



Bulletin number 140 - November 2025

1. Sukkot Meeting in Ben Shemen
2. The passing of Moshe Kessler 1930-2025 (Bergesas)
3. Finding Roots (Rachov) and Volunteers for Tracing
4. Feedback on Bulletin 139 of October 2025
5. The Story of a Picture: Kalman Markowitz (Uglya / Khust)
6. Righteous Among the Nations (Markowitz, Rosenberg and Brandl)
7. Born in Carpatorus: Orsag Lili / Livia Eva Ostreicher (Uzhgorod)
8. Ours: Dr. Weiss Shimon and his son, Mordehay (Munkach)

Welcome back
home!
Am Israel Hai

1. Sukkot Meeting in Ben Shemen

On Sunday, the 5th of Sukkot, October 12, 2025, we gathered in the Ben Shemen Forest for our Sukkot gathering. Friends from various parts of the country came, as well as friends from Vienna and the USA. In the link below, you can see the photos taken by our friend, Ephraim Maltz – and many thanks to him! https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipNKWp2vt5gX-1BmjbydyfjCn-DojCEelSa9m2Gc62mc2_Zc2NADLeQHYIusU7J0Q?key=NUILQU1MYXp4TzJ6cVlvTzRyaGRHMopUNzFla1J3





Volunteer Michael Indyk with the four species of blessing

Thank you to all the volunteers, who helped to make this success meeting

Zvi Erbast delights with his music



2. The passing of Moshe Kessler 1930-2025 (Bergesas)

[See Bulletin 130, January 2025]

Moshe's life story was the subject of the book "The Boy from Block 66," by Dr. Limor Regev (with him in the picture), who lectured on the subject at the annual memorial ceremony at Yad Vashem in May 2025. Moshe passed away on Yom Kippur! May his memory be blessed! [The book is also translated into Russian and English]



3. Finding Roots (Rachov) and Volunteers for Tracing

For several months now, our friend, Ahuva (Luba) Weinberger (Yakovovich), has been helping to trace the roots of families from Carpatorus – according to a rare file that came into her possession. The file contains a lot of information, from many districts in Carpatorus, and a single person cannot master the large amount of information in it. If we do not take control of the information of Ahuva's knowledge - and her desire to help - the information will be lost forever... **Ahuva must receive help from volunteers who read Russian letters.** She will guide them and explain how to edit the data. This is a task of rare historical importance – in which you will be partners. Please, those of you who are willing to volunteer for this important task – contact Ahuva at 052-3385447. **This time Ahuva is enlisting to locate information on families from Rachov.**

4. Feedback on Newsletter 139, October 2025

***Avital Singer** commented on the article about Issachar Weiss: "I was excited to read in the new newsletter of the Carpatorus descendants about the family of Issachar Weiss. His grandfather, Yitzhak Isaac Weiss, was the brother of my father's great-grandfather. As far as I know - my father (who died 58 years ago) was not aware of these relatives who lived in Israel".

***Extensive feedback on the Righteous Among the Nations, Sipos, will be included in one of the following newsletters**

***Robert Vasl** commented on the article about the transfer of the synagogue from Velyki Komiatiy to Uzhgorod: Robert visited the place in 2012, together with Beilo (Baruch) Huber and Ilan (Igor) Radom and photographed the interior of the synagogue. Below are some of the photos.

Star of David in the window - a souvenir from distant times, when the place served as a synagogue and not a warehouse



Beilo Huber (right) and Ilan Radom



5. The Story of a Picture: Kalman Markowitz (Uglya / Khust)

In April 2025, our friend, Yehoshua Weiss, from Rehovot, contacted me. Yehoshua visited Germany, at the Melk camp, which was a subcamp of Mauthausen. From a Yad Vashem document: "The camp, established in April 1944, was intended to accommodate 1,500 prisoners. The function of this labor camp was to provide forced laborers for the construction of an underground weapons factory between the villages of Rogendorf and Lossdorf, near Melk. This factory was designed as a weapon manufacturing complex and was built in the heart of the mountain, within a system of tunnels connecting the two villages.

During the camp's year of existence, 5,000 deaths were recorded in the camp's books. Some were 'shot while escaping,' others were murdered with phenol injections into the heart, and many were sent to the Herthem Fortress, where they were murdered in the gas chamber on site. But most of the deaths were due to constant hunger, total exhaustion, and disease."

What caught Yehoshua's attention was the following sign:



To my father Mori
and the Kdoshim of Khust
will forever be remembered
Dr. Moshe, son of
R' Kalman Markowitz

Yehoshua challenged me to know who R' Kalman Markowitz of Khust was – and who is his son, Dr. Moshe Markowitz, was.

So, I set off...

On the Yad Vashem website, I found testimony about Kalman Markowitz, from Khust, who was born in Uglya, including a photo of Kalman, who was murdered in the Melk camp in 1945.

The testimony was given by his

daughter, Hedva Greenberg, formerly Edith, of Hod Hasharon.

Since my childhood friend, Aviva Even Khen [whose roots are also from Munkach] and her husband, Moti, who lives in Hod Hasharon, documented the Holocaust survivors in their city – I was able to look up information in the book they documented. thus, I found about Edith/Hedva (in the picture), Kalman's daughter: "I was born in 1927 to Gizela and Kalman Markowitz in the city of Khust, Czechoslovakia. In 1930, about 6,000 Jews lived in Khust out of a population of 20,000. My father was an agent for two clothing factories in the Sudetenland. He had traveled to Poland, Romania, and Hungary to distribute the goods. The family was religious and Zionist. My father was a rabbi, who studied in a yeshiva. The family had three children: Moshe, Yehuda, and me. I studied at a Hungarian Hebrew school. My father and brothers were fluent in Hebrew.



...My mother, who was holding my cousin's youngest son, was sent with him to the crematoriums. In January 1945, I was liberated by the Red Army. The journey back home took months, with hunger and no food, with everything around me being bombed. I arrived with my cousin, Ilonka Seidenfeld. My brother Yehuda returned after contracting typhus in the Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria, and my brother Moshe Markowitz was in the underground in Budapest and lived as a gentile, issuing false passports to Jews and rescuing them. **My father was killed in the Melk camp near Vienna in 1945.**

In 1947 I married Chaim Greenberg in Prague.

In December 1949 we came to Israel on the ship "Avzia" and arrived in Magdi'el, where my brother Yehuda was living.

My husband and I had two sons: Uri and Roni - they run a transportation agency named after them".

It turns out that Edith/Hadva's husband, Chaim Greenberg, was also born in Carpatorus: he was from **Kisszolyva / Skotarske**, Voľovec District; the village counted 73 Jews in the 1941 census.

Information from Yad Vashem about Moshe: Born 27.1.1920, lived in Khust at 16 ZRINYI Street; released on 18.1.1945.

