



Bulletin number 141 - December 2025

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**1. Friends' Meeting in Haifa (11.11.2025)**

On Tuesday, 20 Cheshvan, 11.11.2025, we gathered for our first members' meeting at the University of Haifa. After light refreshments, an explanation was given about the association's website, whose address is [carpati.org.il](http://carpati.org.il). The website contains a lot of historical information;

The **communities** tab is divided according to the 13 districts that existed until 2020 [when their number was reduced to 7 districts]. In each district, most of the settlements appear by their Hungarian and Ukrainian names, including the number of Jews in each settlement - in the 1941 census.

The **media** tab contains photos, the monthly newsletters, books, including a collection of all the individuals who were documented in the "Ours" section / in additional documentation [updated at the beginning of each calendar year], exhibitions of descendants of the region and a link to roots work, 2 presentations from the lectures at the annual commemoration;

The **In Memoriam** tab documents the Holocaust survivors, who passed away, some of whom were remembered in the annual commemoration at Yad Vashem and some of whom were uploaded to the website without any connection to the commemorations. It is time to remind you again:

**Anyone who wants to document the Holocaust survivors, who passed away, is invited to provide the following details:** full name, place of birth in Karpatorus, place of life after the war and date of death. Sent the details to Ruthi Fixler [ruthfixler@walla.co.il](mailto:ruthfixler@walla.co.il)

The website is updated once a year, after the annual commemoration.

The second part dealt with our main educational project: Holocaust studies in the sixth-year high school – according to the history of our community. The software, from the company "Idea", will also allow each of you to upload your family story, which will be recorded for future generations. In the upcoming newsletters we will explain the procedure for processing the materials. The project was presented by Assaf Biran from "Idea" and by Orit Margaliot, our project manager – And for that we thank them!

The one who honored us with his presence was Moshe (Mermelstein) Shoham, born in Munkach, a member of Kibbutz Ramot Menashe, who recently celebrated his 98th birthday! Moshe was accompanied by his son, Itzik, his daughter, Dganit, and his grandchildren.

We are wishing you all the best. Let almighty wrap you with health!

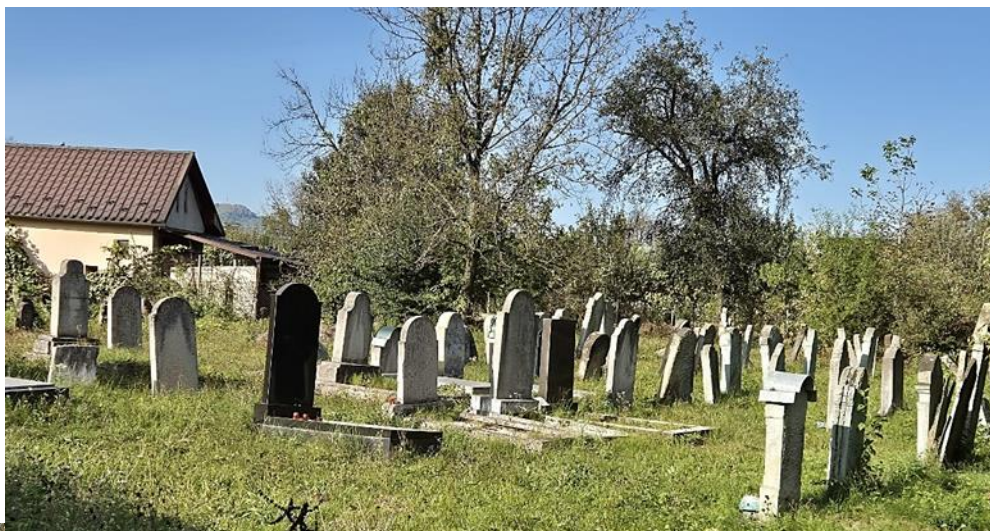




Thank you to all the friends who honored this important meeting!  
Thank you also to the activists who helped and came to Haifa from the center and the south.  
Thank you to Anat Weiner, representative of the University of Haifa, for hosting.

What, unfortunately, requires correction and improvement is the very limited presence of residents of Haifa and the surrounding area!

2. The Cemetery in  
Serednje Vodyane  
[Yiddish: Mitl Apsha;  
Hungarian: Középpapsa]



About six months ago, our friend, Chaim Davidovich, visited his hometown. He photographed the cemetery in the town and the sign on the fence, that was erected by the Council of European Rabbis, with funding from the German federal government.

3. Searching for Roots in Rachov

For several months now, our friend, Ahuva (Luba) Weinberger (Yakovovich), has been helping to locate the roots of families from Karpatorus – according to a rare file that came into her possession, containing a great deal of information from many districts in Karpatorus. This month, Ahuva is also volunteering to locate information on families from Rachov.

Contact Ahuva at 052-3385447.





**4. Righteous Among the Nations: The Davidovich Brothers Anna and Moses - Nagyszöllős**  
**\*The documentation that will be uploaded to the Righteous Among the Nations file will contain more details about the family. The summary of the documentation will be uploaded here**

Fantich (Molnar), Anna lived with her parents and four siblings in Nagyszöllős / Veľký Sevľuš, in Carpathian Ruthenia (today Vynohradiv, Zakarpattya District). Their neighbors were the Davidovits family, which included five children about the same ages as those in the Molnar family [See update below]. On April 16, 1944, a ghetto was established and notices were posted around town announcing the prohibition against locals having contact with the Jewish residents. Despite the great danger involved, 20-year-old Molnar decided to help her friend Anna Davidovits escape from the ghetto. She handed the Jewish woman her identity papers and teacher's certificate. Equipped with these documents, Davidovits managed to reach Romania, where she worked as a teacher until the liberation. Anna's brother, Mozes Davidovits, 21, and his friend, Yakov Prager [See update below], were smuggled out of the ghetto and hidden in a field near Molnar's home, from April to November 1944. Molnar regularly brought the two Jews food and newspapers.

In August 1944, Molnar encountered two farm workers on their way to reporting the Jews hidden in the fields to the authorities. She rushed after them and, at the entrance to the municipal building, she caught up with them and managed to persuade them not to inform on her wards – by giving them her gold necklace.

After the liberation, the survivors left the area. Prager immigrated to Israel and the Davidovits siblings moved to the United States. Contact between these Jews and their wartime savior was cut off for a long time before being renewed in the 1990s. On December 2, 1996, Yad Vashem recognized Anna Fantich (née Molnar) as Righteous Among the Nations.

On the MyHeritage website I found the documentation about Anna and Moses/Moshe Davidovich – there are a number of inaccuracies, which I will update:

Moshe was born in 1921 and died in 2011 in New York\*; he was buried in Jerusalem.

He changed his name to Marvin Davies when he arrived in the US in 1948.

Anna/Hannah was born in 1925 and died in New York in 1973.

