



Bulletin number 147 - June 2026 - Commemoration events

1. Lighting the torch: Noyman Avigdor (Nagyszollos)
2. Laying the association's wreath at the Holocaust and Heroism Memorial Day ceremony
3. Commemoration events [Tour, "Yizkor" tent, "Safra" auditorium]
4. Our Generation of Nephilim
5. Israelis born in Carpatorus: Spiegel Zvi (Munkacs)
6. Ours: Richter (Spiegel) Yehudit (Munkacs and Svalyava)
7. Partial opening of the archive on Josef Mengele

The annual commemoration held in New York will be documented in the July 2026 newsletter.
See the appendix to the bulletin.

1. Lighting the Torch on the Eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day and Heroism: Noyman Avigdor



Avigdor Noyman with his grandson,
Joseph Yitzhak Noyman

Due to time constraints, the ceremony was filmed in advance and on the eve of Memorial Day (April 13, 2026), these footage were screened.



From the Yad Vashem website:

"Avigdor Neumann (95) was born in Saylesh, Czechoslovakia, which is now in Ukraine. In 1939, the town came under Hungarian rule, and his father helped forge Hungarian citizenship documents and helped save stateless Jews. In March 1944, the Germans invaded Hungary and expelled the family from their home. They were moved to a ghetto, and from there they were sent to the Birkenau camp. They were separated, and the next day he was told that his mother, brothers, and sisters had been murdered. His father and brothers perished in other camps. Avigdor worked and suffered from hunger and violence. He was assigned to the garbage unit and ate leftovers he found in the bins. One day he discovered his older sister on the other side of the fence.

Photo: Yad Vashem/Jorge Novominsky

In January 1945, Avigdor was taken on a death march. He arrived at the Gunsirchen camp, there he was liberated by the United States Army. He returned home, met his older sister there, and they made their way to Israel on the illegal immigrant ship "Theodor Herzl", but she was arrested by the British and they were imprisoned in Cyprus. From there they arrived in Israel. Avigdor participated in all of Israel's wars until the Yom Kippur War, in which he was wounded. Avigdor and Rivka have a son and a daughter, seven grandchildren, 45 great-grandchildren, and five grandchildren".

Link to lighting the beacon: <https://youtu.be/DNgMQVjzClw>





Holocaust survivor Avigdor Noymann gives a moving and faith-filled talk to the Belz Hasidic elders in Ashdod. Avigdor gave living testimony of the triumph of the Jewish spirit and the determination to move forward



A year and a half ago, a delegation set out for Transcarpathia to document Avigdor's life: "The Spirit Triumphed." The screenwriter is Hani Kopilewicz and the director is Miriam Cohen. The film can be viewed with 3D binoculars.

In April, the film was launched in the presence of the Honorable President, Isaac Herzog. [We will consider screening it for our community]

Avigdor on the road... meets with soldiers from various IDF battalions, tells his story and strengthens their spirits!



Avigdor Noyman with IDF soldiers

2. Wreath-laying ceremony on Holocaust Remembrance Day at Yad Vashem, 14.4.2026

Right: Yael Gertler-Duani, volunteer of the association, third generation, together with Ruthi Fixler



3. Commemoration events at Yad Vashem

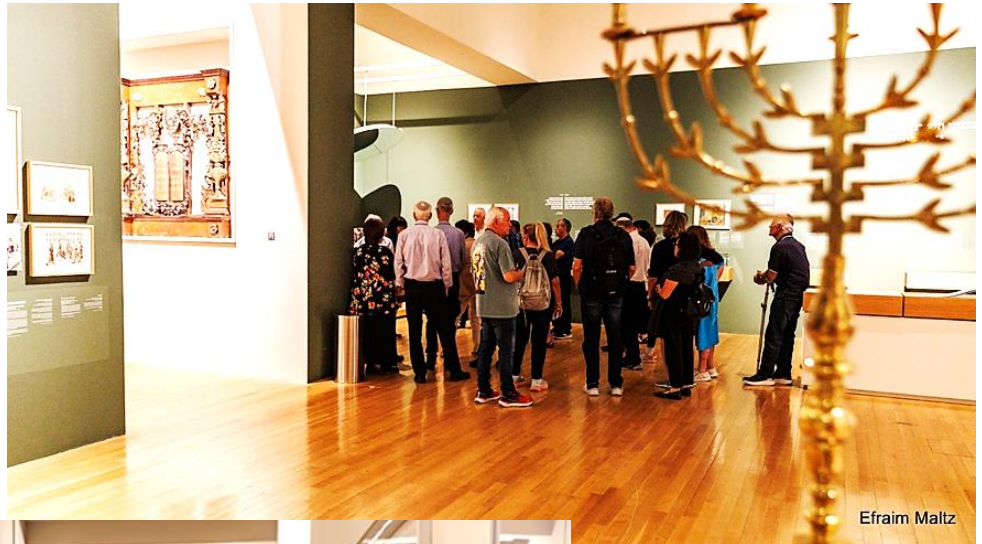
On Sunday, 10.5.2026, we gathered for the annual memorial ceremony in memory of our family members, who were brutally murdered in the Holocaust, with great suffering and agony. Many, many came from all over the country [and from abroad], in organized transportation, public transportation and private vehicles.

* **In the first part, a guided tour** of the museum was held, in 6 groups. We saw 2 exhibitions:

1. A new exhibition called: **Living Memory – Yad Vashem Collections Between Past and Future.**

The exhibition presents rare personal items from the Holocaust period, that have been preserved over the years in the Yad Vashem collections.

Through documents, objects, photos and testimonies, the personal stories of Holocaust survivors and the communities that were wiped out are told.



Efraim Maltz



Efraim Maltz

2. **Exhibition Jewish Objects and the Life of Tradition -** The exhibition presents Bibles, siddurs and Jewish holiday objects, that were preserved during the Holocaust and are a testament to the power of faith and tradition even in the most difficult times.

Through the personal items, you can see how families and communities tried to maintain their Jewish identity.

A Mincha prayer was held at the compound.