On the MyHeritage website I found information about Moshe Markowitz:

His full name was Moshe (Elemer) Markowitz, born 1920, Death: February 2016, Burial: Mishmar HaEmek [see update below];

Parents: **Kalman Markowitz ? – 1944** and Gizela [Toba/Gitl]

Former wife: Ingeberg (Inge), 1924 - 1993

Spousal: Edna Markowitz Brothers and sisters: Leiby Markowitz [this is Yehuda]

Greenberg (nee Markowitz) [this is Edith/Hadva]

Children: Irit Mendelzweig (nee Markowitz) 1951 - 2011

Son - according to Moshe's testimony [see below] – this is Danny Mor;

Reuveni [Nimrod - another son from his marriage to Edna]



Kalman Markowitz

Moshe, who was a doctor, specializing in allergies, gave a long testimony about his life in Khust in Zvi Menchel's book on the Khust community. The testimony appears between pages 423-442 and I will quote from it. In his testimony, he says that he arrived in Khust at the age of 7, after the family moved from Gross Vardein, which is now Oradea in Romania. "My knowledge of my father's lineage goes only as far as Rabbi Leib Markowitz, who, at the beginning of the last century [19th century] was a resident of the village of Uglya. ...On my mother's side, I go only as far as my grandfather Rabbi Ezra Ezraovich, who was known as Rabbi Ezra of Nizhnye Selishche [Nizhnye Selishche, in Hungarian: Alsószeliscse, Khust district; in the 1941 census, there were 262 Jews there]. [Grandfather Ezra also moved from Selishte to Khust].

...In the book of Maramuresh" I read about my great-grandfather Leib as follows: 'Among the first families in Uglya was the family of Leib Markowitz, from whom most of the Jews of Uglya were descendants.' ...between the two world wars, the head of the community, the village elder, Rabbi

Yitzhak Ze'ev Markowitz, was usually the owner of extensive forests and fields.' This was my paternal grandfather, by his popular name, Itzig Wolf. ...My late father, Kalman Markovich, the eldest son of Rabbi Itzig Wolf [who had 2 daughters and 6 sons], was destined to be the successor to his father, the nobleman, to bear the burden of the kingdom. He studied in the "Heder", as was the custom of those days, later in the Christian schools, studied in Ohel Shem and attended the famous yeshivahs of 'Uberland' in Slovakia. When he reached his maturity, he was matched to marry the daughter of Rabbi Ezra Selischer of Selisch, Miss Gitel-Gizela. But in the meantime, World War I broke out and the groom was called to defend the Emperor, Franz Joseph I. This, too, did not please the Emperor, as he lost the war and the groom was allowed to return home. There, a magnificent wedding was held between the two gentlemen.

...He took his young wife and his eldest son [Moses]...He left Uglya and came to Gross Vardein ...Here he continued as a representative of German firms from the Sudetenland. In the community, he was considered a scholar and earned the title of 'Moreno' for his Torah studies, but also was respected as a man well-versed in secular wisdom, which he acquired privately. ...The owners of the houses loved to listen to his discourses when they would gather in groups (kipkelach) before prayer and discuss the world and everything in it. He once said that the day would come when they would be able to broadcast not only words and music like on the radio, but also images, like in the cinema.

...Father raised me to be a proud Jew, like him. His attitude towards Christians was fair and humble. But when we were caught in injustice, he knew how to defend himself, and with courage.

...Most of our townspeople, who were taken to work perished in Melk, including my uncle Moshe Motiowitz, Olga's father [Olga Gold, about whom I wrote in Bulletin 80 of February 2021...]. His wife and the rest of his children perished.

...Our rabbi, Rabbi Yehoshua Greenwald, was also in the Melk camp. ...I asked him to tell me something about my late father, about his life in the camp, his work, his death. He didn't tell me much. He said that they were engaged in carving caves in the mountain, for the Nazi war industry. He said that he had skin wounds." Kalman Markowitz was the chairman of Mizrahi in Khust.

On the Yad Vashem testimony website, I found a photo testimony of Moshe from September 2007 [age 87]. The link to it: <https://collections.yadvashem.org/he/documents/6695943> [The photos are from this documentation]. In the documentation, he talks about the death of his father. A man named Bernover, who was with Kalman in the camp, said that he was full of hope that his children would survive... He was a "mentch" until his last day. He died of phlegmon [acute inflammation of the subcutaneous connective tissue, resulting from vitamin deficiency and starvation]. Kalman died in the arms of that Bernover.

Summary of the testimonies: "Life in Oradea; Life in Chust; Re-annexation to Hungary in 1939; Rabbinical studies; Receiving exemption from military service; Activity in the Young Pioneer movement; Activity of Joel Brand (member of the Aid and Rescue Committee in Budapest) for smuggling Jews from Poland to Czechoslovakia; German occupation in 1944; Finding hiding places in a friend's house; Meeting with Joel Pelgi (paratrooper from Palestine); Arrest and transfer to a labor company in Zirc; Life there, including receiving letters from parents; Release; Transfer with an accompanying soldier to Budapest; Receiving forged papers from a Zionist underground; Arrest for desertion; Life in the "Kourt Margit" prison; Assistance to refugees entering "shelter houses"; Activity in the underground including impersonating a member of the Arrow Cross Party; Liberation; Working as an interpreter for the Soviets; Immigration to Israel." In 1951".



Dr. Moshe Markowitz

The photo,
taken by
Yehoshua
Weiss in Melk,
has been
deciphered.



Kalman and Gisela Markowitz

6. Righteous Among the Nations: Rosenberg Miklos-Robert – Uzhgorod

The rescue by the Righteous Among the Nations took place in Budapest. 8 people were saved [see also documentation regarding Markowitz Moshe]

István Szőnyi was an internationally known artist, who was considered one of Hungary's foremost painters between the two World Wars. He had a studio, located in Budapest, and was a professor and teacher at the city's Academy of Arts.

In 1943, one of his students, Miklós Rozenberg-Róbert, was arrested and trialed for hiding Jewish refugees from Austria. These refugees were his own sister and his brother-in-law, who Róbert hid in his apartment for two years. When Szőnyi was made aware of his student's plight, he immediately got involved, using his power and influence to have Rozenberg released from prison. At Szőnyi's request, Rozenberg's imprisonment was postponed. After the German occupation, Róbert was imprisoned in a jail located on Mosonyi Street in Budapest. Because he had been sentenced to stay in jail for a specific period of time, he was not deported to Auschwitz together with the other prisoners.

When he was released, he went into hiding with Szőnyi, whose studio served as a hiding place for **eight Jews**. The studio also operated as a center for the creation and distribution of forged documents. Szőnyi's wife, Melinda, and his three children, Jolán, Zsuzsa and Péter, were full partners in the rescue process.

...Szőnyis' daughter, Jolán was a chemist by profession. She used her skills to forge documents, using a chemical solution to wash the original names off certificates, and then filling in other details. Jolán also actively helped distribute these papers to persecuted Jews. ...Melinda Szőnyi, in addition to feeding her own family, took on the responsibility for providing food for all the hidden Jews – no simple achievement in Budapest during the siege.

After the war, some of the survivors left Hungary. However, they stayed in contact and remained grateful to the Szőnyi family who had risked their lives to save them.

On October 2, 1984, Yad Vashem recognized István and Melinda Szőnyi and their children, Zsuzsa (Triznya), Jolán (Komáromy) and Péter, as Righteous Among the Nations.