Father's name: Abraham (1885-1944); Mother's name: Rochel Zivya Rachel (née Czin / Zinn) 1887- (1944)

12 brothers and sisters: Aaron (1908-1913), Jozsef (1911-1913), Marton / Mayer (1913)

Henrik / Chaim / Jinjich (1914-1965, Israel), Laura / Freida Leah Weinberger (1916-1944, Auschwitz),

Fani / Feiga Pessel Perl (1919-1988), Malvina / Magdalina Davidovics, (1923-1944) \*

David / Dezso / Dudie / Dezider (1924-2008), Anna Chana Davidovics

Helena (Chaia) Huber (1926-1944, Auschwitz), \*Wolfson Uncie Davidovics.

Moshe's wife's name: Rose Davidovics

Moshe Davidovics / Marvin Davis and his wife had 4 sons; one of the sons is Louis; he immigrated to Israel over 30 years ago and lives in Efrat. He gave me a lot of information about the family, including many photos – and for that many thanks! Louis also mentioned that there was a testimony given at Yad Vashem by one of his father's sisters, Chaia-Malka Huber; combining the information from these testimonies gave a more complete picture.

Let's go back to the roots: the father, Avraham Davidovics, was born in Verkhniy Bystryy [Mijiriyah region] and served in World War I in Piava, Italy. His father-in-law and mother-in-law, Ephraim and Rebecca [nee Zoldan] Zin, lived in Majdan [the Mijiriyah region]. Ephraim decided that since the

son-in-law was in Italy, his daughter, Rachel, would move with her 4 sons to Nagyszöllős. When Avraham was released, they chose to live in Nagyszöllős. Since there were many people with the same name, he was called Avraham the Maidaner. Avraham had a tailoring business, which he ran from a building in the courtyard of the residence.

Avraham and his wife, Rachel, née Zin, had 11 children, about whom I will add information: 5 daughters and 6 sons

**Aaron** (1908) and **Yosef** (1911) both died of typhus in 1913.

**Meir** (1913): Conscripted into the Czech army, captured by the Russians and sent to Siberia; due to the intense cold, he lost 3 of his toes. After the war, he took it upon himself to care for his brothers and sisters. Meir did not marry. He emigrated to the United States, where he lived and opened a coat factory, then a store; he was initially Moshe's partner.

**Haim-Zvi**, born in 1914. His original name was Zvi, but even before circumcision he fell ill – then the name Haim was added.

At the age of 14 he moved to Brno, where he studied physical education and medical gymnastics at the university. He was very good at everything, like his grandfather, on his mother's side, Ephraim Zin, whose nickname was "the miracle worker from Nagyszöllős."

In 1939, Haim immigrated to Israel on the ship "Hilda". He lived in Nahalal and married Hanna, née Benish, in Afula, in August 1941. Haim was enlisted in the Czech army and served from September 1942 to June 1946, in Egypt. As a soldier in the Czech army, he had the right to request permission to immigrate to Israel to his parents. He received the permission, but it arrived too late and the father was sent to Auschwitz; The mother died in the ghetto and was given an Israeli grave. Chaim was engaged in physiotherapy, including at Tel Hashomer and the Wingate Institute. He taught gymnastics to various groups, including mass groups. The institute has a library named after him. Chaim died in 1984 and was buried in Herzliya. [See more information in the "Ours" section].

**Freida-Lea**, born in 1916, was the only sister who perished in Auschwitz, in June 1944. She was married to Weinberger, they had a child, and they lived in Munkacs. She was, apparently, the sister who took care of the documents for a long time, which allowed the family not to be deported to Kamenitz Podolsk.

**Feiga-Pesl-Perl**, born in 1919. Pesal had a 9-month-old baby, Yehuda-Zvi.



The photo is from the "Auschwitz Album": Feige-Pearl can be seen in the background (1) and the woman carrying Yehuda-Zvi in a pillow is No 2. Kapo approached her in Auschwitz and



told her to give the baby to another woman from Nagyszöllős, who had five children. A Nazi approached her, slapped her for being in this group without a child and removed her from the line... Thus, she was saved, but not her baby!

The person who recognized Feige-Pearl was her brother, Moshe. The people of "Yad Vashem" cried with excitement when they realized that she had survived and not perished with the group.

Feige-Pearl was in Auschwitz with her two younger sisters: Chaya-Malka and Rivka-Rita.

**Moshe** – born 1921: I will elaborate on him later.

**Malvina / Magdalena Davidovics\*** (1923-1944) – It is unclear how this name, which is unknown to Moshe's son, came about.

**Chaya-Malka**, born in 1924 [as written on her tombstone], was married to Mordechai Huber, born in Khust, and died in 1999. This is probably the source of the inaccuracy with the name Malvina-Magdalena, listed as born in 1923 [corresponding to the name Malka]; her name on MyHeritage is: Helena (Chaia) Huber (1926-1944, Auschwitz), but she died in 1999. There is an error in both reports regarding the year of death, as Chaia-Malka/Magdalena was not killed in Auschwitz in 1944.

Haya lived in Haifa, was a seamstress, and gave a recorded, not filmed, testimony to Yad Vashem at August 1996. Link to her testimony: <https://collections.yadvashem.org/he/documents/3564037>



**David / Dezso / Dudi / Dezider** , born in 1924.

Dudi also came to Auschwitz and is documented in the "Auschwitz Album": third from the left in the first row. Dudi jumped from a moving train, in which he was being transported, together with a friend. They hid in a barn, where they found food and also killed a Nazi.

He married in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp and immigrated directly to the United States. Dudi died in 2008.

Dudi with his wife, Rose

**Anna-Hannah-Hantze**, born in 1926. She escaped from the ghetto in Nagyszöllös with the help of documents, she received from her friend, Anna (Onush) Molnar, and arrived in Arad in Romania. She had a gun and after Moshe came out of hiding she helped him a lot.

She was in the KGB and remained in the USSR. After her marriage, her last name was Levenberg. Her daughter, Yehudit, was a famous painter. In exchange for the house in Nagyszöllös, Hantze moved to Uzhgorod - and then to Moscow. In Moscow, Moshe/Marvin visited her. Although he was aware that microphones had been planted in her house, Moshe performed Kiddush; he also managed to pass on knives for performing a circumcision. Back in the US, the tefillin were taken for examination - when the examiner, who turned out to be Jewish... the tefillin were returned.

Hantze knew many languages and was an interpreter during Bobby Fischer's chess tournaments in the USSR. Only in the early 1970s did Hantza manage to reach the United States - thanks to the efforts of her brother, Moshe/Marvin. Marvin used John Lindsay, who was the mayor of New York, to get his sister out. Anna lived with her brother for a while. But she was already ill with cancer and in 1977 she died and was buried in New York.



Anna/Hantza and her husband, Joe Hoover

Hantza in Russian army uniform, April 1945



It turns out that Louis has a different version of Anna/Hantza's fate, as told by his father, and not as written on the "Yad Vashem" website.

