



**Bulletin number 148 - July 2026**

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**1. The annual memorial in New York**

The annual memorial in New York was held on May 17, 2026 and was organized by our friend, **Hannah Hoffman**. The hall and refreshments were donated by our friend, **Alex Rovt**.

A candlelight ceremony was held, in which Holocaust survivors and dignitaries were honored.

The keynote speaker was New York State Comptroller, **Thomas DiNapoli**; the lecture dealt with the topic of anti-Semitism.

The outgoing mayor of New York, **Eric Adams**, also spoke.

All the organizers and participants are sincerely appreciated for participating in this important and moving event.



New York State Comptroller, Thomas DiNapoli



Max, Alex Rovt's son

Outgoing New York City Mayor, Eric Adams



George Mandler, his wife and son, David





Hannah Hoffman with all her family members



Holocaust survivor David Hertz



Hugo and Judy Guttman



Michael Spiegel and his wife



From right:  
New York State Comptroller, Thomas DiNapoli,  
Outgoing New York City Mayor, Eric Adams,  
Alex Rovt,  
Michael Spiegel,  
David Mandler  
Hannah Hoffman



The large crowd that gathered for the memorial service in New York

## 2. The story of a picture: Chaya-Rivka Greenshtein - Yakobowitz from Munkacs

Following the article "The Story of a Picture," which tells the story of the Halmos couple from Munkács [bulletin 146 – May 2026], I received a moving request from our friend, Shmuel Gavish (Greenstein): "My father, Yitzhak Gavish (Greenstein) was born in Munkács, and was taken with his entire family to



Auschwitz in 1944. He and his younger brother, Shmuel, were the only ones from the nuclear family who survived. They immigrated to Israel when it was established in 1948 and after the British blockade that was lifted in Cyprus. **Young Shmuel was killed in the 1949 War of Independence. I was born in 1950 and I am named after him.**

The altered picture is the only one that has survived from my father's family. It shows his mother, **Chaya-Rivka Yakubovich (nee Greenstein) with her adopted daughter, whose name I do not know.** My grandmother, on my father's side, was also born in Munkács and lived there until she was taken to Auschwitz.

I wondered if anyone from the next generation community knows any details about my grandmother and her family.

I would appreciate it if you published the photo in the next newsletter with my request - for any information you may have. Thank you". Shmuel's email address, who lives in the US, is: [sgavish@sagavish.com](mailto:sgavish@sagavish.com) (917) 751-8717.

• I would like to add a personal note: While documenting the fallen of the War of Independence, born in Carpatorus, I managed to locate Shmuel, who is the nephew, named after his uncle.

It turns out that his older brother, Eli, is my neighbor... small world! Shmuel is an amazing accordion player, who previously played with the "Carmon" dance troupe. On two visits to Israel, **Shmuel donated two evenings of music to the evacuees of Kfar Gaza, who were temporarily living in Kibbutz Shfayim; they were adopted by our community!**



### 3. Righteous Among the Nations: Einhorn-Kurtz Jaffe (Ternove)

The rescue operation of the Righteous Among the Nations took place in Poland

During the Nazi occupation, Aniela Barylak was living in Nadwórna, Poland, with her husband, Jan, and their two children: two-year-old Bolesław Andrzej and baby Teresa. In the fall of 1941, on the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, the Germans held a raid to arrest all of the Jews in the area. Many Jews died in the raid, including the entire Einhorn family with the exception of eight-year-old Jafa Einhorn (later Kurtz). Jafa spoke no Polish and very little Ukrainian, but Aniela Barylak, a mother herself, could not abandon a child who'd been left alone. She took the girl in, bathed and fed her, and gave her a place to sleep. The Barylaks decided to keep Jafa, but Jan's relatives, the Schmidts, were antisemitic Volksdeutsche, who insisted on turning her over to the police. To appease them, Jafa was promptly baptized and given the name Stefania, or Stefcia, as she became affectionately known. This calmed the Schmidts down somewhat, but Jafa remembers that there were still many arguments in the household when the Schmidts threatened to call the police. At this point, the little girl always cried, and Aniela firmly stood her ground. The danger to the family was clear: in the event of their discovery by the authorities they would all have been killed. Despite this, and the lack of any possible compensation for their kindness, Aniela resisted their family and friends' pressure and kept Jafa-Stefania safe until the end of the war. After liberation, Jafa went to Wrocław to complete her studies, where she made many Jewish acquaintances. Together with her new husband and child, she later immigrated to Israel. The Barylaks' daughter, Teresa, later testified that many friends warned her mother of her reckless behavior, but Aniela claimed she would have done the same thing again. On her deathbed, Aniela Barylak asked Teresa to stay in touch with Jafa, explaining that she was all Teresa had left in the world.

