



Bulletin No. 142 A - January 2026 - In memory of those murdered in the Sydney massacre

On Sunday, 14.12.2025, the first candle of Hanukkah, before the first candle of Hanukkah was lit, the terrorist and murder operation began in Sydney, Australia, in which two natives of Transcarpathia were murdered:

- Edith (Markowitz) Brutman, born in Vinogradov
- Tibor (Tibi) Weitzen, born in Uzhgorod

How much symbolism there is in the fact that precisely on the holiday of heroism and light their lives were taken in such a tragic way.

How much symbolism there is also in the fact that as we mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day, on which members of our families were murdered, the hatred of our people, the damned anti-Semitism, still raises its head all over the world.

We dedicate this appendix to the memory of Edith and Tibi, the late. May their memory be blessed!

• **Edith (Markowitz) Brutman, born in Vinogradov**

Edith was born in 1946 in Vinogradov. In 1965 she immigrated to Sydney. From time to time, Edith visited Israel.

From Channel 14, by Rivka Sorek: "Edith was a member of the Jewish community in Sydney. Although she usually did not participate in community events due to her health condition, Edith made a special effort and came to the Hanukkah party on Bondi Beach, but there her life was brutally cut short by heinous terrorists. Edith Brutman was a beloved and respected figure in the Jewish community.

According to testimonies from the scene, Tibor Weitzen, who was also murdered during the attack, tried to protect Brutman with his body in moments of terror, but, unfortunately, both were shot to death".



From the "Behadrei Ha'darim" website: "Edith Brutman served as vice president of the Anti-Prejudice Committee at the "Bnei B'rith" organization. She was a graceful woman and a devoted member of the "Bnei B'rith" New South Wales".

From Channel 2000: "According to testimonies from the field, Tibor Weitzen, who was also murdered in the attack, noticed Edith in moments of fear and tried to protect her with his body. He stood by her side, perhaps out of instinct, perhaps out of simple Jewish courage - but unfortunately, the two were shot to death by the terrorist." [The families were on friendly terms].

Right: Edith Klein, Israel Gross and Edith (Markowitz) Brutman, Edith's classmates, at a meeting in Herzliya a few years ago



Right: Yossi Kotona, Edith (Markowitz) Brutman and Yosef Meir [died this month] at one of the meetings of the Vinogradov natives



Tibi with his wife Eva



• **Tibor (Tibi) Weitzen, born in Uzhgorod**
Hannah Abesidon, Tibor's daughter, was interviewed [12/15/2025] for "Kan" News and said: "It's been 24 hours since our world was destroyed. We were supposed to be returning home after lighting the candle, and suddenly I hear something, that sounds like fireworks. My daughter is nine months pregnant and we started running around in hysterics. At that time, I lost

contact with my parents. After searching, I found my father lying on the ground, and next to him a friend of the parents, fighting for her life. After that, I see my mother covered in blood, and she told me that it was my father's blood. That's when I realized that father protected her."

Ynet, by Sharon Kidon: "Hannah Abesidon, daughter of Tibor Weitzen who was murdered in the Sydney massacre: "I immigrated to Israel ten years ago and returned to Australia a year ago to be with my family. I found a completely different Australia".

The funeral announcement listed Tibi's Jewish name: Moshe Aharon HaCohen, son of Yosef [and Malka, to whom we awarded a certificate of appreciation from the second generation to the first generation].

Tibi's sister, Ilana Rubinstein, who lives in Hadera, said: Tibi and his family immigrated to Israel in 1973. They were in the Ulpan for Academics in Kiryat Shmona and later moved to Kiryat Bialik. Tibi was a railway engineer by training. He worked for the Israel Railways in Haifa and taught at the Technion. 38 years ago, as part of relocation, the family moved to Sydney. He was very active in the Chabad house in the city. Tibi had Israeli and Australian citizenship.

"Tibor Weitzen, 78, HYD [COL LIVE]

Tibor Weitzen, a beloved father, grandfather and great-grandfather, and a member of the Chabad Synagogue in Bondi known and loved by the children as 'the Lollipop man,' was murdered in the massacre in Sydney on the first night of Chanukah.

Tibor Weitzen, a member of the Chabad Synagogue in Bondi, a beloved father, grandfather and great-grandfather, has been confirmed as the latest victim of the Chanukah massacre.

Mr. Weitzen has been remembered as a "sweet grandpa" who "loved life". He went to the Chanukah By the Sea Event with his wife and grandchildren and died trying to shield a family friend, who also lost her life.

Mendy Amzalak [married to Tibor's granddaughter], told the Australian he had rushed down to the scene of the shooting to work as a first responder when he came across Tibor's body. Mr. Weitzen died at the scene from his injuries.

"He was very involved in the family, we saw him as recently as yesterday he was watching our daughter swim in the pool. I didn't realize that would be the last time we would see him," Mr. Amzalak said.

"I was one of the first responders, my family were there for the event, and my wife called me so I ran down to the beach with my defibrillator and the shooting was still going. I started treating people and then I came across his body," Amzalak said.

Amzalak said that Tibor was a man full of life, joy, smiles and laughter.

Community member Ronnie Sternberg said Mr. Weitzen was known around Chabad as the "sweetest kindest guy". "All the kids would run to him at synagogue and he would give them lollipops, he was the lollipop man," Mr. Sternberg said.

"He was just such a sweet grandpa, he loved his kids, loved life, he had a very good sense of humour, and he was a loving father grandfather and great grandfather".

Baruch Dayan Ha'emes. Hashem Yikom Damo."

Chabad emissary in Uzhgorod, Rabbi Menachem-Mendel Wilhelm eulogized Tibor with these words: "With deep sadness and great pain we received the tragic news of the murder of Mr. Tibor Weitzen, born in Ungvar, who was killed while lighting the first Hanukkah candle in Australia.

Mr. Weitzen was a dear and respected man, very close to the Chabad emissaries in Sydney. He sincerely sought to be an active part of the community, to help, support and spread light, goodness and kindness around him. May his memory be blessed. His holy and pure soul was murdered by the accursed villains, but will undoubtedly ascend to the heights and make efforts for his dear family, for his community and for the entire Jewish people, until we deserve complete redemption very soon. Amen".



Tibi and his wife have two children: Hanna and Ze'ev, 3 grandchildren [Yardan, Lior and Liel] 4 great-grandchildren [Lian, Elior, Emma and Rene - and another great-grandchild who is due to be born at any moment]

Friends meeting in the Ben Shemen Forest: Eva and Tibi Weitzen in the red shirts;

From right: Laci Weinberger, Alex and Edith Shimoni, Uri Weinberger, Anatoly Malash and Edith Weinberger



The ceremony in Sydney on the seventh anniversary of the murder of the Jews at the first candle of Hanukkah