The day before the ghetto was established, she fled to Szeged [in Hungary], possibly with documents she received from Anna Molnar. She worked for a family there, but in October 1944, when suspicions arose about her identity, she volunteered for the Hungarian army and worked in a hospital in Szeged. When the Russian army approached, she convinced the locals not to blow up the building.

Thus, eventually, Hanna/Hantza ended up in the service of the Russian KGB.

The Davidovits sisters: (right) Anna/Hantze, Feige-Pesl, Rita-Rivka and Frida-Lea, who was murdered in Auschwitz



Rita-Rivka [\*Wolfson Uncie: Rita was with her two sisters, Feige-Pearl and Chaya-Malka, in Auschwitz. She arrived in Israel after a fictitious marriage, as mentioned. In 1951 she married Avraham Wolfstein, at the home of her sister, Pearl, in Haifa.

They emigrated to the United States in 1957; they had a daughter and two sons.



Rachel-Zivia Davidovich, nee Tzin, mother of Anna/Hantza and Moshe



Bottom left: **Chaim** in brigade uniform, **Rita-Rivka** and **Chaya-Malka**. Top left: Shomo Perl, husband of **Feiga-Pesl**; others unidentified



Right: **Moshe** and **Rachel** Davidovich, **David** and **Rosa** Davidovich, **Meir/Martin** Davidovich, unknown

**Moshe/Marvin**, born in 1921. Moshe was drafted into the labor companies of the Hungarian army, but he managed to escape with the help of documents from a townsman. Pribosz Mihai, the son of a Ruthenian priest, the bell ringer of the Greek Orthodox church in Nagyszöllős, was a sick young man who was not drafted into the army. He sold

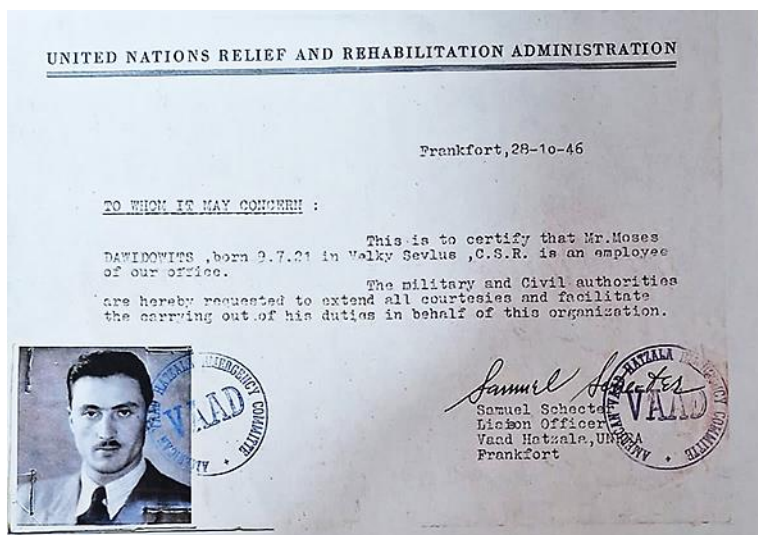
his identity card and the certificate of his illness to Moshe, and so, after escaping from the labor detachments, Moshe could move freely with these documents. Moshe arrived in Papa [Hungary], where young men, who had managed to escape from the labor detachments, were taken in. There he met Rachel, née Hoffman, who would later become his wife.

When the situation worsened, his father, Avraham, planned for him to be hidden in another house that belonged to the family, where the textile and tailoring industry was concentrated. In the end, he was hidden in the fields in the Nagyszöllős area, together with the nephew of their neighbor, Jacob Prager [see separate documentation].

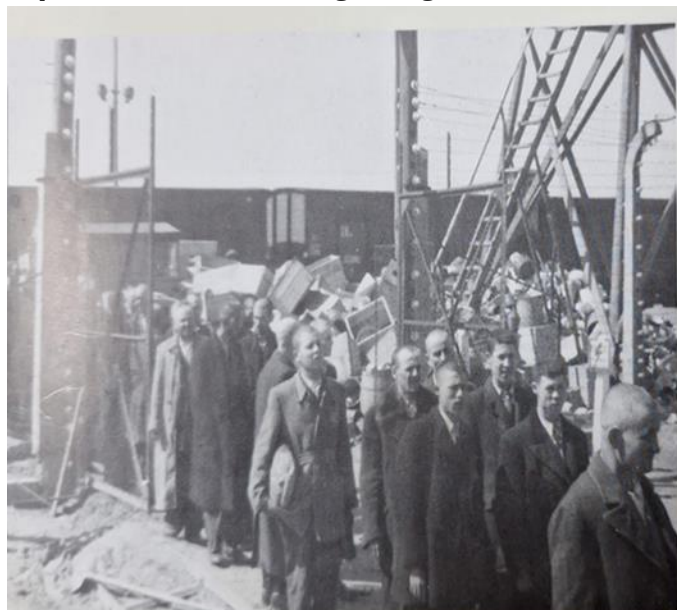


After liberation, Moshe worked in the "Rescue Committee" [a Jewish-American organization, established in 1939 by the Rabbinical Association of USA and Canada, with the aim of saving Jews from death in the Holocaust and transmitting information about the war in Europe to the United States].

Frankfurt, 28.10.1946: Confirmation of affiliation with the Rescue Committee



Moshe was in contact with Rabbi Bill Novick of this organization. It was Rabbi Novick who advised Moshe to change his name from **Moshe Davidovich** to **Marvin Davis**, believing that this would enable Moshe to advance and succeed in business in the US. Moshe arrived in the US with his wife in 1948 after the Rabbi helped him, through lawyers, to arrive legally in the US. The Rabbi also helped Moshe in the beginning of his business acclimatization in the US.