On July 16, 2007 Yad Vashem recognized Aniela Barylak as Righteous Among the Nations.

Barylak Aniela (1974 - 1917)





Barylak Aniela

In a conversation with Yaffa's son, Itamar Mantel, along with the information Yaffa documented in the pages of her testimony about her family members, the following information emerges:

The family lived in Ternove, Tyachiv district. The family was deported to Kamianets-Podilsk, but managed to escape and arrived on their own, by train, west from there - to Nadwórna.

On Sukkot 1941, the father, Shulem, aged 45, went with his children Chaya (14), Chaim (11) and Mendel (6) to the Nadwórna synagogue.

There was an aktion (aktzya) there and they were attacked and murdered.

The sister Rivka (4) died in Nadwórna from an illness - due to the difficult conditions.

The mother Taube-Tova, née Schwartz, aged 35, did not feel well and was hospitalized. She took Yaffa, aged 8 [born in 1933] with her.

The nurse Aniela, who was pregnant, worked at the hospital. She offered Taube-Tova to adopt her little girl, Yaffa. Yaffa was asked about it and agreed to move to Aniela's house.

In the pages of her testimony, Yaffa was unable to document what happened to her mother, except that she did not survive. Yaffa testified that her parents had 6 children, but there is no documentation regarding the sixth child.

After the war, a Jew who had known Yaffa since childhood came to Poland. He spoke to her about her Jewish origin, because during her entire stay with the savior family she attended church and lived as a Christian, because that was, in fact, the way to save her. At that time, Yaffa returned to living as a Jew. She married first, Max-Menachem Mantel, and in Wrocław their eldest son, Richard-Reuven, was born. In 1956, with the "Gomulka Aliyah" from Poland, they came to Israel. Their second son, Itamar Mantel, was born in Israel, from whom I received her photos - and for that I thank him. Yaffa lived in Rishon LeZion, with her second husband, Chaim-Karl Kurtz. She died in 2023 [age 90].

Yaffa Kurtz

**Link to the "Yad Vashem" website:**

<https://collections.yadvashem.org/en/righteous/6435127>

Yaffa Kurtz (right) receives a certificate as a Holocaust survivor from President Yitzhak Herzog



#### 4. The Story of a Photo: The Sandrowitz Family of Khust

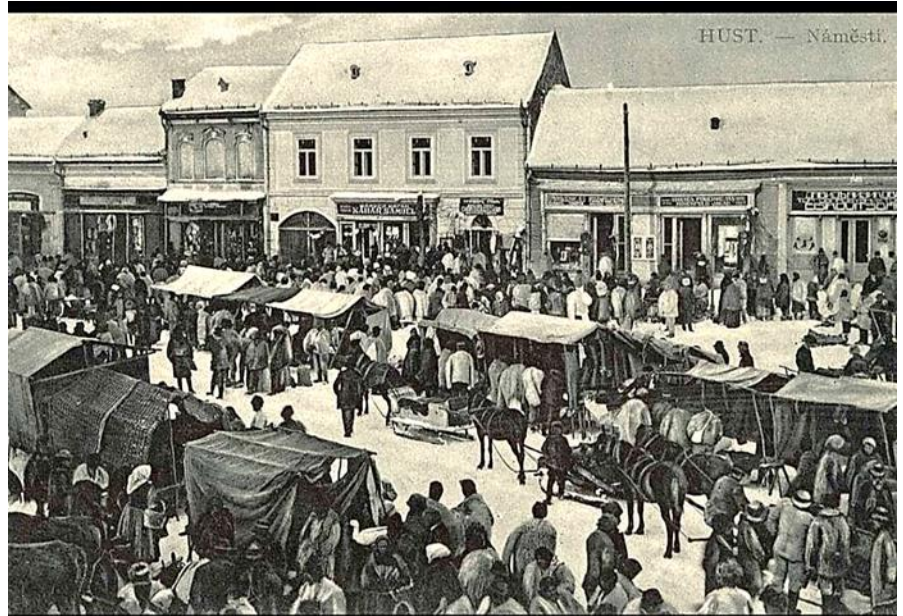
Following a connection made with our friend, Moshe Raz, who lives in Petah Tikva, I became acquainted with a journalist in Khust, named Marina Aldon.