I found additional information about the survivor Miklós Róbert Rozenberg on another Yad Vashem website: Robert was born in Ungvár in 1911. He lost his hearing at the age of four as a

result of scarlet fever. He completed his studies in furniture design and art at the Academy of Fine Arts in Budapest.

In 1939, his works were shown in many exhibitions, but due to growing anti-Semitism, they were later removed.

Robert's sister* [this is, therefore, Lili Brandl...see below] and her husband fled Vienna after Kristallnacht, and after a period of wandering, in 1940, they found shelter with Robert, in his home in Budapest. In March 1943, Robert was arrested for hiding refugees and sentenced to forced labor, but with the intervention of his art teacher, Prof. Stván Szőnyi, he was released.

After the German occupation of Hungary in March 1944, Robert was arrested again and forced to serve his previous sentence. He managed to escape from the Obuda labor camp, with the help of the Red Cross, and joined this organization. He served as a courier for the Swiss embassy in Budapest, and used his position to forge stamps and documents for Jews.

In March 1945, after the liberation, Robert returned to Ungvár to look for his family but discovered that only two nephews had survived, and that the rest of his family had been murdered in Auschwitz. Since Ungvár was annexed by the Soviet Union, Robert was not allowed to leave for 11 years, and he exhibited his works in Soviet galleries.

In September 1956, he finally obtained a visa to visit Budapest and from there - fled to Vienna. He married in 1962 and had four children.

Robert was an active artist until his death [in Vienna, 2001].

While in prison in Budapest, in March 1944, Robert drew, using colored pencils, the Jewish prisoners awaiting an unknown fate. The prisoners were found as he found them, without any posture: dozing, contemplating, or introspective.



One of Miklos-Robert Rosenberg's paintings

More information can be found in the article about the painter, born in Uzhgorod, who was one of the most famous Hungarian surrealist artists, and left a significant mark on the art of all of Eastern Europe: "Livia Eva Ostreicher (real name Lili Orseg) was born and raised in Uzhgorod. Since childhood, the girl loved to draw, and although her parents did not share her passion, they

still allowed her to master the skill. The first teacher of the talented girl was the artist Miklos Rosenberg (known by the pen name Robert Miklos). When many years later, Lili asked her teacher how he understood that she would become an artist, Miklos replied: "From your drawings. There was life in them in people's eyes." [See an article about her later].

More information about Robert Rosenberg as an artist:

"In 1924 he joined the painting school in Nagybányai. His master was Thorma János.

In the late 1920s he studied graphic design and poster design at the private school of Berény Róbert in Budapest, as well as with Lajos Ékes Csabai. In 1933-1939 he studied at the Hungarian Academy of Fine Arts, masters: László Kandó, Ágost Benckhardt, Nándor Lajos Varga; after that he studied at the private school of **Szőnyi István [the Righteous Among the Nations who saved him]**.

He also obtained a qualification as a cabinetmaker and furniture designer.

When he returned to Ungvár he taught painting, and his student was Ország Lili, who later moved to Hungary.

He lived in Budapest between 1940-1944 and was saved from deportation by István Szony.

On behalf of Miklós Rosovszky, he himself took part in rescue missions with the assistance of the Swiss Embassy and the Red Cross.

Between 1945-46 he lived in Ungvar, was a member of the Ukrainian Artists' Association in Kiev, and also a member of the Art Fund of the Soviet Union.

In 1956 he left Budapest for Vienna, where he has lived since.

Between 1957-1965 he participated in the Wiener Secession exhibitions. ...He retired from public appearances in 1979". He also had exhibitions in Israel.

https://www.kieselbach.hu/artist/robert_-miklos-_rosenberg-miklos_-ungvari-rosenberg-miklos_4744



The Dead Sea

Rosh Ha'nikra



Oil paintings on canvas by Robert Rosenberg



Portrait of István Szőnyi
– Sculptor Katalin Pálffy



Bedouin tents

Melinda – Illustration by István Szőnyi

<https://www.mutualart.com/Artwork/Tent/4BCE24AE3F36CA6E>

I located the witness statements that Miklos filled out for the members of his immediate family, who were murdered in Auschwitz, along with additional information on the Geni website [see photos in the documentation of his sister, Rosenberg-Brandl Lily].

Mother: Anna, née Lebovits, born in Sarospatak, Hungary in 1887; Father: Armin, born in Ungvar, 1880; Brother Endre and sister, Lily Brandl (1913-1971, Vienna).

Miklos filled out many witness statements about his extended family.

An article, in Italian, about the savior parents and their daughter, from 1959, in which Melinda and her daughter José are seen in a photograph: István Szőnyi con la moglie Melinda, la figlia Zsuzsa in Fiumicino, 1959

<https://szonyimuzeum.hu/istvan-szonyi-con-la-moglie-melinda-la-figlia-zsuzsa-in-fiumicino-1959-2/>

"Ishteven Szőny with his wife Melinda, daughter José in Fiumicino, 1959

In 1959 we were expecting Mom and Dad Szőnyi again in Rome. In front of Termini station, we made them get into the car, ours this time, in a ceremonial manner; Dad could barely fit in. (...) My dad looked respectfully at the used Fiat 600, which couldn't exactly be called new, since it was the family's first car, after the country wagon that couldn't be mechanized. ...We didn't dare admit that we had bought the car in 36 monthly payments, and at the time we had only paid for two of them. So, we started our trips with enthusiasm. My dad always brought his satchel and paints with him. Fiumicino and the sea became his favorite places, he even worked in the rain: he would lower



the car window, look out at the shipyard quay and quickly sketch the watercolors that were then made even more original by the rain, the one who descends".

Budapest, 2021

Fiumicino 1959: István with his back to the camera [painting?], together with Melinda and daughter José

I found pictures painted by István, which are in the KIESELBACH gallery in Germany, where you can see the portraits of his family

members, all Righteous Among the Nations [There is no portrait of [J]olan.

Melinda, 1923



Peter, 1957



Zsuzsi, 1930





Wikipedia has an information about José, and that's how I learned about her connection to Italy. I will summarize from the text:

"Zsuzsa Szőnyi, (Budapest, October 2, 1924 - Budapest, March 16, 2014) was the daughter of the painter István Szőnyi, a Hungarian employee of Vatican Radio, and published several autobiographical works. Together with her husband, the painter Mátyás Triznya, she ran the literary salon, known as the Taverna Triznya in Rome, for five decades. In 1999, the President of Italy, Ciampi, awarded her the

Golden Cross of Commander of the Order of Merit of the Republic for her merits in fostering Italian-Hungarian cultural relations.

Zsuzsa Szőnyi, the first child of the painter István Szőnyi and Melinda Bartóki, **granddaughter of the former Minister of Agriculture József Bartóki**. ...She lived in Zebegény until the age of six ...[then] the family moved to Budapest in 1930. She grew up on the fifth floor of 21 Baross Street in the city center, spending summers in the family home in Zebegény with her younger brother, Péter (born 1926), who died of meningitis at the age of 18, and her half-sister, Jolan.