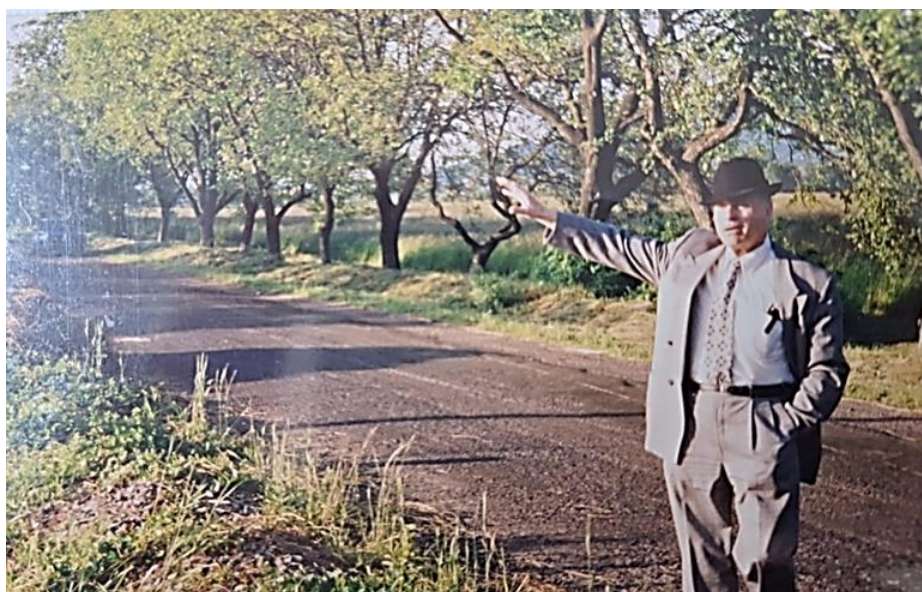


- גברים יהודים צעירים שנבחרו לעבודת כבייה נכנסים  
לביקנא
1. יענקל' ולמנוביץ קאהן מסוולוש. הוא שרד
  2. חיים לייב ולמנוביץ קאהן. אביו של יענקל', ואברהם דווידוביץ מסוולוש. חיים שרד
  3. האחים וייס מסוולוש
  4. יעקב מהאלמי. הוא שרד

Later, Rabbi Novick was the godfather of Louis. Moshe's two brothers arrived in the US before him: Meir and Dudi.

Avraham Davidowitz, number 2, as identified by his son, Moshe/Marvin in the Auschwitz album

Marvin/Moshe shows his sons the area of fields where he was hidden. The fields are outside of Nagyszöllös and not near Anna's house. The period of hiding should, also, be updated: from Shavuot 1944 – March 1945, about 9 months, until the Russians arrived in Nagyszöllös.







1994: Davidovich family home in Nagyszőlős, hothyi 30

Rachel (Hoffman) and Moshe Davidovich Before their marriage



Standing from the left: the son and grandson (Michael Molnar) of the Righteous Among the Nations Anna Molnar, Louis, Ferry and his daughter [Ferry was Marvin's contact] – at Ferry's house.

Sitting from the left: Rachel /Rosa, Halla [ferry's wife] and Marvin



1994: Ceremony in Nagyszőlős Municipality, marking 50 years of the Holocaust.



Moshe saved the cemetery from planned destruction: The place could have become a neighborhood in Nagyszőlős , but Marvin managed to thwart the plan. He brought a group of Jews to Selish to see and find graves of their family members who died before 1944.



Prayer in the synagogue - Nagyszőlős





An amusing story, indicative of Moshe's personality: When a parents' meeting was held between Moshe and Rosa and the future in-laws, the Mann family, the parents of Etty, Louis' wife, Moshe said to his father-in-law, Yehezkel: I'm not Davis - and you're not Mann... So, what's your name? Then it turned out that Mann is short for Mendelovich, from Hkust... And Moshe continued to ask: Did you have a brother named Moshe? And when the answer was yes, it turned out that Moshe Davidovich knew Moshe Mendelovich and knew where he was murdered, information that his father-in-law did not know about his brother... The hidden ways of fate!



Marvin and his sons [in brackets - order of birth]  
Right: Louis [3], David [1], Harold [4] and Semi [2]



Moshe (left) and Yaakov Prager, with whom he escaped

After their release, Yaakov Prager and Moshe lived in Moshe's house in Nagyszőlős. Moshe went out to run errands and when he returned, he did not find Yaakov. It turns out that Yaakov also left home, met people from his city - and returned there. Until the meeting in Israel, Moshe did not see Yaakov... The unexpected separation after 9 months of hiding together was very difficult for Moshe [see below]. Moshe lived in the US but visited Israel frequently. Around 2008, Moshe and his wife immigrated to Israel and they lived in Efrat, with the family of his son, Louis.

Moshe/Marvin and his wife Rachel-Rose

Rachel-Rose was the granddaughter of the  
Chatam Sofer; 1924-2017 [83 years old]

Louis told of a moving aspect of Moshe's personality: The documentation at Yad Vashem revealed that Anna gave her gold necklace so that Moshe and Yaakov would not be extradited. After 55 years, when Moshe was over 80, as a gesture of gratitude, he asked Louis to purchase





a gold necklace, with a cross, to give to Anna/Onush. In the end, she received money so that she could purchase such a necklace...

More information emerges from the tombstone: Marvin's full name was Moshe Asher Anshil; he lived in Chicago, New York and Efrat; he immigrated to Israel on advanced age; he was the president of the community and a collector of the synagogue.

Moshe died in 2011, in **Israel**, not in New York, at the age of 90.

Moshe/Marvin and Rachel/Rose are buried on Mount of Rest in Jerusalem.

Link to Yad Vashem website:

<https://collections.yadvashem.org/en/righteous/4014783>



### **B. Prager Yaakov: The rescue operation took place in Nagyszöllös**

Yaakov was saved, as mentioned, together with Moshe Davidovich [later Marvin Davis]. I received information about Yaakov from Louis Davis, his son. It turns out that Yaakov did not live in Nagyszöllös, but his uncle lived near the Davidovich family home. When Moshe's hiding plan was hatched, Yaakov was included in this plan and stayed from April 1944 to November 1944 together with Moshe Davidovich in the fields around the town.

When Moshe began to deal with Anna Molnar's eligibility for the title of "Righteous Among the Nations," he turned to Yaakov to have him sign this request as well.

But **Yaakov did not share the story of his rescue with his family**. By a rare coincidence, this is how things turned out: On Yom Kippur, in 1986, Moshe/Marvin experienced a heartbreaking event and was hospitalized at Shaarei Tzedek in Jerusalem. Being a conversationalist, he turned to his roommate and asked about his origins. It was discovered that the young man was one of Yaakov's sons-in-law, who had only had daughters... Following the meeting, Yaakov organized a family gathering in a hall, belonging to a nursing home in Jerusalem, "Neve Simcha," owned by the Prager family. **Only then did he share with his family the story of his rescue...**

On the Yad Vashem Witness Pages website, I found 3 family members who bear the name Prager: **Hanna**, daughter of Moshe and Tirza; **Rivka Zilber** is the sister who testified;

**Etel** – was married to David/Dezso Prager and survived; I happened to find a link to her testimony on the Yad Vashem website: Testimony of Etel Prager, born in Nagyszöllös in 1908:

<https://collections.yadvashem.org/he/documents/13322161>

**David**, son of Zvi and Nucha, born in 1902, did not survive; He was born in Nadudvar [Hajdú-Bihar County], a town about 30 km west of Debrecen, Hungary – perhaps that is where Yaakov was born and, for some reason, came to his uncle in Nagyszöllös? David owned a department store and was shot by an S.S. man on his way to Auschwitz. The witness is the niece, Chaya Prager Klein, from Jerusalem. It is recorded that the couple lived in Nagyszöllös, at Horthy Street 31. The Davidovich family lived on Horthy Street 30 [so in David Davidovich's documentation], so there is no doubt that **David is yaakov Prager's uncle and these are the circumstances that linked their fates together.**

## 5. Israelis born in Carpatorus: Atsmoni Aryeh [Markowitz Leib] – Medal of Honor (Uzhgorod)

In one of my Google searches I decided to read about the Avengers organization [explanation below]. I read about the founding core, and other members who joined; to my surprise, or not, I found the name of Atsmoni Aryeh. It turns out that he was a native of Uzhgorod, a **partisan fighter, a member of the "Avengers", a member of the brigade and a holder of the Order of Heroism, which is the highest decoration of the IDF.**



I located his family members: his daughter, Tzipi Ben Ari (who lives in Haifa) and his son, Dudi (who lives in Alfei Menashe). His wife Leah died in 2015.