Marina's grandmother and mother are Jewish; Marina documents, as part of her work, Jewish life in Khust. She prepared an article about Moshe Rosenfeld, known as the Thatcher Rabbi [because he was born in Tyachiv], who is Moshe Raz's great-grandfather – and to whom this newsletter is dedicated. We spoke with Marina by phone and she asked for our help in locating the family of Gisela Sandrowitz, who had a large store in the city center, at the winter market. These are the photos Marina sent. The Sandrowitz family's store appears enlarged in the color photo. Today the street is called Карпатской Сечи.

During the Czech period the street was called Masaryk, and during the Hungarian period it was called Rákóczi.

In a conversation with Moshe, he brought up the name of Pinchas Sandrowitz, Gisela's son. That's how I was able to locate Pinchas' testimony, which was given to Yad Vashem in December 2004.

Pinchas Sandrowitz [Image from the testimony film]



Huszt, Chust, Khust; tér, piac télen, Kahan Samuel, Treiber Chaia, Rosenfeld Herman, Rosenfeld Jakab üzlete / Námestí / market square in winter, shops (ragasztóym / gluemark)



Moshe viewed the documentation and these are the findings he made about Gisela:

1. Gisela (Itzkovitz) Sandrovitz was born in 1899 in the town of Michalovce, Slovakia. She died in Tel Aviv on December 6, 1975. [Buried in Holon]
2. Gisela's father was Shmuel-Yosef Itzkovitz; her mother: Bluma-Rivka/Regina, née Wald. Both lived between the years 1865-1942.
3. Gisela married Yitzhak-Yekhezkel Sandrovitz of Khust (1899-1944), who converted his parents' wholesale food store into a clothing store (confectionery).
4. Yekhezkel and Gisela Sandrovitz had two children:
  - \* Mariam (Margit), who was born on 2.7.1923.
  - \* Pinchas-Arnold, who was interviewed by Yad Vashem; Born on 23.11.1930

5. The whole family was taken to Auschwitz. Gisela's husband died during the Holocaust (in 1944); Gisela and daughter Margit were in Auschwitz and at the end of the war were taken to Sweden, on the Bernadotte train. Son Pinchas-Arnold was sent to several camps - and survived.

6. After the war, Gisela and her daughter immigrated to Israel and lived in Tel Aviv.

Son Pinchas-Arnold immigrated in 1949 after living for a short time in Brno, Czech Republic.

7. Daughter Margit married Yitzhak-Leib Kot and they had 2 children: Gay - and another son, whose name I do not know.

8. Margit died on 2.12.2010, at the age of 87 [buried in Kiryat Shaul].

9. Son Pinchas-Arnold married Hannah (Elisabeth) Weiss in 1965 and they had 3 children: Shoshi, another daughter and son.

10. Pinchas died on 23.4.2013 in Israel [buried in Yarkon]".



from the right: Gisela and Pinchas Sendrowitz)



Right: daughter Miriam (Margit) with her aunt

Sitting on the right: Gisela Sandrowitz  
Standing next to her: her daughter and her husband;  
Son Pinchas sitting first on the right

**This way, Marina Adon, the journalist from Khust, could receive all the information she requested.  
Thanks to Moshe Raz.**

Testimony of Sandrowitz Pinchas, born in 1930, Khust, about his experiences in Khust, in the ghetto and in Auschwitz, Mauthausen and Günskirchen camps



<https://collections.yadvashem.org/he/documents/5263598>

## 5. Native of Carpatorus: Rabbi Rosenfeld Moshe (the Thatcher) (Khust)

I learned the name of Rabbi Moshe Rosenfeld from a lengthy study of the "Book of Maramuresh", which documents his work and includes his picture.