...On March 19, 1944, she married her student love, Mátyás Triznya, a painter. ...After a previous unsuccessful attempt, she crossed the Hungarian border with her husband in February 1949. From Graz they fled to Venice and then to Florence. They arrived in Rome on July 25, 1949. The Eternal City welcomed them, and in return, the couple hosted Hungarian artists and scholars from all over the world in their apartment for 50 years.

Between 1950 and 1965 she was the editor of the Hungarian-language broadcast of Italian Radio, edited a weekly Hungarian in 1956 - and taught Italian to Hungarians, who were waiting in refugee camps.

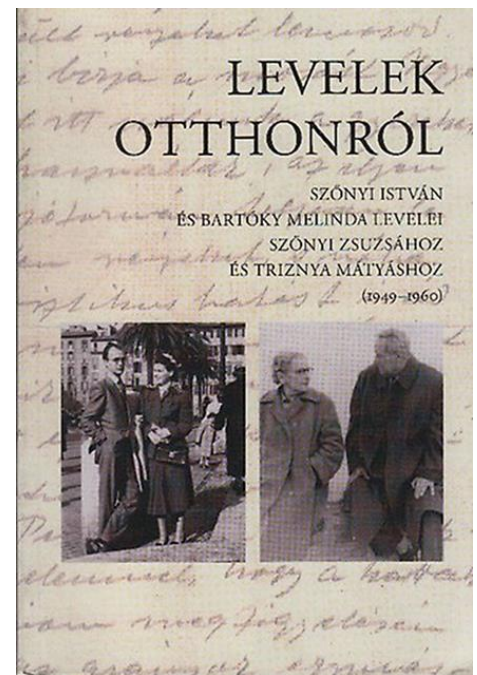
Between 1965-1969 she was an editor and translator in the foreign press department of the Italian Prime Minister's Office. Under the name Zsuzsa Bartóky, she was an occasional correspondent for Radio Free Europe, and from 1989, a colleague of Vatican Radio.

In 1984, the members of the Szőnyi family were awarded the title of Righteous Among the Nations by the State of Israel for their humanitarian activities during World War II.

Letters from Home - Letters from István Szőnyi and Melinda Bartóky to Zsój Szőnyi and Mátyás Triznia:(1949-1960)

One of the books that Zsuzsi wrote and in this way, we can see István [even if not with complete clarity].

Link to the "Yad Vashem" website: <https://collections.yadvashem.org/en/righteous/4045148>



Rosenberg - Brandl Lili - Uzhgorod, daughter Gerda Frey

The rescue of the Righteous Among the Nations took place in Budapest

At the age of 17 Dezső Frankó became an apprentice baker in a bakery owned by the Fuchs family in Buda. Although the Fuchses were Jewish and he was not, Frankó was treated like a member of the family, and when he got married, the Fuchses helped him open a bakery of his own.

After 1938 Mrs. Fuchs's, family, the Brandls, arrived from Austria as refugees. They lived in relative security until the Nazi invasion of Hungary in 1944. After the invasion, Frankó understood that his friends were in danger, and prepared a hiding place for them in his small apartment. In order to free up space for eight additional people, Frankó and his wife Franciska sent their two-year-old son, Gábor, out of Budapest to live with relatives. Both Franciska and Dezső Frankó worked in the bakery throughout the period that they were hiding Jews. Despite the risk, and despite their difficult financial circumstances, they provided for all these people without any compensation. When the bombing in Budapest intensified in November 1944, the Fuchs and Brandl families, had to leave the Frankós' apartment. The couple made them a hiding place in the basement of the bakery, something that was dangerous for everyone involved, because of the presence of other bakery workers. The families were never discovered, and stayed there safely until February 1945.

The connection between the Frankó, Fuchs and Brandl families continued after the war. "Two families were saved, eight Jewish souls, thanks to Frankó and his wife Franciska, who hid us and took care of all our needs," testified the survivors.

On September 18, 1980, Yad Vashem recognized Dezső and Franciska Frankó as Righteous Among the Nations.



I came across Lili's name quite by chance: I documented Rosenberg Miklos-Robert, born in Uzhgorod. When I searched the Geni website for his family members, the names of his parents and the names of a brother and sister came up. I went to the Yad Vashem Witness Pages website and there I discovered that Miklos' sister was Lily Brandl, née Rosenberg, born in Uzhgorod, who was also saved by other Righteous Among the Nations. It turns out that her name appeared in the rescue documentation by Dezső and Franciska Frankó, but without specifying her place of birth, only on her personal page [Source of the image – on the next page].

Lili was born in 1913, lived in Vienna and died in 1971.

Lili's mother: Anna, née Lebovits, was born in Sarospatak, Hungary in 1887; Father: Armin, born in Ungvar, 1880; parents perished in Auschwitz.

The siblings are Endre (1910-1932) and Miklos-Robert (1922-2001)



It turns out that Lili and her husband, Ernst, also had a daughter, born in 1936, Gerda, who was also hidden; the three family members were saved by Dezső and Franciska Frankó. Dezső lived from 1909-1967 and Franciska - from 1907-1965.

On Gerda Frey's Facebook, I found their family photo, and the circumstances of their arrival in Uzhgorod, and their rescue. [Source: Baumgartner et al., "Aryanizations" Burgenland ... 2004, Volume 17/3]. April 2, 1938, Eisenstadt [city in Austria]

Dr. Ernst Brandl from Mattersburg [Austria] was interrogated by the Gestapo. He was the owner of a men's and women's felt and knitwear shop at Degengasse 17 in Mattersburg. During this

investigation, he stated the total value of his property, approximately 100,000 schillings (67,000 RM, approximately 340,000 euros today) and had to sign that the proceeds of the sale would be used to finance the deportation and "emigration" of the Jews of Burgenland [a city in Austria].

The authorities financed the forced emigration and deportation of the Jews of Burgenland with the assets, which were extorted from Jewish businessmen and private individuals in this way.

On April 4, 1938, two days after Dr. Ernst Brandl was interrogated by the Gestapo, the company was confiscated and placed under temporary administration. The seizure was carried out by the Gestapo Eisenstadt. Among other things, silverware, a radio, a piano and furniture were taken - by the Gestapo, and partly by the NSV (National Social Security). The family is expelled from Burgenland and lives in Vienna until they flee Austria. On August 8, 1938, the Mattersburg district authority revokes their German citizenship.

The Brandl family managed to escape to Uzhgorod (now Ukraine) and survived the Holocaust.



Lili, Gerda and Dr. Ernst Brandl in their garden in Mattersburg 1946, private collection

I found a link documenting an interview with Gerda Frey, in Vienna, 2020. Text: Eva Maria Bachinger, Photo: Karin Wasner, Vienna 2020 Published in [MO-Magazine](https://evamariabachinger.com/berichte/gerda-frey) for Human Rights
<https://evamariabachinger.com/berichte/gerda-frey>

Gerda Frey stands at the window and pushes aside the white curtains: "The view from my apartment is wonderful. You have to see it! You can see three churches: St. Stephen's Cathedral, the Dominican Church, and the Jesuit Church." Today she can stand at the window as long as she wants. In 1944, in a small apartment in Budapest, she also stood at the window because the sun was shining so beautifully and she could hear children's laughter from the playground in the park below. But her parents immediately pulled her back so she wouldn't be seen. In March 1944, Gerda, then seven years old, had to go into hiding with her parents, Lili and Ernő, to avoid deportation. The baker Franko Dezső was an old friend of Ernő's from their childhood. He persuaded his wife to risk her life and hide the small family in their apartment. They spent nine months in a small room. "The

fear of being discovered was always there. Even though I was a child, I was aware that our lives were in danger," says the now 83-year-old elegant woman in her spacious Vienna apartment .