All the information I will post here is from a family memorial site, from Wikipedia, from the Heroism site in Latrun and from the Artillery site.

Aryeh was one of the torchlighters at the 25th Independence Day ceremony for the State of Israel (1973), which stood for heroism, and in which 12 recipients of the Order of Heroism from the War of Independence lit the torches.

Link to the ceremony from the "Kan" archive: Watch the broadcast at minute 35:20 [https://www.kan.org.il/content/archive1/archive\\_treasury/holidays/independence-day/678662/](https://www.kan.org.il/content/archive1/archive_treasury/holidays/independence-day/678662/)

From Wikipedia about the Avengers organization: "The Avengers is a collective name for groups of Jewish Holocaust survivors, partisans, and members of the Jewish Brigade organized in the final stages of World War II, and afterwards, to carry out acts of revenge against the Nazis. ...The background of the organization was their desire to settle accounts with the Nazis for the extermination of most of Europe's Jews in the Holocaust. As part of these organizations, an "execution squad" was established among the members of the Jewish Brigade, which operated from Italy, and its members killed dozens of people who were directly involved in the murder of Jews.

The core of the group numbered about ten people, and about forty secret accomplices accompanied some of the operations. Among its leaders were Meir Zoreah, who commanded most of the operations, Mordechai Gihon - intelligence officer, Israel Carmi, Janusz (Yochanan) Peltz, Chaim Laskov, Moshe Tavor and Yehuda Klaus. Robert Grossman, Dov Goren, Shayka Weinberg, Marcel Tobias, Moshe Bar-Tikva (Mondak Pasternak), Israel Tal, **Aryeh Atzmoni**, Chaim Miller, Pinchas Tanchi and others were also active in it".

His daughter, Zippy: "Aryeh did not belong to the group that planned to poison the Germans. He belonged to a small group, led by Laskov, who killed Nazis hiding in northern Italy, according to information, and after verifying each person's identity."

From Wikipedia on the Medal of Valor: "The Medal of Valor is the highest decoration given in the IDF. The decoration is awarded by the Minister of Defense, on the recommendation of the Chief of Staff, for 'an act of supreme heroism committed while fighting in the face of the enemy with self-sacrifice.' In the War of Independence - 12 Medals of Valor; since the Yom Kippur War, this decoration has not been awarded." Tzipi [daughter] explained that after the Yom Kippur War, 3 decorations were awarded: Valor, Courage and Excellence. The 12 recipients of the Medal of Honor from 1948 also received the Medal of Valor to create a kind of equality.

The heroism website tells the circumstances of the heroic act: "On January 4, 1949, during the battle for the cemetery checkpoint in Rafah, our artillery car stopped in the field and blocked the entire



sector from our gun position. The enemy, who attacked with tanks and armored vehicles, accompanied by infantry, rained fire on the checkpoint and prevented any action to remove the car from the area. Major General Aryeh Atzmoni, whose job was to bring ammunition and excavation tools to the checkpoint, jumped towards the car, managed to start it and drive it from the front of the checkpoint to its rear. In doing so, he **allowed our anti-tank gun to launch an operation, as a result of which nine enemy tanks and other vehicles were put out of action. For this act he was awarded: The Heroism Medal, April 1973, Moshe Dayan, Minister of Defense**"

In addition to the Heroism Medal, Aryeh also received the **Brigade Commander's Medal**... The heroism website states: "On September 20, 1948, an armored vehicle full of ammunition and shells was set on fire. The fire engulfed several boxes. **Sergeant Major Markowitz Aryeh from the 12th Battalion arrived at the scene, broke into the vehicle and managed to remove the burning boxes of ammunition from it.** Through this courageous behavior of Sergeant Major Markowitz Aryeh, a disaster to human life was averted and valuable military property was saved. **For these actions, he received a commendation from the commander of the 1st Brigade. October 3, 1948**

**From the family memorial website: "During the Six-Day War, Atzmoni once again proved his courage.** The artillery battalion, in which he served as a reserve soldier, was stationed in the area of Gesher Bnot Yaakov, in the Golan Heights. In one of the shellings that hit him, two trucks loaded with artillery shells, were hit and began to burn. Shells exploded and their fragments flew in all directions. The soldiers of the battalion scattered in all directions and tried to take cover. A number of wounded remained in the area. Despite the explicit refusal of the deputy battalion commander, and while the shells continued to explode, **Atzmoni took a jeep, drove towards the burning trucks and rescued seven wounded.** From the Golan Heights, Atzmoni's unit was transferred south, where it took part in the conquest of the Ramallah area.

In the Yom Kippur War, Atzmoni was again drafted into the reserves and sent to Sinai. His unit was tasked with joining the IDF forces besieged at the famous "Budapest" outpost, the only outpost in the Suez Canal sector, which IDF soldiers held until the end of the war, despite repeated attempts by Egyptian forces to capture it due to its great military importance - the "Budapest" outpost is located at the northern entrance to the Suez Canal. Under heavy fire, the unit managed to join the forces at the outpost and fought there until the end of the fighting.

And about his life story: "Aria Atzmoni was born in the city of Uzhhorod, Czechoslovakia, in 1926 as Leib Markovich. In 1938, his hometown was annexed to Hungary, and shortly thereafter, the government imposed various restrictions and decrees on the Jews of the annexed region. Despite his young age, Atzmoni felt the tightening stranglehold around his people, and so, at the age of 13, someday after his bar mitzvah ceremony, he left his home for Budapest, the capital of Hungary. In Budapest, he found a shelter with a non-Jewish bakery owner, where he lived and worked for a living. Later, he was captured and taken to the "Bor" labor camp in Yugoslavia, where forced laborers were employed in the copper mines in the region. Atzmoni managed to escape from the camp with the help of Tito's Yugoslav partisans, whom he joined, and with whom he fought the Germans during World War II.

In 1944, when he was 18, Atzmoni immigrated to Israel alone. Upon arrival in Palestine, Aryeh was captured by the British and transferred to the Atlit detention camp. In exchange for his agreement to join the British army, as part of the Jewish Brigade, Atzmoni was released from detention. Due to his thin appearance, he feared that they would refuse to recruit him, so he stated that he was 20 years old – two years older than his real age. At the end of World War II, and after completing his training in the Western Desert in Egypt, Atzmoni was sent as part of the brigade, to Italy to

reinforce the British forces operating there. During his stay in Italy, he joined the "Avengers" unit - a group of soldiers from the brigade, led by Chaim Laskov who, on their own initiative and secretly, were engaged in the elimination of Nazi SS officers, who tried to escape and return to their homes at the end of the war.