Efraim Maltz

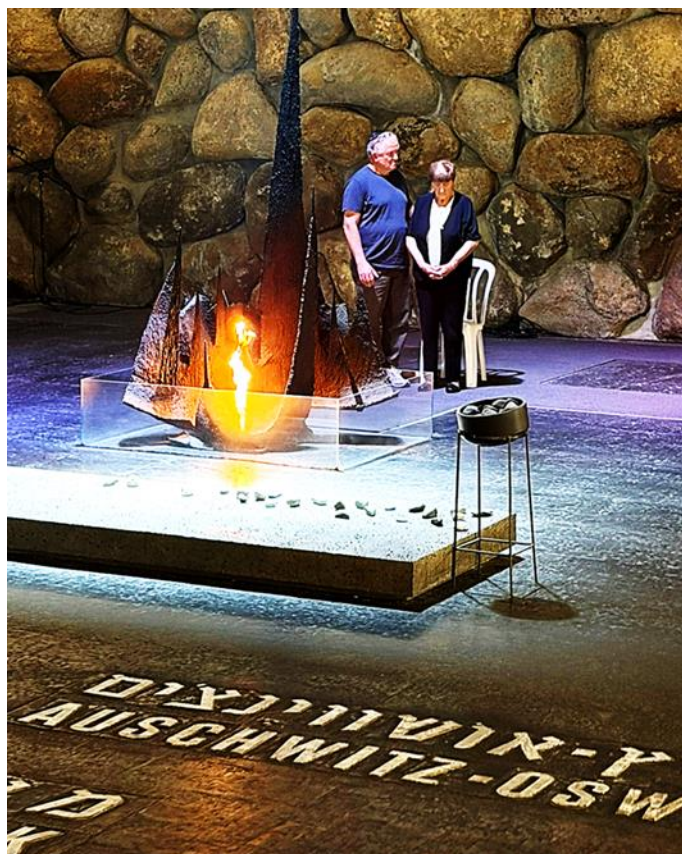
* The second part was held in the "Yizkor" tent and was led by Zeev Milbauer, the outgoing chairman of the organization.

Mrs. **Rachel Rosenblatt, née Forkosh**, born in 1930, from Sokyrnytsya, who lost her son, Eitan ד"ה, in the IDF nearly 47 years ago, was honored to light the eternal flame, with her eldest son, Avi.

The volunteer, **Michael Indik**, read a chapter of **Psalms**, and **Rabbi Mordechai Engelman**, a member of our third generation, read the "G-d of Mercy" prayer.

The "Kaddish" prayer was said by **Dov Porat**. His father, Yeshayahu Farkash ד"ה, was born in **Neresnytsa**, lost four children in the Holocaust. Yeshayahu was murdered in 1949 by Arab rioters in Rehovot, shortly after their immigration to Israel.

Yaakov Hershkowitz, father of the "Iron Swords" soldier, Yosef-Haim ד"ה, principal of the "Pelech Banim" school in Jerusalem, led the "prayer for the peace of the soldiers and the wounded", and was honored with the recitation of Kaddish in memory of his son.



Rachel and Avi Rosenblatt

From right: Zeev Milbauer, Dov Porat, Ruthi Fixler, Michael Indik, Rabbi Mordechai Engelman, Yaakov Hershkowitz, Rachel and Avi Rosenblatt



Efraim Maltz

* **The third part was held in the Safra Auditorium.** Sandwiches and pastries were prepared, and soft and hot drinks were served. This year too, a Mincha prayer was held in the synagogue. This part was also prepared by members of our community, second, third and fourth generation. The main lecture was given by Mickey Rosenstein. He told the wonderful story of the escape of his grandmother, Sarah Bicklel, born in Svalyava, with her daughter, Agi, later Hanna, his mother, who was only 7.5 years old. Sarah escaped from the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp when she realized that the showers were only for those who entered – and no one left them... Under cover of darkness, she walked towards the forest, preferring a bullet in here back better than to be murdered in the crematorium. She carried little Agi in her arms, disguised as a boy, whose “name” was Egon, with cropped hair, “mute,” who was not allowed to speak in front of people for a year... Good Gentiles helped her during her escape of hundreds of kilometers... Indeed, what a thing it was! The digital book written by his mother, Hanna Rosenstein, will be uploaded to the association’s website carpati.org.il – **Gallery – Books** [in Hebrew]. Thank you, Mickey, for an impossible story, which you shared with us! Ruthi Fixler’s words were signed by the fourth generation, Maya Yehoshua [see her words below], who greatly moved the audience in the hall. Truly, wonderful words! The artistic part was presented by our third generation, Esther Shachar – Dobusarsky. Esther sang 3 songs: “one of them”, “Come, Mother” – in Yiddish and Hebrew, – “You will not defeat me” and “Hatikva” at the end, when the volunteers stood at the foot of the stage facing the audience.

Many thanks to everyone who came and honored the memorial event, the Yahrzeit of our families, who did not get to make it to the Jewish grave. This is our moral duty to past generations – and a model of legacy for future generations!

Special thanks to our friend, Ephraim Maltz, who photographed the event.

Link to the photo album:

<https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipOy8BLomIMn90OinYkiXc5GA7aVc-UY6gNaBRf2hMW1fn7tK9ozgEH2BWxj7FjXg?key=Ty12NUg5UFpMd3JSRzViRDk2Z3RJOOfkzQ>



Efraim Maltz

List of the Deceased – First Generation – Annual Memorial 2026 – May their memory be blessed!

No.	Last name	First name	place of birth	Place of death
1	Altman	Yehudit	Yasinya	Paramus, New Jersey
2	Bar David	Dalia	Rachov	Haifa
3	Ben David	Shlomo	Yasinya	
4	Carmon (Veingarten)	Leah Lily	Tyachiv	Raanana
5	Davidovich	Hanoch	Mittl Apshe	Rishon LeZion
6	Eisner	Yitzhak	Sojmi	Karney Shomron
7	Engelman (Engel)	Yvonne	Dolhe	Sydney
8	Erez	Hedva	Munkacs	Ma'abarot
9	Forkosh	Pepa	Saylesh	New York
10	Fried (Yeger)	Sarah	Kosovska Polyana	Chicago
11	Friedman	Rachel	Beregszász	Raanana
12	Fruchtel (Mermelstein)	Simcha	Munkacs	Tel Aviv
13	Gross	Avraham	Cinadievo	Jerusalem
14	Hershkowich	Gita	Strabytsove	Yesodot
15	Kessler	Moshe	Beregszász	Ramat Gan
16	Leibowitz Telzak	Malka	Nelipyno	Tel Aviv
17	Marcus	Feiga	Uzhgorod	Kiryat Gat
18	Markowitz	Max	Svalyava	Florida
19	Mermelstein	Rozalia	Onok	Kiryat Shmuel
20	Rozenhal	Gita	Uzhgorod	Nahariya
21	Schreiber	Yehudit	Vylok/Dosino	Haifa
22	Schwimmer	Lily	Uzhgorod	Jerusalem
23	Segalstein (Leibovitz)	Lily	Kliucharky	San Francisco
24	Tescher (Rosenfeld)	Golda	Vilchowitz	London
25	Toyb	Hava	Rachov	Ashdod
26	Tsin	Avraham	Munkacs	Kfar Edomim
27	Valdman	Rina	Pavlovo/Munkacs	Yakum
28	Vardi (Schechter)	Esther	Tyachiv	Ha'ogen
29	Veber (Markowitz)	Zita (Zissel)	Svalyava	Michigan
30	Veinberger	Edita	Vylok/Dosino	Or Akiva
31	Weiss	Paula	Munkacs	New York
32	Weissman	Eliezer	Velikiy Komyaty	Kfar Saba
33	Yaakubovich	Rachel	Ternovo	Kfar Saba
34	Yadkevich	Margarita Vera	Uzhgorod	Beer Sheva



Statement by the organization's chairwoman, Ruthi Fixler

A person dies twice: once when he leaves the world – and once again if he is forgotten!