Also, in Zvi Menshel's book on the Khust community, Moshe is also mentioned [page 83]: "On the corner of Customs Street and 'Small Train Station' Street stood the house of Rabbi Moshe Rosenfeld, who was popularly called Moshe Thatcher. This name was attached to him because of his original origin from Tyachiv. In front of the house was a large grocery store, owned by the family, and in the large yard – another house, which was rented out".

When I recently met Moshe Raz, who turned out to be his great-grandson, named after him – it was a sign that the time had come to document this special man.

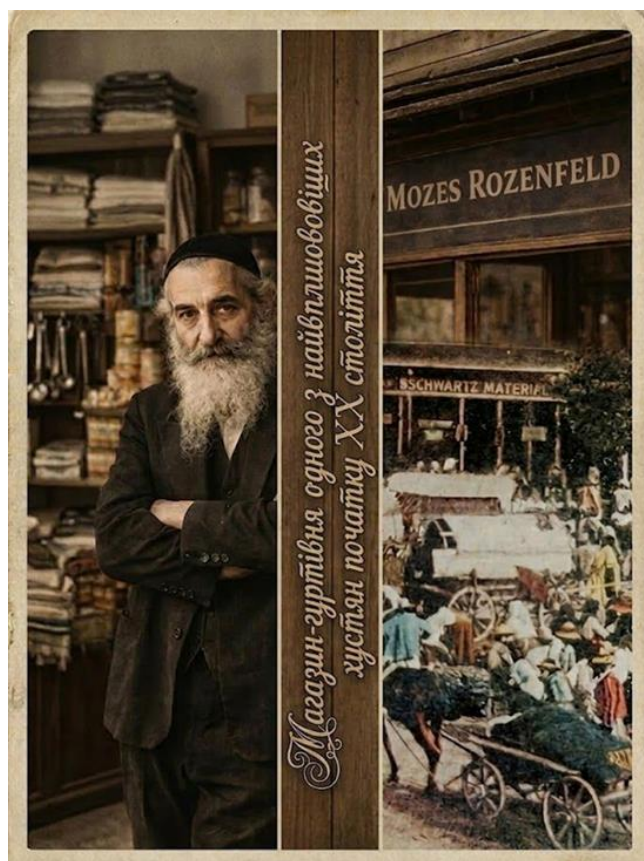
Reinforcing the timing of the documentation is the receipt of a photo of an alley in Netanya, which, surprisingly, is also connected to Moshe Rosenfeld [see the documentation in the "Ours" section].

Khust journalist, Marina Aldon, has made a film documenting Rabbi Moshe Rosenfeld. Here are the things she wrote in the introduction to the film:

"Working on this material was very interesting. For the first time, a real descendant of the family helped me in my search for information. Today he lives very far from Khust, but he remembers the city of his great-grandfather and was even here 20 years ago. We have a very productive collaboration with him!" The film is in Ukrainian [see below].

I will begin with what is said in the book of Maramuresh [page 213]; I will focus only on the information that is not detailed later, in the film that was made about him.

"At the end of the [19th] century, the star of one of the great businessmen rose in Khust, whose reputation spread throughout the surrounding area. He was a colorful figure and a personality gifted with rare and special virtues in his genre. He was a scholar. In addition to the qualities mentioned, Rabbi Moshe Thatcher was clever, intelligent, and possessed a great personal charm. He had a highly developed sense of acquiring friends and admirers in all strata of the population, both Bnei Brith and non-Bnei Brith. He was friendly with all the high officials, from the governor of the district to junior officials and government officials. All government offices were open to him. At a young age, already, a few years before World War I, he was known as an energetic lobbyist, who knew the spirit of the governors and the ways of behaving with each and every one of them. They generally granted him and his requests. His business extended beyond the city limits and his influence was known throughout the entire district. During World War I, he managed to free many young men from the army, or at least, from being sent to the front lines. His house was always full of Jews, who were waiting for their release thanks to his lobbying. He



often got into trouble with the military authorities because of this activity. Even after the change of government, Rabbi Moshe Thatcher quickly found a way into the hearts of the Czech officials. **Rabbi Moshe Thatcher was the head of the community in Khust until the end of the 1920s.**