Upon his return to Israel, and after completing his service in the brigade, Atzmoni joined the local police as a patrolman at the Naharayim Electric Company station. Due to his combat experience in the brigade, he was appointed commander of one of the patrol groups operating there. During the War of Independence, the Jordanian Legion attacked the station with the aim of capturing it. Atzmoni, who feared being captured, retreated under fire with his subordinates and reached the company headquarters of the 12th Battalion of the "Golani" Brigade, which was camped between Ashdot Yaakov and Menachamiya. The company officers were surprised by the group's arrival, but even more so by the fact that Atzmoni and his men, brought with them six "Bern" machine guns, two "Tommy-Gan" submachine guns, and a large amount of ammunition. The "Bern" machine guns were a hidden treasure, since, at that time, there was a severe shortage of heavy weapons of this type, and the entire "Golani" brigade did not have a single machine gun. Atzmoni did not refuse, of course, the offer he received on the spot to join the ranks of "Golani" as a regular soldier. So did his subordinates, who were recruited with him, into the ranks of the IDF in this way. Atzmoni, a "green" soldier in "Golani", but a veteran and highly experienced fighter, immediately received the rank of corporal and a short time later - the rank of sergeant after undergoing a shortened sergeant course. The role assigned to him was a company sergeant major in one of the companies of "Golani"'s 12th Battalion, a role he filled until his discharge from the IDF with the rank of sergeant major at the end of the War of Independence.

The surname Markowitz seemed to Aryeh an exiled name that was not appropriate for a Jewish-Israeli man with national pride. And indeed, at the end of the War of Independence, Arie changed his surname from Markowitz to Azmoni. The surname Azmoni was chosen by chance, inspired by a moment, while passing with his military unit at the foot of Mount Azmon in the Galilee.

He met his future wife, Leah, née Lustig, who was serving as a soldier at the time, of course, while hitchhiking in a military vehicle, in which she was also traveling. From this trip onward, the two were inseparable until the day he died. In order to be with her, Azmoni arranged for her to be placed as a company clerk in his company. And the wedding – this took place, of course, in a military ceremony, as was customary.

During the Holocaust, Aryeh's family was sent by the Nazis to Auschwitz. His mother and two younger sisters were murdered, while his father, Shalom, his brother, Yaakov, and his sister, Blanka, were saved. The day before Aryeh and Leah's wedding, which took place in Tiberias, a man arrived at the city officer's office in Haifa, identifying himself as Shalom Markowitz, and said that he had just immigrated to Israel and was looking for his son, Aryeh Markowitz, who, as he learned, was serving in the IDF. An adjutant of Battalion 12, Atzmoni's battalion, was in the office at the time. Hearing what he heard, he was astonished and decided to act: at the wedding ceremony in Tiberias, **father and son met for the first time since the two were separated, without knowing what had happened to each of them during the war and its aftermath.** [Tzipi added: His father arrived at the Tiberias camp on the same day that Aryeh got married. Aryeh went out to see who the civilian was, who had entered the camp, and ordered him to leave...]

And if that weren't enough, the story of the meeting with his brother, Yaakov, also sounds imaginary: the connection with his brother was also severed due to the war and neither brother knew whether the other was alive or where. One day, while he was in Tel Aviv, a young man approached Atzmoni, just like that, on the street, and drew his attention to the fact **that they had**



**an extreme resemblance.** And indeed, it is clear why. The two recognized each other and the relationship was renewed. [Tzipi added: Aryeh was walking around Tel Aviv and got angry at a guy who "made eye contact with him," and then the guy recognized him as his brother].

During his long service in the IDF, both in the regular and reserve forces, Atzmoni participated, until his retirement, in all of Israel's wars and was awarded many decorations, including the famous "Hero of Israel" medal, which he received for an act of supreme heroism he performed during the War of Independence. After his discharge from regular service in the "Golani", Atzmoni was assigned to reserve service in the Artillery Corps. He performed active reserve service within the corps for many years.

In 1969, during the War of Attrition, and against the backdrop of a severe shortage of regular manpower in the IDF, Atzmoni responded to the call of the then Minister of Defense, Moshe Dayan, and volunteered, without financial compensation, for a full year of service in the regular army in the Artillery Corps. The position he performed was a camp sergeant in the Artillery Corps' rookie camp in Samaria. His rank was a first sergeant major with five stars. At that time, this rank was the highest counter-ranking rank in the IDF.

After his release from the army, Atzmoni settled in Haifa with his wife, Leah, and began working as an employee at the Kaplan Brothers company, which imported and marketed car parts. At night, he worked as a taxi driver. In the early 1960s, Atzmoni and his wife founded an independent car rental company and later managed the Haifa branch of the Hertz car rental company, where they worked for many years. After a few years, Atzmoni founded his own privately-owned car rental agency called Atzmoni Car Rental. Over the years, he helped many who came his way. Atzmoni often encountered people who were struggling and his heart went out to them, and he hired them to work in the business even when he did not need additional manpower.

In 2000, Atzmoni and Leah retired and two years later they moved to their parents' home, Pisgat Ahuza. Shortly before his death, Aryeh's health deteriorated, until on Wednesday, March 30, 2005, he passed away. His extraordinary contribution to the State of Israel and the IDF was recognized and honored - **his funeral was held at the military cemetery in Haifa with a full military ceremony, on Thursday, March 31, 2005, with the participation of hundreds of mourners.** Family members, friends, acquaintances and soldiers came to pay their last respects to Atzmoni, as befits this warrior, friend, family member and extraordinary man.

The sudden passing of Aryeh Atzmoni left us, his family, shocked and saddened. Aryeh left behind a sister, wife, children, grandchildren and of course many friends and colleagues.

Aryeh and his wife Leah



Aryeh and his brother Yaakov



Aryeh and his sister Blanka







Aryeh and his wife Leah

The Markowitz siblings: (from right) Simcha, Yaakov and Aryeh

The father Shalom survived and returned to Uzhgorod... He remarried and had two sons: Simcha [pictured] and Yehuda



Aryeh and his sister Blanka

Leah and Aryeh with their children Tzipi and Dudi







Military Cemetery, Haifa

# אריה עצמוני הכריע את הקרב במעשה גבורה אישי



בקרוב על משלט בית הי קבוצת ברפיה, כי 4 בינואר 1949, חולל גבור ישראלי אריה עצמוני שינוי מהותי הקרב, תודות לגבורתו הי אישית.

הוא היה בן 23 וזה עתה נשא אשה, כאשר נקרא להת ייצב בפלוגתו, בגודד 12 של חטיבת גולני.