The people of Israel have engraved on the tablet of their hearts "To remember – and nothing to forget!" Memory creates our identity, personal and national.

"And you shall tell your son on that day" we read in the Passover Haggadah is a positive/doing commandment from the Torah and it contains the passing on of the heritage from generation to generation. Our grandparents also used to say this for many years, even on the last Passover of 1944.

I admit that every year, as Pesach Sheni approaches, sadness descends upon me and I feel like I am accompanying my families on the path of deportation, the ghetto and the terrible disaster that befell them – and our beloved communities; I accompany in my thoughts and in my soul the thousands of our grandmothers,

with their many children, their elderly parents, when most of the husbands are drafted into the labor units. In 2010, I wrote the song "Promise".

On Passover 1944

while you were still having the "Seder",
you celebrated the liberation from slavery to freedom.

And when you celebrated the holiday,
the announcement came,
that your time had come – from freedom to slavery.

You were expelled from your home in Nisan
and to the camps in Iyar.

Years later

and at such a high price,
when the state was established,
a day of mourning was set for it,
on which Zion weeps for her sons,
those who gave their lives for her.
Every year I lit a candle for my father's soul.
But I promise, from now on, I will light another candle,
for you, my grandparents! Uncles and aunts,
you have no grave to cry over, I have no one to ask about.
I was only left to stare and wonder,
how great the loss was when you turned into dust and ashes...

When he was in the 11th grade, my youngest son went on a mission to the death camps in Poland under the slogan "I am looking for my brothers." The family members were asked to write letters to them. I have chosen to read part of the letter, that I wrote to my son:

"When you open this letter, your feet will step on the soil of Poland, the largest cemetery of the Jewish people. You are with friends and together 'touching' the same damned piece of history. You've heard many stories, seen many films and pictures, but now, when you're there, you'll be able to feel the cold penetrating your feet and climbing up your body (... and you're well-dressed, not

like then), you'll 'hear' the terrible silence (try to imagine the mass convoys, with frightened children, hanging on to their mothers) and the sights (the endless piles of shoes, suitcases and hair, the crematorium) and maybe you'll be able to connect better with your roots, with the Jew in you... to a long chain, of which you are a part, and from you will come more links... When you're in Auschwitz-Birkenau, try to imagine Grandma Pnina and Grandma Sima lying on the narrow bunks, warming themselves from the body heat of their sisters, Pnina's sister smearing beetroot on her cheeks, so that she looks vital and fit for hard work, look at the toilets and showers, listen to the rattle of the trains, where they are in the crowded carriage, almost suffocating, In their thirst, they are forced to drink urine; think of the daily struggle for existence, from hour to hour.

Your grandparents survived hell, because the human spirit is a strong spirit. At any given moment, you had to believe that it would be good, that you must not despair, that together we would overcome... I am sure that even now, after your personal experience, you will not be able to understand the human evil, under the guise of culture and ideology, that swept millions into such abysmal hatred, into horrors that, in my opinion, will never be possible to understand intellectually"...

In June 2024, we set out with a group from the association on an exciting journey to Auschwitz. We set foot in the C Lager, where our mothers were housed. Not much remains of the camp, but a stone, bearing the block number, gave us the information about where our mothers had been, what kind of sky was above them, how impossible the difficulties were, and how heroic they were at every moment they breathed and chose life. Together with sisters in fate, they supported each other, recalled memories of home, and survived!

Viktor Frankl, in his book "Man's Search for Meaning" wrote: "There were always opportunities for choice. Day by day, hour by hour, you were called upon to make decisions, that determined whether you would surrender, or not, to the forces that threatened to deprive you of your very being, your inner freedom; that determined whether you would be, or not, a plaything in the hands of circumstances."

Not far from there was the home of the terrible tyrant, Rudolf Hess, who founded the Auschwitz death camp, commanded it, and was responsible for "streamlining" the extermination in the gas chambers. He lived there very comfortably, with his wife and five children, in the Auschwitz administration building. In his farewell letter to his family, before he was executed, he wrote: "Public opinion can quietly see me as a bloodthirsty beast, a cruel sadist, a murderer of millions, since the general public cannot imagine the commander of Auschwitz any other way. People will never understand that he also had a heart, that he was not evil... All my life I have tried to do what is good and honest, to examine what is right, to do good to others. I loved you, my family, and my children, and all I ask of you at this time is: please, continue to follow my path, always looking for how to do good to everyone." What a terrible absurdity! The devil, this deceiver, saw in his cruel path a role model for his children, a distorted view of what is good and what is evil!

Throughout history, we have experienced waves of anti-Semitic hatred, which have intensified greatly since October 7, when the facts fail to convince, since the hatred is rooted in the DNA of our haters. The headlines in all media outlets report on the harm done to Jews, with massive brainwashing, spreading like an epidemic, out of ignorance and out of terrible distortion of facts.

A report by Tel Aviv University, published a month ago, indicates that in 2025, a record of more than three decades was recorded in the number of Jews murdered in anti-Semitic attacks in the West. Perhaps the time has come to call the phenomenon by a more accurate name: According to Jewish and biblical tradition, Arabs are identified as descendants of Ishmael, son of Abraham, who

also belongs to the lineage of Shem, son of Noah. Anti-Semitism, then, is not against all descendants of Shem, but a sick hatred against Jews only, wherever they are: in Israel, abroad, secular and religious. Therefore, the obvious conclusion is to increase our cohesion - and to handle disagreements with respect! We must strengthen our Jewish identity, the connection to the land, which is the root of our existence, a unique and special people, which has survived for so many years throughout history.

On this occasion, and as a "Yizkor" commandment, I am lighting a memorial candle, for the 6th time this year, in memory of the 120 martyrs of the War of Independence and the State on the Road - on the "Yizkor" website of the Ministry of Defense and on the "La'ad" website - in memory of those killed in hostilities.

We cannot help but mention today the loss of 9 martyrs from the "Iron Swords" war, members of our third and fourth generation, the late: Aloni Eran, Bronstein Roman, Gilboa Aviv, Hershkowitz Yosef-Chaim, Lavi Zvika, Friedman Amit, Tzadikevich Omer, Koplowitz Eitan and Tamir Yinon [whose death I only learned about a month ago]. We will remember them with pain, together with their families; and may we be worthy of their sacrifice!