Another trait of his personality was his cheerfulness and tendency to humor and witty jokes. Despite being a respected man and a well-known gentleman, he did not hesitate to engage in jokes to make poor brides and grooms happy. He would also take on the role of 'Purim Rav' and many enjoyed his witty banter. He also played this role at the court of the Rebbe of Vižnitz when he was there during the days of Purim".

This is the transcript of the video about Moshe Thatcher (Rosenfeld):

"A young man enters a store and greets the seller (in Hungarian): have you a good day!

The seller, Mr. Rosenfeld, also replies in Hungarian: How are you? Thank you, excellent.

Okay, how are you? I came to buy some nuts. I have all kinds. I asked Marika for something else. And how is your wife? She doesn't ask for anything to eat or drink.

When you look at old photos, showing the architecture of the city, you always want to know more about what was in those buildings, who owned the institutions, and what they specialized in. After all, each store had its own owner.

Over 100 years ago, almost all the city's residents knew each other. Some traded in fabrics, others in leather, some in drinks, some in agricultural products. At the beginning of the 20th century, there were even wholesale stores, where locals could buy local goods and imported alike. From everyday products to real delicacies.

Today we will talk about one of these shops. The story of one picture.

A postcard with a view of a fair, in the central part of the market, has been preserved on the Internet. It dates back to the beginning of the 20th century. It is safe to say that the picture was taken at a time when the city was still part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. After all, the street is marked as Rakovci. In the background you can see a shopping center. Later, during the Czechoslovakian period, a hotel, called Central, was built on the territory of part of it.

Despite the poor quality of the picture, the name Rosenfeld can be seen on the facade of one of the shops. A Czech business directory from 1925 does mention the owner of the place. His name was Moshe Rosenfeld.

The address of the shop at that time was Serikova Street 20. It even lists the phone number 36.

Details about what exactly was sold in the shop were learned not only from archival sources, but also thanks to his memoirs of the great-grandson of Moshe Rosenfeld, who currently lives in Israel. He knows his family history well and remembers many interesting details from the life of his ancestors. According to him, the store specialized in grocery products. The owner himself was also engaged in the export and import of products. He was an educated, wealthy and respected man.

Due to its convenient location, the store was very popular among the city's residents. Here you could buy not only vegetables and fruits, but also coffee, tea, spices, sugar, rice, cocoa and various delicacies, which were considered rare at that time.

Mozes or Moshe Rosenfeld, as he is mentioned in some sources, was born on December 25, 1870 in Tyachevo. Since he was a very influential figure in the community, he was often called Rabbi Moshe Thatcher - after the name of his hometown. When he reached adulthood, he married a girl from the Farkash family, from Khust, and has lived there ever since. It is known that in 1899 Moshe Rosenfeld already lived in Khust.

At first, the young family lived very modestly, and their father-in-law helped them get to recover from financial hardship. Moshe Rosenfeld helped his wife's father (Shalom Farkash) run the business. However, a few years later, he opened his own grocery store. At the same time, he was engaged in the import of coffee, gas for lamps and colonial fruits on a large scale, as documentary sources testify. However, Moshe Thatcher devoted a significant part of his life to public activity and charity. In those days, many people lived in great poverty, so he actively helped with food not only Jews, but also to Christians.

The publications indicate that the doors of his house were open to anyone who needed help. His contemporaries remembered him as a wise and friendly person, with a wonderful sense of humor. Thanks to these qualities, he earned the respect and affection of representatives from various walks of life, and maintained good relations with government officials and representatives of the authorities, including the governor.

Even before the First World War, Moshe Rosenfeld was known not only in Khust, but also throughout the region. According to sources, during the war, thanks to his connections, he managed to help many residents of Khust to be exempted from military service. His house was often visited by people seeking advice or intervention.