זה היה בשלהי מלחמת הי שיחרור. הקרבות בדרום עמ' דו לפני סיומם. על הפלוגה הוטל לכבוש משלט מסויים בגיזרת רפיה. שעת האסס נק' בעה לחצות הליל. הוכנה שיר רת אספקה, שנועדה לגוש אל הועד הכבוש: שייחה, שמנתה 12 כלי רכב וכללה, בין הי שאר, שלושה תותחים נגד טנ'.



סמל עצמוני אחרי הקרב על המשלט. היה זה קרב פנים-אלי-פנים עקוב מדם. הקרב נתמשך מעל למשוער וכשני תן האות לרב-סמל עצמוני, שהיה אחראי על השיירה, לנוע כבר היתה השעה 4 לפנות בוקר. תותחי המצרים היו מט' ווחים ואף-על-פי-כן הצליחו הלוחמים, תחת ברד של פג' זים, לסיים את הפריקה. צור' תות התותחים האנטי-טנקיים, שהובאו ליעד על ידי השיירה, התחפרו במהירות.

כעבור שעה קלה החלה הי הפגזה המצרית ובעקבותיה התקרבו 20 טנקים אל עבר הלוחמים, שעוד לא התבצרו. כאשר סוללת התותחים הי נגד-טנקיים שלגו כבר היתה מוכנה להיכנס לפעולה, הת-ברר, כי אחת ממכוניות הי תותחנים נטשה בשעת ההפ' גזה והיא מסתירה בפני הי תותחנים את כל הגיזורה.

אריה עצמוני החליט להת-גדב ולהרחיק את המכונית הנטושה. למרות התנגדות מפקדו עשה בוחילה את 100 המטרים, שהפרידו בינו לבין המכונית.

משהגיע אל המכונית הי גקובה הצליח להפעילה — אך רק בחילוך אחורי. חילוך — שהביאו ישר אל המצרים הי מסתערים. לא היתה לו ברירה והוא נכנס, במלוא מהירותו אל בין הטנקים המצריים ו- החיילים הנדהמים.

דקות אלה הספיקו לתותח-נים שלגו כדי „לקצור" ב- טנקים ובחיילים המצריים ו- לגרום לנסיגתם של היתר. על מעשהו זה זכה אריה עצמוני באות גבור ישראלי.

יום, מכונות יריה, תחמושת, מים, מזון ושימיות. מרחק שני ק"מ מן היעד עקב רב' שאר, שלושה תותחים נגד טנ'.

אחרי מות / אורי דרומי

## גיבור ישראל בתש"ח

אריה עצמוני, פרטיון, איש הבריגדה העברית, בעל עיטור הגבורה, 1926-2005



אריה עצמוני

בראשית נובמבר 1948, בהם נשא לאשה את לאה לוסיג (ממנה נולדו שני ילדיו, ציפי ודודי). ביום התחנה התייצב במשרד קצין העיר חיפה ארם שאמר: "שמי מרקוביץ ואני מחפש את בן, חייל בשם אריה". כך נודע לאריה לראשונה שמישהו ממספ' חתן שר.

בעת מבצע "חורב", תקף גורד "ברק" את מוצבי רפיה, כדי לחתק את הכוחות המצריים לגר' רה. בעוד צה"ל מורץ לכיוון אל-עריש. ב-4 בינואר 1949, עם שוד, נתקעה רכב נושא תחמושת ממש מול התחנה האנטי-טנקי היחיד של הגורד, באזור בית הקברות של רפיה. תחת אש עזה של המצרים, רץ אריה, אז כבר סמל פלוגת, והגיע את המכונית ופינה לתותחנים את קו האש.

תוך דקות ספורות והשמרו תשעה טנקים ועוד כלי רכב מצריים. על מעשה זה, שהכריע את הקרב, זכה אריה בעיטור הגבורה (מתוך תריס גיבורי ישראל בתש"ח, שנים יצאו מגורד "ברק": השני הוא אמיל בריג ו'ל, שבאופן מקרי גם הוא נמנה עם "הנוקמים").

אחרי המלחמה השתקע אריה בחיפה. עבר כנהג מונית ואחר כך פתח חברה להשכרת רכב והיה הבעלים של גניון בחיפה. הוא המשיך לשרת במילואים בחיל התותחנים, בתו ציפי מספ' רת שער לאחרונה לא מש אקר' חו מתגוררו. "אותי לא יתפסו בלתי חמוש", נהג לומר. לרבריה, כשניסו אנשי עולם תחתון לדרוש ממנו רמי חסות, שלף את אקדחו ואיים: "קודם אחסל אתכם", והם נעלמו.

אל משטרת היישובים והיה לנר טר במפעלי חברת החשמל כנהג ריים. במלחמת השחרור חשש שהנוטרים העבריים יישלחו למחנה מעצר בעבר הירדן, ולכן חצה את הירדן תחת אש הלגיון עם שישה מחבריו, והצטרף אל פלוגה של גורד 12 "ברק" של גולני שחנתה ליד אשדות יעקב.

אברהם ריקלין, הסמ"פ, נדרם לא רק מתעווחו, אלא גם מהעוב' רה שהביא עמו שישה תת-מקל' עים ברן, אוצר במושגי אותם ימים. אחד כך, בחניה בחורשה ליד כפר ילדים (כיום גבעת המר' רה), החל משורייני עולה באש.

בעוד החיילים נפוצים בבהלה לכל עבר, זינק אריה על הרכב והשליך ממנו ארגז בקבוקי מולר טוב שהחלו להתלקח. עם הגורד בפיקודו של יצחק ברושי לחם אריה בקרבות סגורה מול "צבא ההצלה" הסורי של קאוקג'י והש' תתף במבצעים לשחרור הגליל. בטרם ירדו הוא וחבריו לגלב' הספיק לחטוף כמה ימי חופשה

אריה עצמוני (מרקוביץ) נולד בעיר אוההרוד ברוסיה הקרפ' טית, שבאותה עת היתה תחת שלטון צ'כוסלובקיה (כיום היא שייכת לאוקראינה). בנובמבר 1938 סופחה העיר להונגריה ומיד הוטלו הגבלות וגזרות על יהודיה. זמן קצר אחרי טקס בר המצוה שלו, ברח אריה לבודפשט, שם הסתתר אצל גוים ועבד במאפייה. מאוחר יותר, בעיצומה של מלחמת העולם השנייה, הוא נתפס ונשלח לעבודת כפייה במכרות הנחושת ביוגוסלביה. הוא הצליח לברוח והצטרף לפר' טיונים של טיטו וכך הציל את חייו. רוב היהודים שעברו בכך רות מצאו את מותם במחנות והרי-כו או בצעדות המוות.