I would like to thank our active volunteers: Berkowitz Gita, Cohen Esti, Gertler-Duani Yael, Davidowitz Grisha, Davidowitz Haim, Hershkovich David, Hoffman Yaakov, Indik Michael, Maltz Ephraim, Milbauer Zeev, Moskowitz Moshe, Klein Yitzhak, Koton Yossi, Rob Yona, Sheinberger Israel, Shimoni Alex and Weber Aryeh.

Mendy Reizmowitz and Rosa Gross – who assist with the activity. Iva Greenstein, a 3rd generation member, who joins the activists.

Many thanks to Inbal and the entire Yad Vashem team, who assist us in organizing the annual memorial.

Events of the past year, since the previous memorial service:

- Wreath laying ceremony at the "Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day" ceremony at "Yad Vashem" – April 2025
- Sukkot gathering in "Ben Shemen Forest" – October 2025
- Friends gathering in Haifa – November 2025
- Hanukkah gathering: Lighting candles, dear ones of the community – December 2025
- Sending a letter for International Holocaust Remembrance Day to our survivors – January 2026
- Purim party: planned for March 1, but postponed due to time constraints
- We published 13 monthly newsletters in Hebrew and 12 newsletters in English
- The website has been updated with the names of first-generation members from the past year and previous years, who are no longer with us
- The website carpati.org.il includes 6 books, a presentation on the contribution of the natives of Carpatorus / Zakarpattia to the State of Israel in the past and present, a collection of articles "Ours" about 154 figures of the first - fourth generation, a book of roots, sources for root works and 9 exhibitions.
- Educational project: Teaching the Holocaust - through the histories of our communities in Carpatorus: The software is being filled with content, the software will have the option of inserting root works of our families. We will soon publish the procedure for this important activity. The pilot includes the "Shchakim" High School in Rosh HaAyin and 4 high schools in Ashdod. The last war delayed the start of the implementation, but the work on the ground is underway. At the end of my words, we will screen the promotional video, we prepared as part of this project.

I will give two quotes on the importance of testimonies: Elie Wiesel said: "Everyone who listens to a witness becomes a witness".

Prof. Yehuda Bauer, a professor of Holocaust studies at the Hebrew University, winner of the 1998 Israel Prize, added: "Testimonies are one of the most important sources of our knowledge about the Holocaust, because the Germans tried to murder the murder; they tried to prevent the Jews from documenting what happened".

Therefore, we must upload as many testimonies as possible about our family members to the website we are establishing. We sent the information questionnaire in February, but we will also upload it to our website and Facebook. You can also contact me.

This project in particular, and other activities of the association, require a lot of funding. We do our work completely voluntarily. I would like to take advantage of this and ask the members to transfer their annual membership fees. This will be a significant help in realizing the goals of the association.

Towards the end of my remarks, I would like to invite Maya Yehoshua, daughter of Leah and Alon, granddaughter of Rivka and Zeev Solomon, great-granddaughter of Scheindel Traub (nee Ya'akovovich), fourth generation, a 10th grader in Be'er Sheva, to the stage. She wrote the speech for the municipal "Young Speaker" competition. I thought there was no more honorable way than for her words to be heard at our annual commemoration – and for the glory of the State of Israel. **We have no other country! Future generations are our hope. Am Israel Chay!**

Maya Yehoshua's words: Love of the Land.

Hello. My name is Maya, I am a 10th grade student at Rager High School in Be'er Sheva. I want to tell you a story.

Once upon a time there was a 15-year-old girl, about my age, from a large, educated, loving family, and a large, wealthy household. One morning, in April, she was taken from her home to Auschwitz. In an instant, her life was turned upside down. She found herself alone in the world, hungry, enslaved, and without an identity. Sounds scary, right? This girl's name is Sheindel Ya'akovovich. Sheindel is my great-grandmother, or "Babi" as we call her. She would tell anyone who would listen about what she went through when she was young. And I would sit and listen to her.

I remember once asking her: "Why didn't you run away"?

And she answered me - where? Good question: "Where..."

You see... In those days, the life of a dog was worth than hers. She had no country to protect her. There was no army to guard her. She had no identity at all. But she knew that giving up was not an option. thus, she got back on her feet, started a family, and educated the generations that followed her in the values of unity, partnership, acceptance, and **love of the land. The same land she dreamed of reaching when everything seemed lost.**

But what does it really mean to "love the land"? How can you even explain something so abstract and big? I thought a lot about this concept. I realized that love of the land is in the small and the big things alike.



Loving the land is not just about hanging the Israeli flag on Independence Day. It is also about waving it proudly all year round;

To love the country is to get excited every time the plane's wheels touch the ground when we return from abroad;

To love the country is to get annoyed when watching the news, to argue about politics, to go to demonstrations to criticize, grumble, complain and intervene, especially, when it's not necessary;

To love the country is not to run away when it's hard; and yes, it's hard here, we live in the toughest neighborhood on earth. But to love the country is to stay despite - and in spite of the difficulty;

It's to feel how the heart expands with pride when another Israeli startup has made a revolution in the world;

It's to remind our family and friends abroad to vote for Israel in Eurovision;

It's to travel the world and explain that Israel is the best place to live in;

It's to see someone on the street who needs help and to stretch them a helping hand;

It's to understand that there are those who think differently from us - but in the end to remember that there is much in common beyond the divisive ideas.

Show me another country that is not willing to give up on any of its sons and daughters, living or dead;

Show me a country where we stay on the streets to honour a kidnapped one;

Show me a country where at the age of eighteen I know, for sure, that I'm going to wear a uniform, and while my peers around the world are going to study or travel, I'm going to do something much more important and valuable - and that's to protect the house. Because if we, I, don't do it, no one will do it for us.

Yoni Netanyahu said that "we are a link in a chain, whose beginnings date back to the days of the Bible - and whose end is invisible. Love of country is the force that keeps this chain from breaking." I am proud to be a link in this chain.

It is important that we all become part of the force, that keeps the chain from breaking;

It is important that we cherish the right to be here - and recognize the duty, that we have to protect our home. This amazing home, called the State of Israel, is a home, that my babi didn't have.

I am Maya - and I am proud to love my country.