March 19th is a date burned into her memory: Hitler's troops occupied Hungary. When the Austrian government ordered a comprehensive lockdown in March 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, she remembered that time particularly well, isolated in a small room. To encourage the people who were now all supposed to stay at home, she wrote a letter to the editor, which was published in "Der Standard." She didn't want to add another Holocaust story, she explains, but rather to demonstrate how, under the most difficult circumstances, you can explain reality to a child and still keep them entertained. Her parents succeeded: "We read a lot, I learned Hungarian poems, drew, and solved puzzles. There was no radio, no television, and no internet. I only had one doll; my mother sewed clothes for her, my father told me Bible stories and explained the world to me. We could only whisper to each other and weren't allowed to make any noise during the day. But I was surrounded by my parents and by love, something many people didn't have." Gerda Frey received many responses, most of them positive. "Many mothers responded, and one father wrote to me saying he had printed out the letter and framed it," she says happily .

Gerda Frey, née Brandl, was born in Vienna in 1936. She spent the first two years of her life in Mattersburg, which had a large Jewish community. Because of his brother's suicide, her father took over the long-established, respected Brandl textile shop in Mattersburg and gave up his medical career. But then came the Anschluss in 1938. Lili Brandl had to leave the house within a few days and fled with the baby to her sister-in-law in Vienna. Ernő was immediately arrested: "When he was released after six weeks, my mother didn't recognize him. He had hardly any teeth, a swollen face, and was beaten black and blue." The family sought refuge with their grandparents in Ungvar in what was then Czechoslovakia. But the odyssey never ended: in 1942, the parents were deported to Budapest and placed in the Szabolcsutca internment camp; Gerda was also deported in 1943. "That ultimately saved me from Auschwitz," she says today. In 1944, her parents managed to escape. The family was reunited in Budapest, but for months they stayed in a darkened room .

When the bombings began in November 1944, their helper, Franko Dezső, took them in a cloak-and-dagger operation to a shelter behind his bakery, where conditions were even worse. On December 24, 1944, Ernő set out to find a new place to live. They posed as Christian refugees and lived with a family in a small apartment. "When I think of that time, traumatic images come back: When I looked out the window, I saw corpses floating in the Danube. The girl from the other family just said, 'Don't worry about it, they're just Jews.' Tall buildings were burning brightly, it was very threatening." After the war, the family initially looked for relatives in Ungvar, but only a nephew remained. 54 relatives, including their grandparents, had been murdered. So they traveled on to Mattersburg. "I can still see us today on the train platform, with a small suitcase. We went to our house, where the Russian commandant's office was located. They put us up with a family who had once been Nazis. But even that family became friends with my parents." When the Russians left, the Brandls were able to return to their house and even reopened the business. "I didn't know a word of German, but children learn quickly. But Mother had a particularly hard time because she had lost the entire family".

Gerda Frey was young and wanted to travel the world. At 17, she received a scholarship that gave her the opportunity to attend high school in Syracuse, USA, for a year and live with a host family. This time in America had a profound impact on her: "It gave me a broad perspective and a

worldview. My parents were cosmopolitan and educated, but they were so worn down and scarred by all the difficult years; I didn't know the easy life. And then I came into a happy family with four sons and got to know it." Back in Vienna, she began studying medicine, but soon gave it up when she was offered a job at the US Embassy. "That was a great honor at the time," she said. Nevertheless, she only stayed briefly because she had met her future husband. She has three sons with him, one of whom is Eric Frey, a journalist at "Der Standard." The older son lives in the USA, and the whole family meets once a year in Jesolo, Italy. It was important to her and her husband to instill in their children a belief in humanity despite everything. "You can't go through life with hatred and mistrust. I don't remain silent when I see injustice, for example, when a beggar is being harassed. Why do you do that, I ask. Then I often launch into a hateful tirade against Roma and foreigners, but I think you can't remain silent."

Her husband died twelve years ago. "I was happily married for 50 years. Being single after my husband's death was very difficult; being alone during the coronavirus pandemic wasn't a problem for me." Until 1965, she worked as an overseas representative of the American Field Service, which had made her scholarship possible. From 1979, she was the representative of the International Council of Jewish Women at the UN in Vienna.

Gerda Frey was also invited as a contemporary witness to the German government's annual event commemorating the liberation from National Socialism on May 8, 2019. She appealed: "Do not divide people into us and the others. I belonged to the others, and I know what that means. It can happen to anyone to be labeled as the other at some point." She showed a kindergarten photo from Ungvar, 1942: It shows 33 children in their Sunday best with a caregiver. "I envied the children because, unlike me, they were still united with their parents. That haunts me to this day," because none of these children survived, only Gerda Frey. She also showed this picture on her many visits to schools, or she brought along an old, worn photo album of her grandmother and spoke of the extermination of her relatives, trying to make the incomprehensible comprehensible through specific people. Gerda Frey is an open, curious, and cheerful woman who looks optimistically to the future. Memorizing texts has proven to be a success: As she leaves, she quotes the Hungarian author Imre Madách: "Ember küzdj és bízva bízzál," which translates as: "Man, fight—in the sense of strive, make an effort—and trust."

Link to "Yad Vashem website" : <https://collections.yadvashem.org/en/righteous/4035839>



Markowitz Moshe – Uglua and Khust. The rescue by the Righteous Among the Nations took place in Budapest. 8 people were saved [see also documentation on Rosenberg Miklos]



I came across the name of Moshe Markowitz completely by chance: on the "Yad Vashem" website are mentioned by the Szőnyi family 8 survivors, but only next to the name of one of them, Rosenberg Miklos Robert, it is mentioned that he was born in Uzhgorod [as documented]. However, in April 2025, following the receipt of the photo from the Melk camp

[see the article in this newsletter: The Story of a Photo], I came across a filmed testimony by Moshe Markowitz, given to Yad Vashem in September 2007. During his testimony, he describes how he was saved in Budapest by the artist István Szőnyi, along with others, and that the person who saved him was Righteous Among the Nations... So, I will not repeat the details that appear on the Yad Vashem website in the documentation of the rescue of Robert Miklós Rosenberg by István Szőnyi's family - but rather the information regarding the rescue of Moshe Markowitz:

"During the Arrow Cross period, a Jew by the name of Moshe Markowitz, who had left his forced-labor unit, was caught and arrested as an army deserter. The Szőnyis' younger daughter, Zsuzsa, accompanied by a Hungarian soldier who was a friend of the family, approached the official at the prison who was in charge of the prosecution. Although it put her at great personal risk, Zsuzsa managed to convince the official to dismiss the charges, saying that Markowitz was not a deserter, but had received leave from his unit commander. After his release, Markowitz was hidden in the studio of the Szőnyi family and his life was saved. He later immigrated to Israel".