הוא הצליח להגיע בדרך לא דרך לארץ ישראל ב-1944, אך נתפס על ידי הבריטים והושם במחנה המעצר בעתלית, שממנו שוחרר תמורת התגייסותו לבריג'ה העברית. הוא יצא למצרים ומשם המשיך עם הבריגדה לאיט' ליה, לפסק האחרון של המלחמה. בחניה בטרביזו שליד גבול אוסט' ריה פשטה שמועה כי הבריגדה עומדת לשמש חיל כיבוש בגרמ' ניה. תוך ברטוב, בספרו "פצעי גירות", תאר את ההתרגשות שאחזה בלוחמים העבריים: "נש' רוף, רחוב אחד רחוב... למה רק עלינו לזכור את אושוויץ — שיד' כרו הם את העיר האחת שנשמד' אנחנו". אריה הצטרף אל "הנוק' מים" — אנשי הבריגדה אשר על פי ההיסטוריון מיכאל ברוזה, חיסלו קציני אסיאס שהצליחו לחמוק בחורף אל בתיהם. עם שובו לארץ הצטרף אריה

All that remains for us is to salute his bravery and honor the memory of the hero of Israel! 1926-2005



## 6. Ours: Dr. Thon (Davidovich) Raly (Nagyszöllös / Vinogradov)

Dr. Raly Thon was on my list as someone I wanted to document - thanks to her achievements in the field of organizational consulting. There is a lot of information on the Internet about her work and I found it appropriate to document these achievements. Then, quite by chance, I realized that she is the niece of Anna/Hantza and Moshe Davidovich, who were saved by the Righteous Among the Nations, whose story is featured in this newsletter...



Raly is the daughter of Zvi-Chaim Davidovich, the brother of Anna and Moshe.  
**There is no better time than now to document!**



So, before we return to Raly - a few more words about Chaim, her father, born in 1914. Chaim was revealed as an exceptionally smart boy in his childhood and was destined by his father to become a rabbi. However, Chaim had other plans and he left home at the age of 14, came to Brno and studied physical education and medical gymnastics. After completing his studies, he was drafted into the Czech army. Haim was active in the Sokol sports organization\* and organized mass gymnastics [\*The 'Sokol movement is a gymnastics organization for all ages, founded in Prague in 1862, and based on the principle of "a strong soul in a healthy body." The movement spread throughout all areas populated by Slavic cultures, most of which were part of the Austro-Hungarian or Russian Empires. The organization held mass gymnastics festivals called slets].

Through the Maccabi youth movement, he immigrated to Israel, illegally, on the ship "Hilda," which left Europe in late 1939 and arrived at the port of Haifa in early 1940, after a journey of several weeks. Chaim married Hannah, nee Benish, in Afula, in 1941.

He volunteered for the British Army between 1942-1946, served in Europe, and then returned to Israel. The family lived in Ramat Hasharon, two children were born: Rami and Raly.

Later, the family moved to Nof Yam [west of Herzliya]. In his home, Chaim established a clinic, which was a "kingdom of treatments." He treated many wounded soldiers from the War of Independence, and in addition, he treated people and children with special needs and with serious illnesses and injuries. He would photograph his patients, develop the photos independently, and thus demonstrate to his patients the progress and improvement in their condition. Raly remembers people who came bent over from back pain and after her father's treatments left his clinic upright. His professional approach was very groundbreaking and was not familiar to doctors in Israel. He would warn them that before they rushed to operate - there was a way to help patients by, what we now know, medical physiotherapy treatments.



Chaim had an impressive stamp collection, he knew how to play the violin and the piano and was an intellectual, with diverse areas of interest.

Chaim fell ill at the age of 60 and died at the age of 70 (1984); he is buried in Herzliya.

...And now, we can return to Raly: she was born in 1952 in Ramat Hasharon; when she was about a year old, the family moved, as mentioned, to Nof Yam. A happy childhood, with ballet and piano studies, and studies at the "New High School" in Tel Aviv.

In the army, Raly served as a noncommissioned officer in the General Staff Camp and performed many complex tasks.

Upon her release, at the age of 20, she married Kobi Thon, who was a year older than her. Raly began studying educational counseling and psychology at Tel Aviv University and worked for 4 years as an educational counselor at an elementary school in Herzliya.

However, she felt that she was much more interested in organizational and managerial issues. At that time, she began studying for a master's degree in organizational behavior at the Faculty of Business Administration at Tel Aviv University, studies that lasted several years.

In parallel with her master's degree in business administration, Raly began the research, that became her doctoral thesis. The research deals with the impact of organizational behavior in middle schools, alongside the students' background data, on academic achievement and social relationships.

Her doctoral studies began in 1982, with a research scholarship, under the supervision of Professor Shlomo Sharan. The study was conducted in conjunction with 2 universities: Tel Aviv and Bar Ilan. The studies and research lasted 12 years (!) and examined data from a huge number of subjects: about 6,000 students and about 600 teachers. Due to the fact that 50 integrative middle schools were studied - the Institute for Integration also joined.

While studying for her doctorate, Raly began working at Pan, did her practicum and learned the basics of the profession.

In January 1999, Raly, together with a partner, founded an organizational consulting institute. The institute employed about 15 organizational consultants. There she continued to develop organizational consulting in education.

She specialized in consulting in two areas: welfare and social services issues - and education.

Raly taught organizational behavior for many years as an external lecturer at the School of Education at Tel Aviv University. Over the course of a decade, she researched, studied and began consulting on many topics in the same field - organizational behavior, which greatly enriched her world. **She was one of the pioneers in organizational consulting for education.**

For the past 20 years, Raly has owned an independent institute called "Organizational Motive". She works as an organizational consultant, mainly, for local and regional authorities - in all areas, that involve senior management and decision-makers. She has also gained extensive experience in organizational consulting for a wide variety of business and public organizations.

In her personal life, she was married, as mentioned, to Kobi Thon, who was a successful businessman, and the love of Raly's life. Together they gave birth to 3 children: Tzur, Anat and Michal, from whom they had 7 grandchildren. Kobi fell ill and died last year.

If the name "Thon" rings in your ears like the name of a street - you are not wrong. Kobi's grandfather, after whom he was named, was Yaakov Thon, born in Lviv, 1880, immigrated to Israel in 1907 and has since been a very important figure in the Significant in the management of the Palestine office of the Zionist Organization.

His first wife, Sarah, was a leader in the struggle for equal rights for women; she died at the age of only 39; His second wife, Hannah, was a publicist and writer.

The grandfather's brother was Rabbi Dr. Avraham Yehoshua Thon; born in 1870, who was an activist, writer, rabbi, thinker, publicist and Zionist leader in Poland. Member of the Polish Sejm. The Beit Yehoshua settlement was named after him.

The names of the Thon brothers were immortalized in the names of streets in Jerusalem, Haifa, Tel Aviv-Yafo, Holon, Ramat Hasharon, Kfar Saba, Kadima-Zoran, Netanya and Rishon LeZion.

Thank you, Raly, for your many years of significant work and contribution in the fields of education, welfare and social services

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