Zeev Milbauer, former chairman



Mickey Rosenstein, on the story of his grandmother and mother's impossible escape from Auschwitz

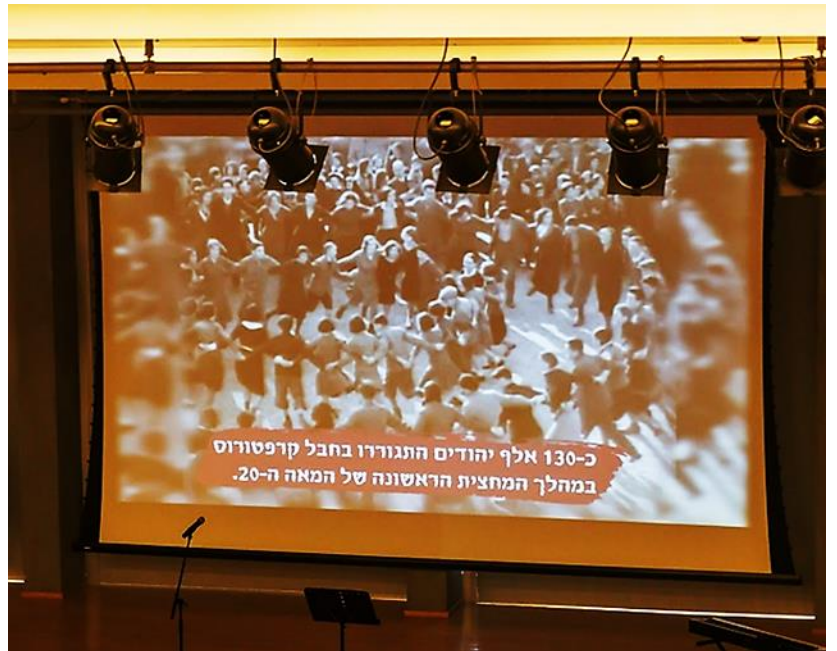




Esther Shachar Dobusarsky,
Our 3rd generation daughter.

Esther was accompanied by
Itai Abramowitz

From the association's
promotional film [will be
uploaded later on the
association's website]



The volunteers singing "Hatikva", when the curtain rises - and the view of Jerusalem is revealed behind.

From right: [Israel Sheinberger, hidden], Moshe Moskowitz, Yona Rob, Yaakov Hoffman, Yitzhak Klein, Chaim Davidowitz, David Hershkowitz, Yossi Kotono, Gita Berkowitz, Yael Gertler-Duani, Ruthi Fixler, Michael Indlk, Zeev Milbauer, Esti Cohen, Alex Shimoni, Grisha Davidowitz, Iva Greenstein [The photographer, Ephraim Maltz, does not appear in the photograph...]



4. Our Generation of Nephilim

Sara Rosenwasser, nee Friedman, recently celebrated her 100th birthday!

Sarah was born in Sucha Bronka [Irshava district] in 1926. She was widowed by her husband, Moshe-Yoel, born in Khust, who passed away in August 2023, at the age of 102. Sarah lives in Tzafariya.

Sarah and Moshe have a large family, thanks G-d:

3 children, 12 grandchildren, 46 great-grandchildren, 3 great-great-grandchildren – may they be fruitful and multiply.



In October 2024, their great-grandson, Aviv Gilboa היל"ד, fell in battle in the Gaza Strip; Aviv

has a twin sister. A memorial was erected in his memory at the top of Givat Pazara, near the Bashan junction.



Menachem Haberman was born in 1927 in Orlova [Irlyava, Uzhgorod district] and grew up in Munkacs.

Menachem is not a young boy either...

This is what his daughter-in-law, Nava Haberman, writes on Facebook: "When the army calls, he comes and I am with him. We have long since become a couple - he is the star and I am the interviewer. And the most natural thing

is to do it at home, which preserves the memory of the Holocaust. This connection between Holocaust heroes and IDF soldiers has received significant reinforcement in the past two and a half years. The "why" and the "how" are intertwined.

And I move along this continuum, in which I meet more and more soldiers on days of processing, listen to them and see in their eyes what is not being said and try, with all my might, to do my mission at its best; reminding myself that alongside pain there is hope and the heroes of the Holocaust are a living proof. As Daniel Sharabi, a survivor of the Nova, said to my beloved father-in-law, Menachem Haberman: "If you succeeded, then we will succeed too".

Immediately after the conversation with him, they stood in a long, long line, asking to receive a hug and a kiss from him. My father-in-law does it with such patience and love, as if everyone were his sons and daughters."





5. [Israelis born in Carpatorus: Spiegel Zvi - The "Father" of the Mengele Twins \(Munkacs\)](#)

I have recently got a link to an article, published on Facebook on the "Unimportant Facts" website in April 2018, by Michal Halamish: **"The Unbelievable Story of Zvi Spiegel – The Father of the Twins: Zvi and Magda Spiegel were 29-year-old twins when they arrived in Auschwitz. Magda was married with a child, and Zvi was single, having just completed two years in the Czech army. When they got off the train, a German officer passed by and shouted: "Twins to me" – and Zvi decides to raise his hand. The officer**

approaches him and asks him where his twin, and Zvi replies: "It's not a twin boy, but a twin girl." He took him to the women's row, where the officer orders Magda to hand her child over to their mother and accompany Zvi and the officer to barracks number 14, the Mengele Twins' barracks. This will be the last time Magda will see her mother and her child, who went straight to the crematoriums.

Zvi and Magda arrive at the barracks and wait, together with other pairs of twins, for Mengele. When Mengele arrives, Zvi used his military experience and stood tensely, and so he was chosen to be **Zvilingefater - the father of the twins**. His job was to take care of all the Mengele twins in barracks 14, who underwent a series of terrible experiments - in order to discover if it was possible to transfer traits of the Aryan race to members of the lower race? For example: a large part of the experiments was to discover whether it was possible to turn eyes blue and hair blond.

What does it mean to be the father of the twins? **He has to take care of 80 pairs of male twins, in the range of about 4 to 15. Take care of them, keep them busy, accompany them to the experiments, translate for them and accompany them back - and keep records.**

Zvi made a solid group out of the group of twins. **He taught them arithmetic, geography and everything he remembered from high school; he also taught them songs in Hungarian - and each other's names (which was rare in a place where they were treated just to name a few).** They were small children, separated from their parents, and went through great suffering every day. He used to put them to bed at night with the words: **'Don't cry, the war will end one day and I will bring you home.'** The twins mention Zvi in their testimonies and told of a **father figure, who cared for them, comforted them and disciplined the group in this chaos.**

One time, a pair of brothers (Gregory and Easton Cohn) arrived and Zvi noticed that their birth dates were not the same, meaning that they were just brothers and not twins. To find out about it meant sending them back to the gas chambers; not to find out about it meant putting himself at risk to death (especially since it was difficult to convince a 9-year-old to keep a secret). He decided not to find out and told them about their new birth date, and the Cohn brothers were saved and survived.