**By 1920, he was the head of the community.** After 1931, he had financial difficulties, the business began to decline, but the respect for him from the people did not diminish. Despite the difficulties, Moshe Thatcher remained a cheerful person and knew how to support others.

He died in 1940. His sons continued his work. Unfortunately, the tragic events of World War II were fatal for many family members.

Moshe Thatcher had one daughter and seven sons. The children also had an entrepreneurial bent and were engaged in trade.

In particular, Izaak (Yitzhak) and Miksha (Elimelach) had a shop at the same address as their father. In the 1938 directory, the shop is mentioned at 20 Masaryk Street. Today, this is Karapatska Sich, approximately where the Vodafone office is located.

Another son, Herman (Yoel Zvi), had a cotton and linen shop at 18 Masaryk Street. This is evidenced by a Czech business guide.

His son, Lipot (Aria Leibish), opened a haberdashery shop opposite the Corona Hotel, now Verkhovina.

His son, Meir, says that his father had a haberdashery and men's fashion shop - hats, sweaters, shirts and collars. For 25 years he managed the shop, which was located on the main street, in a very central location, opposite Masaryk Square and the Corona Hotel. He was helped by two dedicated assistants, who started working there at a very young age. They were polite and friendly to customers, so the shop was always full of customers. Later, due to financial difficulties, he was forced to close the shop.

With the beginning of World War II, truly tragic times came for the family. Not everyone survived the events of 1944. Most of the members of the famous family perished in Nazi concentration camps. Of Aryeh Leibish's five children, only his son Meir and daughter Hanna survived.

Whose memories were preserved"?

**Link to the documentary about Rabbi Moshe Rosenfeld:**

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1QnkZy5fST/>

Wikipedia also has an entry about Rabbi Moshe Rosenfeld. I will add the supplementary information: "His father, Naftali Diamant, was born in Strzyżów\* in Galicia and moved to the city of Uzhhorod (also known as Ungvar), where he worked for a tailor, named Rosenfeld. As a token of appreciation for adopting him as a son, he changed his name from Diamant to Rosenfeld.

After his marriage to Esther Itzkowitz, he moved to live in his father-in-law's house in the city of Tyachiv. There his sons Shmuel-Chaim, Aryeh-Leibish, Shraga-Feibish, Moshe, and daughter Ginendl were born.

\*Strzyżów is a town in Poland, located about 160 km southeast of Kraków, and was formerly part of the Galicia region. The town was known in the past for its active Jewish community, with Jews constituting a significant portion of its residents.

His name, Moshe, was given to him following a flood that occurred near his birth, from which his family was saved - following the verse "Because of the waters he has poured out" (Shemot, Chapter 2, verse 10).

In Khust he was called Moshe Thatcher, while in Tyachiv he was called **Moshe Khister**.

Moshe and Malka Rosenfeld had seven sons and one daughter, some of whom perished in the Holocaust. The names of their sons: Yaakov, Aryeh-Leibish, Yoel-Zvi (Heresh), Chaim-Shmuel, Naftali, Elimelech and Yitzhak; the daughter: Beila Fish.

Malka died in 1936 and is buried in Khust.

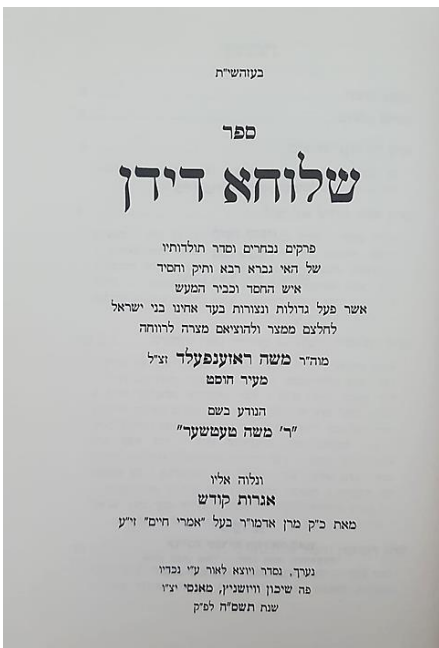
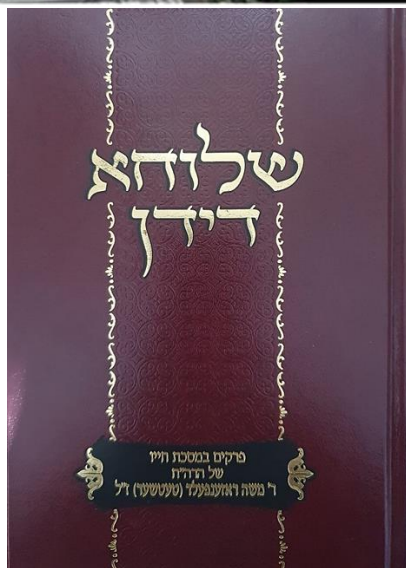
Moshe died on 15.10.1939 and is also buried in Khust.