Moshe was born in 1920, in Uglya, moved to Oradea (Romania), and then the family settled in Khust. His parents were named Kalman and Gizla/Gitl/Tova. His mother was murdered upon her arrival in Auschwitz - because she was carrying her sister-in-law's baby; his father died in the Melk camp. In the documentation at Yad Vashem, Moshe recounts his experiences from childhood to his arrival in Israel, where he records the death of his father. A man named Baranover, who was with Kalman in the camp, said that he was full of hope that his children would survive... He was a "metch" until his last day. He died of phlegmon [an acute inflammation of the subcutaneous connective tissue, resulting from a lack of vitamins and starvation]. Kalman died in the arms of the witness, Baranover.

Link to Moshe's testimony: <https://collections.yadvashem.org/he/documents/6695943>

Moshe was also active in the underground in Budapest by forging documents (Schutz-Pass), although his name is not included on the underground website.

After the war he studied medicine for 2 semesters in Budapest - and then completed his medical studies in Prague. He married Inga, a nurse, in Vienna. In 1951 they immigrated to Israel, to Magdi'el, where Moshe's two surviving siblings also lived: Leiby (Yehuda-Aria) and Edith (later: Hedva Greenberg). Their children Irit (who died in 2011) and Danny [Mor] were born in Israel.

The family moved to Tel Aviv following Moshe's work, who became an allergy specialist. Later, he was offered a job in Haifa and the family moved there.

From his second marriage to Edna, Moshe had a son, Nimrod. Moshe died in 2016 [aged 96] and is buried at Shaar Ha'amakim [and not in Mishmar Ha'emek].



A drawing of Moshe's son, 14,
painted by Moshe





Moshe Markowitz in
Hakhsara

Moshe as a student at the
Rabbinical Seminary



"Yad Vashem": The sign honoring the
Righteous Among the Nations



The photos are from the
documentation photographed by
"Yad Vashem"

7. Born in Carpatorus: Orsag Lili / Livia Eva Ostreicher (1978 – 1926) (Uzhgorod)

I received the information about Orsag Lili from our friend, volunteer, Yitzhak Klein. To my surprise, I read that she was a student of Rosenberg Robert Miklos, whom I documented as being exploited by the Righteous Among the Nations... Circles of Life, Intertwined... The article was written by Oleksandr Nikitchuk:

Livia Eva Osterreicher (real name Lili Orsag) was born and raised in Uzhgorod. Since childhood, the girl loved to draw, and although her parents did not share her passion, they still allowed her to master the skill. The first teacher of the talented girl was the artist Miklos Rosenberg (known under the pseudonym Robert Miklos). When many years later, Lili asked her teacher how he understood that she would become an artist, Miklos replied: "From your drawings. There was life in them in people's eyes".

The young artist studied at the Uzhhorod gymnasium until 1941, where Adalbert Erdeli taught drawing. In the spring of 1944, Lili and her family were taken to the Jewish ghetto for several weeks, and this time left such a deep wound in the soul of the 17-year-old girl that she could not paint anything but brick walls for many years. On the way to Auschwitz, the family managed to escape



to Budapest, and in 1945 the young artist became a student at the Academy of Arts. In 1948, Lili and her family changed their surname to Orsag. In 1950, she graduated from the academy, received a position as a decorator at the Budapest State Puppet Theater, and got married.

While working in the puppet theater, Lili Orsag created puppets and scenery, but first of all, she painted a lot. In the capital of Hungary, she found a new friend - Endre Balint, who became her teacher and introduced her to modern trends in Western art. With each new exhibition, the name of Lili Orsag became more and more famous. The endless brick walls in her works, combined with her life story, made her image deeper and more tragic, and therefore more interesting. In the art circles of Hungary at that time, there were often whispers about the eccentric puppet theater artist, they said that she painted incredible paintings outside of work.

Lili worked a lot and traveled. Having moved away from surrealism, she became interested in icon painting, and then - wall painting (the series of works "Western Wall"). The next stage of the artist's work gave the world unique paintings in which the artist depicts bizarre, but deeply philosophical labyrinths ("Golden City", "Gate to the Old City", "Wailing Wall", "Heliopolis"). Explaining the nature of her works, the artist said: "My labyrinth is built of stones and bridges. On the walls of the 20th century I find prints of ancient labyrinths. This is the emblem of our existence."

Lili Orsag died suddenly, she was only 52 years old. However, even in this short time she managed to become a participant in numerous collective exhibitions in Italy, Poland, Norway, Croatia, Luxembourg, Austria, Germany, France and other countries. The world saw almost three dozen solo exhibitions of the artist also in various European countries. Nowadays, in Hungary, Lili Orsag is considered one of the most famous artists, and they are very proud of her name and creative achievements.



Articles from the newspaper "Ma'ariv", 6.11.1966 and 4.11.1966 about an exhibition of Lili's paintings in Israel

8. Ours: Dr. Weiss Shimon and his son, Mordehay (Munkach)

Dr. Shimon Weiss is a very active person in the field of education and training, with impressive educational initiatives and ventures, but the emphasis in his professional life in recent decades has been on integrating the Haredi sector into academic studies in the fields of engineering and medicine – and more on that later.

I will tell his personal story, but no less important and moving is the story of his son, Col. Mordechai (Mordy) Weiss, who serves as commander of the IDF Commando Brigade.

Shimon's roots are planted in two towns in Carpatorus: his father, Chaim-Wolf, was born in **Huklyvyi** [Volovets District, in Hungarian: Zugo; counted 231 Jews in the 1941 census], born in 1913; in the 1940s he was recruited into the labor companies and was eventually released from Mauthausen. His mother, Chaya, was born in **Klyachanovo** [Munkach District, in Hungarian: Klacsanó; counted 215 Jews in the 1941 census], born in 1930. She was the eldest – and the only one, who survived from her family – parents and 5 more brothers and sisters. After the war she was adopted by an only uncle, who returned from the war.

The parents lived in Munkach, where Shimon was born in 1955, as his sister. He did his middle school studies at School No. 8 – and his high school at School No. 1.

In May 1972 the family immigrated to Israel and settled in Netanya. His Hebrew studies were conducted in the ulpan at Bar-Ilan. Later Shimon became a teacher and studied electronic engineering at the Lev Institute, including a teaching certificate; electronics was a profession he did not pursue at all, but he did teach for many years. He enlisted in the army during the period of Rafael Eitan, who was known for his unique approach to education ["Rafal Boys"]. There was still no military profession called training in the army, and **Shimon was chosen to be one of the founders of the Military Training School**. He served in the IDF for 5 years, in Nablus [Bahad 3] and was engaged in didactics of infantry professions; Shimon was discharged with the rank of captain.

After his discharge, he worked at the Israel Aerospace Industries - preparing training kits for pilots and technicians of the "Lavi" aircraft, for 6 years - until the project was closed.

Over the years, Shimon completed two master's degrees at the University of Jerusalem; the third he did at the Academy of Sciences in Moscow, on the subject: developing curricula in technological professions.

