 ●Hanina Porat, News1: "The Parliament of Be'er-sheva" A weekly conference of veterans operated until the mid-1980s since its establishment. Following the modest story of journalist Yitzhak Shatil, "We Wrote in Be'er-sheva," we will tell the story of this institution, which is based mainly on memories due to the lack of written documents.

...The president's place was taken by Avraham Helman, an economist, who served as the deputy governor for civil affairs when the state was established.

The entry "Community of Bogdan Descendants" on Wikipedia, written by our friend Tali Poleg, states: "As early as 1939, three of Bogdan's sons, David ben Yitzhak Helman [cousins], and the brothers Zalman and Israel Stüiber, sons of Shmuel, fled to Russia and joined the Red Army, where they fell in the Battle of Stalingrad".

More information that Michal shared: Her father tried his luck and opened a billiard hall on the Tel Aviv beach, knowing that the British were fans of the game. But then they left the country, with the end of the Mandate, and the business closed.

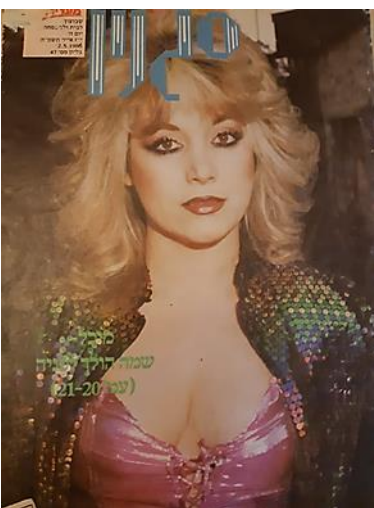
Michal also knew that Avraham spoke Arabic fluently and was thus able to communicate with the city's Arab residents.



Advertisement for Michal's performance [in the middle] as a singer at the "Dunes" Hotel in Las Vegas.

Avraham was born in February 1914 and died in November 1990. He and Dori had 3 daughters: Avishag, Yehudit (the late) and Michal. Avishag wrote on Facebook: "When my father, Avraham Helman, who was known as Bumi, was on his deathbed in the hospital, Sara [Eizikovitz], my aunt and my father's sister, sat with me in the hospital hallway and told me charming stories about their childhood in the Carpathian Mountains. In one of the stories, she mentioned that at that time it was customary for a family to have two last names, perhaps for security reasons for the Jews in the diaspora. My father's and Sarah's, my aunt's, family name was Helman, but also Petrenko. Sarah said that when she entered first grade at school, my father was already in a senior class. He entered with the last name Helman, so Sarah decided to enter school under the name Petrenko. I asked her why she didn't enter with the last name Helman, which could have brought her pride, because she had an older brother at the same school, and she replied that my father was such a success in his studies that she was afraid she wouldn't be able to "step into his shoes." Of course, she was mistaken, because she was a smart girl."

And a little information about the versatile work of Michal, the daughter. She managed her father's office, which initiated many projects in Be'er-Sheva; was a singer in the Israeli Opera, a singer in the "Hedim" band; wrote for the local press in Be'er-Sheva, produced a beauty pageant in Be'er-Sheva. Today she does stage and film makeup and often paints; she has participated in 13 painting exhibitions.



Yitzhak Helman, Avraham's nephew, next to Avraham's memorial statue [See the article about Yitzhak in the "Our Example" section]

**Michal - Thank you for all the information and photos, which document your father's impressive work.**

Michal Helman, Avraham's daughter, on the cover of the "Style" supplement from May 1986

[See the article about his nephew in the "Ours" section](#)





Lev Hellman's personal card from the Bad Arolsen archive – including all his physiological details...

Parents Elka and Lev



Yitzhak in his youth



## 7. Ours: Helman Yitzhak (Uzhgorod)

Yitzhak Helman is the son of Lev Helman, the brother of Avraham (Bomi) Helman, who was a decade younger than him, born in 1924. Like his uncle, Yitzhak is also very involved in municipal activities in the city of Be'er Sheva. A few words about his roots:

His father was a Holocaust survivor, born in Bogdan, who after the war, around 1950, moved to Uzhgorod. There he met Elka, born in Kiev. They married and had 2 sons.