Once, when Mengele's wife was sick and he was busy taking care of her, another doctor came to barracks 14 and made a selection - in order to send the little twins to the gas chambers. The little ones were transferred to barracks 8 and waited for their deaths. Zvi, who was locked together with the rest in barracks 14, broke the lock, ran to the guard and demanded to call Mengele. He informed him that they were going to kill his twins. Mengele became angry and canceled the order and demanded that Zvi remove the twins from barracks 8 and immediately return them to barracks 14.

At the end of the war, and this is perhaps the most psychotic part of the story, Zvi, who had the opportunity to return alone to Hungary with a friend, decides to give up and sets off on a crazy journey on foot together with 36 twins - with the aim of returning them home. It is a long journey, which took two months, but he made sure to keep his promise to the end.

Zvi immigrated to Israel and served as the administrative director of the chamber for about 30 years. He maintained a certain anonymity, although the twins did not stop looking for him.

He first told his story in 1980 to Life magazine, which caused his twins to find him to renew ties all over the world. In 1993, Zvi died at the age of 78." Link to the article:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/unimportant.facts/permalink/2071085829629898/?rdid=HQWEZTVm2tqjHoDW#>

On the **Yad Vashem website** I found documentation of Zvi's parents: the father was Israel [his son will be named after him], born in 1884; his mother: Sarah-Rivka (Weiss), born in 1888. His brother Tibi died in 1988; brother Yehuda died in 1982; he was a Bible and Gemara teacher; Both of them are buried in Haifa.

Then another article appeared on Ynet on 14.4.2026, entitled: Mengele forcibly recruited him: He saved dozens of children in Auschwitz - and kept the secret / Oren Reis:

<https://www.ynet.co.il/health/article/s1l9xrihze#autoplay>

Click on the link and see the promo for the film.

I will add the details, that appeared in the new article: "His full story was revealed last year in the documentary "[\(The Last twins\)](#)" that will be broadcast in the US in two months on [PBS](#) (Public Broadcasting Service).

One of the survivors described in the film the monster in the form of Josef Mengele, that stood before his eyes: 'Most mass murderers don't know their victims. But he knew each of them - because he looked them in the eyes before sending them to their deaths'.

He [Zvi] established one iron rule: everything - especially food - is shared. Spiegel knew that it was impossible to save everyone, but he did not lose hope. He lived by the famous rule from the Mishnah: "Whoever saves one soul from Israel - the scriptures will be written on him as if he had saved the entire world".

One of the survivors, who testified in the film, is Ephraim Reichenberg. He and his brother were not biological twins, but because his brother sang in a pleasing voice - and Ephraim did not, Mengele performed experiments on their throats. Reichenberg's brother died in agony a year after the war. Reichenberg himself was forced to undergo surgery in 1967 to remove his larynx and speak with the help of a medical device.

Zvi set out on an incredible journey on foot with 36 twins to bring them home. On the long journey, they crossed Eastern Europe towards Hungary and Czechoslovakia. The convoy he gathered, MAGDA grew to 153 people and the journey lasted almost two months, until they all reached safety.

Exactly one year after his release, Spiegel married another Auschwitz survivor, **Rachel Anna Hecht**. The couple had two children: **Yehudit** and **Israel**

Zvi Spiegel [Photo: PBS]



In Israel, Spiegel worked for 30 years as administrative director of the Kamari Theater in Tel Aviv - a position he considered a "gift of fate".

Spiegel's children knew almost nothing about his past, and there is an explanation for this: many of the survivors chose silence, some because of hostile treatment from their surroundings. "We learned to treat our father as a delicate figure, a porcelain vessel," his daughter, Dr. Yehudit Richter, said in the film. "There was a silence in the house - a silence that said: Don't ask Dad about the Holocaust." Her brother, Israel, also said: "He never told, but I knew, in some way, that he suffered - from stories that Mom would write down, but we never heard it from him".

Everything changed in 1981, when Yehudit's husband, Kobi, was standing in line at a supermarket checkout in Boston and picked up an issue of LIFE magazine [pictured] - he was drawn to the picture of the planets on the cover. Inside he found an article about Mengele's experiments, with a picture of his father-in-law. Yehudit read the article over and over. "I read it ten times to make sure I understood," her brother Israel said, "I just couldn't believe it".

Photo: PBS

One of the survivors, Peter Somogyi, also saw the issue and recognized his picture next to the Spiegel picture. He contacted the Israel embassy to track him down, and the two met, for the first time since the camp - in Brookline, Massachusetts - a meeting that was documented by local media.

In 1985, a symbolic trial against Mengele was held in Jerusalem, and Spiegel was summoned as a witness. At one point, one of the moderators asked everyone, who had been under Spiegel's protection, to stand up - and many rose from their seats to applause. "Suddenly my father became a hero," his daughter said. "He was remembered as someone who saved lives. He's a hero, isn't he?" Over the years, many survivors approached Yehudit. One of them told her: "We are the children of Spiegel Bachi" [uncle - in Hungarian]. "I told him: So, we are family," she said. "Suddenly I have 'brothers', who saw my father as their father. That was the first time I really understood the whole saga of a father in the camp."

In 2017, Yehudit organized a gathering of twins' survivors in Jerusalem, where a memorial plaque was unveiled in honor of the children, who perished. As part of the visit, a bar mitzvah ceremony was held for survivors, who did not get to do so at the age of 13 - one of the most moving moments in the film.

Spiegel died in 1993 at the age of 78. His twin sister Magda died the same year.

Yehudit, Zvi's daughter [Photo: PBS]

The documentary "The Last Twins," directed by Perry Peltz and Matt O'Neill and narrated by Liev Schreiber, is available in the United



States for viewing on the PBS website and app. **The national broadcast in the United States is scheduled for June 15.** then Dr. Richter served as the film's producer.

The crew began filming almost a decade ago, and since then almost all of the interviewees have passed away - except for one. "In an era of rising anti-Semitism and Holocaust disinformation, this is a crucial time for journalistic work, based on undeniable truths to come to light," said director O'Neill. "Many of us feel overwhelmed by world events today. This is a story of hope amidst horror—of a man who took the small space he had and did good with it".

"Erno [Zvi's Hungarian name] was a fighter in his own way," concluded O'Neill. "He fought the Nazis by teaching children to call each other by their names. He fought the Nazis by teaching them geography. He fought the Nazis by giving them humanity in the darkness".