In 1990, Shimon returned to the Lev Institute, where he studied when he immigrated to Israel, for 35 years, but this time as **Dean of Students** [25 years] and for the last ten years – as **CEO of the academic institution**.

A few words about the Lev Institute, from Wikipedia: "The Lev Academic Center (formerly: "Lev Institute" or "Jerusalem High School of Technology", also known by its acronym BGT) is an academic-Torah college, recognized by the Council for Higher Education. The institution allows for the combination of technology and Judaism studies, and its studies take place on separate campuses for men and women. The Lev Academic Center grants bachelor's and master's degrees in technological subjects, in management and accounting subjects, and in nursing. It enrolls approximately 5,000 students".

An article from June 2011 states: "In the past five years, there has been a 400% increase in the number of Haredi men and women studying for academic degrees in engineering and health. This is according to data that will be presented today at a first-of-its-kind conference under the title 'Integrating the Haredi Population - as a National Goal.' The conference is sponsored by 'Kikar Hashabbat' - the world's leading Haredi website. ... **The CEO of the Jerusalem Higher School of Technology, Dr. Shimon Weiss**, added that 'during the preparations for the seminar, it became clear

to us that Haredi prefer to study engineering at a high level and even engage in it, but they are not willing to compromise on their lifestyle and prefer a segregated campus and learning conditions. On the seminar, we will present impressive data on the placement rates of the last three cohorts - alongside data on the growing demand for engineering studies among the Haredi public.” One of the important projects initiated and implemented by Shimon is the **training of nurses from the Haredi sector**. In October 2021, 23 girls from the Ofek Seminary, run by the Netzach Network, successfully completed the prestigious academic degree in nursing from the Lev Academic Center. From the institute’s announcement: “The completion of the first cohort is an important milestone in the shared vision of the Ofek Seminary of the Netzach Network and the Lev Academic Center in integrating Haredi women as a significant and vital factor in the healthcare system. **Dr. Shimon Weiss, founder and founder of Ofek**, said that “the vision of Haredi girls receiving their degrees in a special profession such as nursing is an exciting event. Ofek’s vision, which started small, is today becoming something big, with our graduates completing the long journey all the way to employment with dignity in a therapeutic profession, which is all about giving for the sake of others.”

So far, over 400 Haredi nurses have been added to the health system thanks to this initiative. Shimon is in intensive professional contact with the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem and from the hospital doctors he has heard moving compliments from these nurses, who demonstrate compassion and a deep emotional commitment to treating hospitalized patients. The current situation is that he has the possibility of opening classes with 75 places – and there are 120 interested Haredi girls registered. Another initiative in the field of medicine that Shimon initiated is **the training of Haredi imaging workers [X-ray, CT, MRI]** – in view of the shortage of 1100 positions in the field. Private institutes have invested a lot of money in purchasing equipment, but due to the lack of suitable professionals, the equipment is out of order and the appointments are postponed to distant dates. Shimon even told about a bus that leaves Jenin every morning for Hadassah Ein Kerem Hospital with imaging technicians. It took a year of persuasion, but today, this is the second year, dedicated training tracks have already been opened for this profession. In combination with Jerusalem College, where the Haredi girls study two years of science - and complete two more years of imaging studies. The track is a way of converting academics, from various fields, to two-year imaging studies - with graduates being immediately employed.

Shimon emphasizes that his vision is a national project - both in training nursing workers and in training imaging workers!

This year, his activities were also expanded to work with Sheba Tel Hashomer and Kaplan, with girls from the Sanz Hasidic community in Netanya.

Shimon served as CEO of another educational framework - Orot Yisrael, which has branches in Elkana and Rehovot. About the college – from its website: “Orot Israel College is a religious Zionist academic college for education, training educators, teachers for Israeli children of all ages. ... The college offers M.Ed. degree programs in three areas: Bible and Sage literature, educational counseling, management and organization of educational systems, and also offers various administrative courses and continuing education”.

In between, Shimon carried out 50-60 missions to the USSR as **part of “Nativ”** [the liaison office in the Prime Minister’s Office for relations with Jews in the USSR/former USSR countries] and the Jewish Agency. Many hundreds of students came through these missions to study at the “Lev Institute”. He went as far as Vladivostok [in the Russian Far East, on the coast of the Sea of Japan]. Since some of the young people were not yet 18, he became the guardian of these youth - until they turned 18. Shimon testified that there are 117 files in the “Nativ” archive called “Children of Shimon Weiss...”

Shimon also dealt with the sorting of the first 2 cycles of **"N'a'le"** [young immigrants without parents]. Shimon and his wife, Miriam, born in Brazil, live in the Hashmonaim settlement in the Modi'in area]. The Weiss couple have 7 children, 4 daughters and 3 sons, and so far, 23 grandchildren.

One of his sons-in-law is Yossi Dagan, head of the Samaria Regional Council.

And here we connect to the story of the eldest son, **Mordechai (Mordi)**:

We are proud to bring another success story of our third generation, born in Israel, descendants of the first generation who were born in Carpathorus [before World War II] or the second generation, who were born in Transcarpathia [after World War II].

I will upload what we know from publications on the Internet about Colonel Weiss Mordechai (Mordi), who serves as **commander of the IDF Commando Brigade**.



*The photo - from Wikipedia, a photo by an IDF spokesman.

Mordi was born, as mentioned, in the settlement of Hashmonaim, where he also studied. He attended high school in Netanya.

From Wikipedia: "Aharon Mordechai (Mordi) Weiss, born in 1982, is an IDF officer with the rank of lieutenant colonel, serving as commander of the Commando Brigade (Oz). He served as a company officer of the Northern Command, and previously served as commander of the Ephraim Brigade, commander of the Geffen Battalion, and commander of the 101st Battalion".

From Channel 7: "Ali Graduate: Colonel Mordi Weiss will be appointed commander of the Commando Brigade.

Weiss studied at the Bnei David Pre-Military Preparatory School in the 13th grade. He enlisted in the IDF in 2002, volunteered for the paratroopers and was accepted into the paratrooper patrol - Uzi Baruch, 22.11.24.

Col. Mordechai (Mordi) Weiss, who serves as an AGM officer of the Northern Command, will be appointed commander of the Commando Brigade.

This was decided by Chief of Staff Herzl Halevi. Previously, he served as commander of the Ephraim Brigade, commander of the Geffen Battalion, and commander of the 101st Battalion.

Weiss studied at the Bnei David Pre-Military Preparatory School in the 13th grade. He enlisted in the IDF in 2002, volunteered for the paratroopers and was accepted into the paratrooper patrol. He underwent a training course as a fighter, an infantry company commander course, and an infantry officer course. Participated in the fight against Palestinian terrorism in the Second Intifada and the Second Lebanon War.

On July 12, 2018, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and appointed Commander of Battalion 101, serving in the position until July 28, 2020.

He was then appointed Commander of the Geffen Battalion, later Commander of the Ephraim Brigade until his appointment as a Special Operations Command Officer of the Northern Command. Weiss lives with his wife and they have eight children. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science and military and security from the University of Haifa.

And his father, Shimon, says of this: **"Hadas [his wife] is the champion"**!