In 1972, the family immigrated to Israel.

KL: BUCHENWALD Ung. Jude

M.M.-Nr.: 56.906

### Häftlings-Personal-Karte

Fam.-Name: <u>Helman</u>	Überstellt am: <u>2.6.44</u> an KL: <u>Buchenwald</u>	Personen-Beschreibung:
Vorname: <u>Levi</u>	Geb. am: <u>2.12.24</u> in: <u>Tiszabogdany</u>	Größe: <u>171</u> cm
Stand: <u>ledig</u> Kinder: <u>-</u>	Wohnort: <u>Tiszabogdany</u>	Gestalt: <u>mittelst.</u>
Strasse: <u>Nr. 130, Kom. Maramaros</u>	Religion: <u>mes.</u> Staatsang.: <u>Ungarn</u>	Gesicht: <u>eckig</u>
Wohnort d. Angehörigen: <u>Vater: (Tiszabogdany) K.L. Auschwitz</u>	Eingewiesen am: <u>24.5.44</u> durch: <u>RSMA</u>	Augen: <u>braun</u>
	Grund: <u>polit. Ung. Jude</u>	Nase: <u>gebog.</u>
	Verstraft: <u>-</u>	Mund: <u>ger.</u>
		Ohren: <u>absteh.</u>
		Zähne: <u>1 fehlend</u>
		Haare: <u>schwarz</u>
		Sprache: <u>Judisch, Tschech, Ungar.</u>
		Bes. Kennzeichen: <u>keine</u>
		Charakt.-Eigenschaften:
		Sicherheit b. Einsatz: <u>I.T.S. FOTO Nr. 2706 y</u>
		Körperliche Verfassung: <u>st. 131</u>

Strafen im Lager: Grund: Art: Bemerkung:

KL/8/a. 44-500000

Yitzhak Hellman, nephew of Avraham Hellman, next to the statue commemorating his uncle in Be'er Sheva



From Yitzhak's biography, we can note these stations:

Between the years 1975-1992, Yitzhak served regularly and permanently - in training and logistics

Yitzhak in his youth

He studied for a bachelor's degree in public health.

He also underwent important training:

A course for directors in public companies at Ben-Gurion University;  
 Project management – also at Ben-Gurion University  
 Between the years 2004-2010, Yitzhak was the director of the Environmental Quality Department at the Beer Sheva Municipality;  
 2012-2016 :Chairman of the Southern District IDF Retirees Volunteer Committee;  
 Between 2014-2022, he was a project manager for the Small and Medium-sized Business Agency, and also the CEO of the "Green Beer Sheva" association - environmental quality.  
 Since 2015, he has been a legal advisor at "Tzevet", an organization of IDF retirees - Southern District.  
 He currently serves as the CEO of the "Ecocity Beer Sheva" association. The association deals with environmental education in the education system in schools in Beer Sheva.  
 Yitzhak is involved, on a voluntary basis, in assisting in the Small Claims Court. He has 20 years of experience representing senior citizens, new immigrants and members of the defense establishment.

Let the pictures speak and review the diverse work of Yitzhak Helman:



Misha Helman, the late, Yitzhak's brother      1982 :The War of Peace in the Galilee - Securing the Divisional Airfield

A certificate of appreciation for volunteering in the "Tzevet"



Yitzhak (on the left as a volunteer in the Civil Guard







Yitzhak with the Mayor of Beersheba,  
Rubik Danilovitz

Representing Israel at international exhibitions



Yitzhak in  
activities with  
veterans  
Soviet veterans  
at the May 9th  
events -  
Victory Day  
День Победы



Chairman of the IDF Retirees  
Volunteer Committee, Southern District

Yitzhak (right) - Chairman of the Union of Former Soviet Union Veterans



**Thank you Yitzhak for many years of  
service to the citizens of Beer-sheva -  
and others**

Wrote the leaflet: Ruthi Fixler.  
For comments: [ruthfixler@walla.co.il](mailto:ruthfixler@walla.co.il)  
Thanks to Gita Berkowitz for helping with  
the English translation