The refugee card of Spiegel Zvi (Erno) from the Wasserburg DP camp near Munich, son of Isidor [Israel] and Seren [Sarah-Rivka], from Munkacs

Wasserburg 1941

A.E.F. D.P. REGISTRATION RECORD

Original Duplicate

For coding purposes
A B C D E F G H I J

(1) Registration No. 044925

SPIEGEL ERNO M. Single Married
F. Widowed Divorced

(2) Family Name SPIEGEL Other Given Names ERNO (3) Sex M. (4) Marital Status Single (5) Claimed Nationality JEWISH

(6) Birthdate 1.1.1915 Birthplace MUKACHEVO Province C.S.R. Country JEWISH (7) Religion (Optional) JEWISH (8) Number of Accompanying Family Members: 1

(9) Number of Dependents: SPIEGEL ISIDOR WEISZ SEREN. (10) Full Name of Father (11) Full Maiden Name of Mother

(12) DESIRED DESTINATION PALESTINE (13) LAST PERMANENT RESIDENCE OR RESIDENCE JANUARY 1, 1938. MUKACHEVO C.S.R.

(14) Usual Trade, Occupation or Profession OFFICER (15) Performed in What Kind of Establishment BY A FIRMA. (16) Other Trades or Occupations

(17) Languages Spoken in Order of Fluency JEWISH HUNGAR. CZECH (18) Do You Claim to be a Prisoner of War? Yes No (19) Amount and Kind of Currency in your Possession 350. R.M.

(20) Signature of Registrant: Spiegel Erno (21) Signature of Registrar: Berkovits H. Date: 4.11.46 Assembly Center No. 161 E11/11/46

(22) Destination or Reception Center:

(23) Code for Issue	(24) REMARKS																											
	Name or Number							City or Village							Province							Country						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	

REMARKS: 1. WIFE - ANNA - B.Y. 1918 - 044926
2. G. WIFE - ANNA - B.Y. 1941 - C.L. 1945.
LAST CAMP - ASCHWITZ.

DP-2
10-2111-4



The grave of the twin siblings, Magda Zelikowitz (Spiegel) and Zvi Spiegel.

Magda's grave also commemorates her eldest son, Shmuel, who was murdered in Auschwitz



6. Ours: Dr. Richter Yehudit (Munkacs/Svalyava)

Yehudit Richter's name is well known in the Israeli public as a successful industrialist. I was told that her roots are in Carpatorus... In a telephone conversation, Yehudit confirmed: **"My father is from Munkacs and my mother is from Svalyava"**. Yehudit has been abroad for a long time due to her occupations, so the documentation was delayed for a long time. Afterwards, an article was brought to me about Zvi Spiegel, "the father of the Mengele twins," and I realized that Yehudit is Zvi's daughter...

It seems like it's time to tell the story of Yehudit Richter (Spiegel) - **according to sources available on the Internet.**

Let's start with Wikipedia: "Yehudit Richter (born in 1947) is an Israeli industrialist, one of the founders of the Medinol company for the production of stents and formerly the company's CEO. Yehudit Richter was born in Karlsbad [now Karlovy Vary], Czechoslovakia (now the Czech Republic), the eldest daughter of Holocaust survivors. At the age of two, she immigrated with her family to Israel, and lived in the Bitzaron neighborhood of Tel Aviv.

She was an initiate in the Yad Eliyahu Scouts' tribe.

She served as a flight officer at the Ramat David Air Force Base, where she met Kobi Richter, who served as a fighter pilot, and married him. She moved with him to Hatzetim Air Force Base. She established the unit for developing management and command skills for aircrew members and developed screening systems for pilot course trainees.

She studied psychology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and received a master's degree. The Richters moved to the United States for three years, for Kobi's postdoctoral work, and Yehudit stayed there for another year, to complete her studies for a doctorate in management at Boston University.

Upon her return to Israel, she was a member of the Faculty of Management at Tel Aviv University for five years. She moved for three years to the position of personal assistant to Eli Hurwitz, CEO of the pharmaceutical company "Teva."

In 1992, her book, [pictured] "Interlocking Tools - Between Career and Family", was published by "Am Oved."

In 1993, she founded, together with her husband [and others], the Medinol company for the production of supports".

From an article in TheMarker/ Sarah Leibowitz-Dar from July 30, 1999 [the journalist is also from our second generation... An article about her will be published soon]:

"She has a doctorate in organizational psychology, taught at the Faculty of Business Administration at Tel Aviv University, was a director at Bezeq and worked at Teva as Eli Horowitz's personal assistant. To this day, she says that everything she knows in the business world she learned from Horowitz".



Photo: Shlomi Yosef, Globes



From the Mako website from 22.08.2013: "For me, membership in the Scout movement is the essence of my self-definition. The years I was a Scout were very important years for the formation of my personality, and in my case, it has influenced me.

I joined the Scouts in the 7th grade, because of my parents wouldn't let me before, and from the moment. I was completely addicted. I would come to all the activities, I didn't miss a single one. I was very active and the Scouts filled my whole world. **I come from a family of Holocaust survivors, all of us in the Scouts were the 'Israelis' in the house;** we wore the khaki uniforms and **used the Israeli flag as part of our identity and as part of our sense of belonging, which was so important to us.**

One of the strongest memories I have from this period is going on trips. The journey from sea to sea - children in the 7th and 8th grades carry cans of food on their backs, which should be enough food for the entire trip. I also remember the trip to USA. A delegation of 3 girls and 8 boys went out and I had to be chosen by my class, then by the tribe, the Tel Aviv leadership - and then pass the tests of the general leadership. It's a very powerful experience for a girl, who has to go through such a journey and prove herself. I remember standing there and saying to myself, **'My parents went through the Holocaust and here I am standing here representing the State of Israel,'** it was a very powerful experience for me.

I have no doubt that I acquired my management skills during my time in the Scouts. Today, in my role as a manager, when I see the resumes of people, who were in the Scouts movement, it gives them a lot of credit points."

Article from "TheMarker" / Tali Heruti-Sober from 4.1.2014: "At home my parents insured me 'whatever you do - you will succeed'. I was born in Czechoslovakia, in the beautiful city of Carlsbad, and when I was two years old we immigrated to Israel. We lived in an immigrant housing complex, now called Bitzaron. Everyone was a Holocaust survivor, and a number on the hand was not an uncommon sight. At home, there was a deep gratitude for the fact, that we live in this country.

I was the eldest and **I was the essence of victory. Everything I did - was my mother's victory over the Germans.** I grew up with great confidence in my ability, because the home gave me support and love.

I met Kobi [her husband] in the army. After we got married we lived on the base in Hatzetim, from where I hitchhiked to the Hebrew University. At the age of 24 I gave birth to my first child, while studying psychology and labor.

We moved to the United States for my studies. Kobi returned to Israel after three years of post-PhD, and I stayed there, with two children, for another year - to complete my PhD in management in Boston. I would study until noon, pick them up from kindergarten, and at night sit down with my books again. It was hard, but I never thought of breaking down. If I had returned with Kobi and not finished my PhD, there would have been dissatisfaction between us over time.