July 2020: Website of the Association for the Inheritance of the Paratroopers' Legacy: Speech by Battalion 101 Lieutenant Colonel Mordi Weiss to the fighters of the November 2017 class on the eve of the 101st Battalion's release! <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1674392226069537>

Website 0404: "Colonel Mordi Weiss assumes the position of commander of the Ephraim Brigade - Noa Magid, 2nd Elul Tashfa.(10.08.21)

From the commander of the Judea and Samaria Division, Brigadier General Yaniv Alalof: 'Dear Mordi, I was privileged to command you as a young, energetic and outstanding company commander. You are one of the best combat commanders in the IDF. The transition to command of the Ephraim Regional Brigade in Judea and Samaria is very challenging and will require you to be dedicated and focused at the highest levels'".

30.4.2022 – Lieutenant Colonel Mordi Weiss on the operation to capture the 2 terrorists who committed the murder in Ariel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K6ozHzZ2GeU>

Maariv, 27.1.2022, Moshe Cohen: "Closing the circle of the patrol fighters: About 20 years after they enlisted together for regular service in the Paratrooper Patrol, five of the fighters completed their reserve service in the IDF. They served under the command of someone who was their closest comrade in arms during their regular service and is currently the commander of the Ephraim Regional Brigade - Colonel Mordi Weiss.

'When I saw them in the sector, I was moved. Our service together as soldiers in the paratroopers, those Soldiers who are still my best friends, have burned in all of us that friendship that will never disappear,' said Col. Weiss. 'The basket of values and the platform for growth that led us to serve together and that grew stronger as we progressed through our regular service as fighters - is what brings us today to continue serving the country in the reserves and in regular service,' he added. In an interview with "Maariv," three of the reservists, Mickey Adler, Tamir Forman and Michael Bernstein, shared their feelings after the end of their personal chapter in the IDF: "Lifelong friendships were created between us. We go on trips together with the families and children and also hold meetings." They emphasized: "We are the melting pot of Israeli society".

17 volunteers enlisted in the Paratroopers' Patrol about 20 years ago, and they continued the entire course together, including their service in the reserves. 'Some of the guys went on to careers abroad and are no longer serving with us, but we looked forward to the reunion and service every year,' they said.

About a year after their regular service ended, the Second Lebanon War broke out and they enlisted

for the first time, as reserve soldiers.

...After the war, they continued to maintain close contact, started families, and each developed a personal career in civilian life.

...'The geographical distance does not harm the close bond between us,' they noted.

Mordi Weiss (third from left)
Photo: IDF Spokesperson



'Our last service was very, very exciting. We arrived at the Efraim Military District, and the commander was Weiss, who was lying in bed next to us during regular service. We have kept in touch all these years, but this was the first time he was our commander.' They added with humor: 'We had a very exciting meeting, and we also asked him to come to guard the 3rd Battalion between 2:00 and 4:00 at night. We remained close friends, and Mordi was also very excited. It was a closing of a circle'.

***Ariel Municipality website - published on 27.06.2023**

Replacement of the Military District Commander - Col. Netanel Shamka will replace the outgoing commander Mordi Weiss.

Last night (Monday, June 26, 2023) a ceremony was held to change commanders. Mayor Eli Shaviro represented the city of Ariel and personally thanked the outgoing commander for his great care and professionalism and congratulated the incoming commander.

At the ceremony to change commanders of the Efraim Brigade, Mayor Eli Shaviro spoke and said the following:

'Today we are not saying goodbye, we are saying goodbye, we were privileged to meet a commander of the highest caliber, attentive to his men and dedicated to his work. ...Colonel Mordi Weiss - it was not for nothing that you managed to modestly lead the brigade to great achievements and allow us, the residents of the area, to maintain a routine of life.

I am convinced that you will also succeed in your next positions and achieve similar achievements and we will see you climb the ranks.

To remind everyone that almost all brigade commanders have reached the ranks of colonel and even major general - there is a future.

I congratulate you on my behalf and on behalf of all the residents of Ariel, may you rise and succeed.

***Kippa website, 19.7.2023:** The commander of the brigade knitted from above is ending his role - this is the next role: Col. Mordi Weiss, ending his role as Efraim Brigade Commander and will soon enter his next role: AGM officer of the Northern Command. Weiss, who began his career in the Paratroopers' Patrol, also commanded in the past in the General Staff's Patrol and in the 1st Battalion. Col. Mordi Weiss ended his role today (Wednesday) as Efraim Brigade Commander after two years in the role. In his role, Weiss experienced the great wave of escalation in recent years and the beginning of Operation Wavebreaker, including terrorist attacks, foiled operations, the campaign on the seam line, the establishment of the Maccabim Battalion to treat the seam, the demolitions of terrorist houses and the establishment of the first regional battalion - Panther. After the busy period, Weiss will move to the position of the Northern Command's AGM officer.

Article from "Israel Hayom", 10/16/2025, by Sarah Haetzni Cohen:

"Colonel Mordi Weiss, the commander of the commando brigade, wrote to his soldiers about building trust between the army and the public. After two years of fighting, he does not ask for applause or thanks, but rather takes stock: 'In the past two years, we have rebuilt the people's trust in us, in the IDF fighters and its commanders, the people's trust in us, in the IDF fighters and its commanders, the people's trust and love. Our oath to defend the country is based on this

אל"ם מורדי וייס, מח"ט הקומנדו, כתב לחייליו על בניית האמון בין הצבא לציבור. אחרי שנתיים של לחי"מה הוא לא מבקש מחיאות כפיים או תודה, אלא עושה חשבון נפש: "בשנתיים האחרונות בנינו מחדש את אמון של העם בנו, בלוחמי צה"ל ובמפקדיו, אמון של העם ואהבתו. על אמון זה מושתתת שבעתנו להגן על המדינה. מאמון זה נובעת אחריותנו, המפקדים, להוביל אתכם הלוחמים אל הקרב. בנחישות שאין דומה לה, באמונה בצדקת הדרך ובידיעה שאנו יוצאים למלחמה שאין צורקת ממנה – התנערנו מעפר וקמנו, לבשנו את אפורי הקרב ויצאנו למסע המלחמה.

"ואולם, לא די היה בכך שנלמד להאמין מחדש בעצמנו. היה עלינו לשקם ולבנות מחדש את אמון העם בנו. וכך, בשילוב פסוקי תנ"ך עם שורות של ידי מנרסי ונעמי שמר, שזורים המפקדים הללו את הישראליות והיהדות בהתגלמותה הטובה והטהורה.

trust. From this trust stems our responsibility, the commanders, to lead you, the fighters, into battle. With unparalleled determination, with faith in the justice of the path and with the knowledge that we are embarking on a war that is unjust - we shook off the dust and stood up, put on our combat vests and set out on the war journey. However, it was not enough for us to learn to believe in ourselves again. We had to restore and rebuild the the people's trust in us'. And so, by combining Bible verses with lines from Didi Manusi and Naomi Shemer, these commanders weave Israeliness and Judaism in its purest and best embodiment."

Mordi Weiss with Benny Gantz.
Photo: IDF Spokesperson



Simon Weiss with his three sons.
Mordi is the first from the right

**Congratulations
on your blessed
work!**



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