The method is to learn from the best, but know how to do it yourself. After a few years at the Faculty of Management at Tel Aviv University, I realized that I liked doing more than research. I was overqualified for many positions. I was very educated, but with zero experience in the pharmaceutical field. Luckily for me, Eli Horowitz was looking for a personal assistant. I was with him for three years, and it was a wonderful school. There I learned what the FDA is and how to deal with health authorities in different countries. Most of all, I learned a long-term business perspective".

Article from "Calcalist" / Ari Livsker 04.07.2018: "I have a need to bring new things, to stimulate thinking. In that sense, we never left academia. If you want to know what gives me pleasure, it's people, who sit at the keyboard and whose ideas change the world. That rewards me more than money.



Right: Prof. Elazar Edelman, former President George W. Bush, Dr. Yehudit Richter and former President, Bill Clinton. Photo: Joanne Amos

During my master's degree studies, Prof. Daniel Kahanman approached me and offered me to participate in a study, he was conducting; that's where the master's thesis was born. At the same time, I worked in the Air Force, developing screening systems, that he had devised: with these methods, we could screen, those who were suitable to complete the pilot course already during the preliminary screening flights. Then I left and established a section at the Air Force Headquarters designed to impart management and leadership skills to aircrew members; it started with pilots, moved on to squadron commanders, and later, I also conducted workshops at the Staff and Command College and the National Security College. I was 31 years old and I taught champions how to convey information in a controlled and effective way".

Yehudit Richter as a child with her parents, Sarah and Zvi Spiegel, and with her brother, Israel [Reproduction: Oral Cohen]

Article from "Globes" from 10.17.2019: "In the presence of two American presidents: Yehudit Richter received an award for a breakthrough from MIT, which she created in connecting young Palestinians, Jordanians and Israelis through the "Nir - School of the Heart" program". Yesterday (Wednesday) in Washington, the Institute for Medical Engineering and Science at MIT University presented a special award to Dr. Yehudit Richter, founder and CEO of Medinol. Dr. Richter received the award for the breakthrough, which she created in connecting young Palestinians, Jordanians and Israelis. The award ceremony was held in Washington, in the presence of former Republican President George W. Bush and former Democratic President Bill Clinton. The two former presidents noted the importance of the program and its contribution to a better future for the Middle East.

The "Nir - School of the Heart" program has been run by Dr. Richter for 20 years and brings together outstanding Palestinian, Jordanian and Israeli high school students interested in heart research".



Article from Ynet / Anat Lev-Adler, 06.09.2021: "After decades, Yehudit Richter, CEO of Medinol, still runs one of the most successful Israeli high-tech companies, but is also busy making a film about her father, an Auschwitz survivor, and training ultra-Orthodox girls to become acquainted with the world of high-tech. In the interview, she explains why the Haredi community is the new hope of the industry, and tells how she drew optimism from the education of her mother, a Holocaust survivor, and how she and her husband, Kobi Richter, competed with each other to acquire a work of art".

Written from the Facebook page of the Association of Manufacturers in Israel, 16.7.2024 [Photo: Sivan Faraj]

"Yehudit Richter, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the "Medinol Company", one of the 12 winners of the Industry Awards and the Lifetime Achievement Awards in Industry, spoke on behalf of the winning manufacturers and shared her significant work in the field of the medical industry, in which they developed stents - heart artery supports: 'From the beginning of our journey until today, all of our stent models are named after Nir Poraz, who was the commander of the Sayeret Matkal team, and was killed trying to rescue the late Nakhshon Waxman. Nir was a close friend in our house, and, as we knew, he would work to save lives wherever and whenever, we have chosen to perpetuate his memory with a stent called "Nir" and implanted in the hearts of patients around the world.

Yehudit believes that: 'In every industrial society there are knowledge bases that can serve as a basis for educating, those interested in deepening their knowledge and enhancing their abilities. In every society there are also employees, who can and want to engage in the activity of imparting new knowledge and broadening the horizons of those interested.' Just as her father, a Holocaust survivor, taught her: 'No one can ever take from us what we have learned and what is in our heads'.

Therefore, it is important that Israeli industry work to develop the education of our society in the fields in which it is engaged."



Congratulations to Yehudit for her contribution to Israeli industry!

7. Partial opening of the archive on Josef Mengele

Coincidentally, or not, the following publication was published in "Kan News" on 4.5.2026 by Itamar Margalit: "A dramatic decision in Switzerland: Mengele's archive will be partially opened to the public. The archive materials of Josef Mengele will be made available to the public, the Swiss Federal Intelligence Service announced today. For years, the Swiss authorities prevented access to

the archive materials of the Nazi criminal from the period when he was in the country "in order to protect intelligence sources and sensitive information." After several members of parliament filed an appeal on the matter, it was decided that the public would be granted permission to review various documents under conditions and restrictions to be determined later.

About a year ago, an investigation was published on the German public broadcasting network MDR that located a police file on Mengele, which was previously considered lost. The documents, which apparently originated in the archive The Argentine Federal Police, contained explosive information about Mengele's whereabouts after World War II, including documents showing that he attempted to enter the Federal Republic of Germany in February 1959. The file contained a corresponding request to Argentine authorities, which had not been previously documented.

Link to the full article: <https://www.kan.org.il/content/kan-news/global/1037164/?shem=d sdf,sharefoc,agadiscover s dl,,sh/x/discover/m1/4>

Addition from Ynet by Itamar Eichner: "The decision was made following a long struggle by historian Gerard Wettstein, a resident of Bern, who wanted to check whether Mengele was in the town of Kloten near Zurich in March 1961. His wife, Martha, rented an apartment in the area at the time, and it is believed that Mengele arrived in Switzerland on his way to South America.

Documents on this subject, which had been hidden for decades, were revealed in December [2025] on the orders of the President of Argentina, Javier Millay. According to previous publications in the Swiss media, **Mengele arrived in Switzerland as early as 1956, under a false identity, calling himself Dr. Helmut Gregor.** Three years later, an arrest warrant was issued for him.

The investigators are now expected to examine the documents in an attempt to find out what the Swiss authorities knew in real time, whether Mengele was, indeed, in the country without being arrested - and what details were hidden for decades. **The opening of the case may shed new light on Switzerland's conduct towards one of the most wanted war criminals after World War II.**

The intelligence service said that access to the file would be granted under conditions and restrictions to be determined later, and that the case would serve as the basis for a broader review of the policy on access to classified archival documents."

Link to the full article: <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/skcsrgu011e>

Link to the song you must listen to - and share:

https://youtu.be/DPsoLwE37_Q?si=Q5E7SGG5UI41G1BL

Wrote the leaflet: Ruthi Fixler.

For comments: ruthfixler@walla.co.il

Thanks to Gita Berkowitz for helping with the English translation