Moshe Raz is, as mentioned, his great-grandson. One of Moshe Rosenfeld's sons was Aryeh-Leibish. Aryeh-Leibish's son was Meir Rosenfeld-Raz, and this is Moshe's father. Meir wrote the book "Meir's Memory", self-published, 2009 [see below].

Moshe Raz next to the grave of his great-grandfather

Grave of Malka, Moshe's wife

Grave of Moshe Rosenfeld



The book "Shlucha Didan: Chapters in the Tractate of the Life of Rabbi Moshe Rosenfeld (Tatcher) z"l" was written by his descendants in New York. The meaning of the phrase "Shlucha Didan" (in Aramaic) is "our emissary." This phrase is usually used to denote an emissary, representing the community, or an individual, similar to the phrase "Nash Didan" (our people).



Rabbi Moshe Rosenfeld's granddaughter was Adina Fixler, née Rosenfeld, daughter of Yoel-Zvi Hersh. This essay brings me directly to our friend, **Yoel Fixler**, Adina's son - and I will post his story in this newsletter in the "Ours" section...

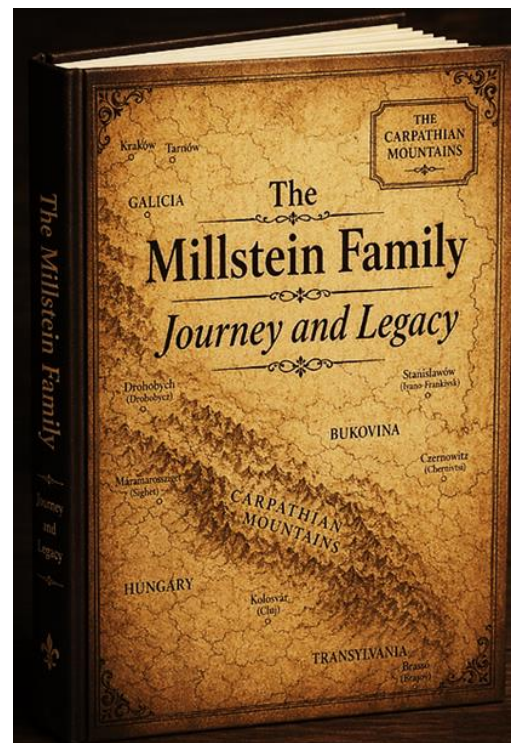
It follows from the above that Moshe Raz and Yoel Fixler are third cousins: they both have a common great-grandfather - Rabbi Moshe Rosenfeld. Yoel Fixler's grandfather was Joel-Zvi and Moshe's grandfather was Aryeh-Leibish. Joel-Zvi and Aryeh-Leibish were brothers and sons of Moshe Thatcher. Thus, two life stories came together into one circle!

**6. Writing Roots Papers [in the USA and Canada] (Rakoshyno)**

I was contacted by Dayna Waltman, a third-generation member of the Jewish community living in Toronto. Dayna was involved in Holocaust research in Carpatorus, visited there and stayed there for several months. Following the research, she felt the need to document her family members. She understood the importance of documentation for her – for her children and for future generations.

Dayna speaks Hebrew - in addition to English. This is what Dayna wrote: "A legacy book that intertwines historical context with experiences, identity, and values becomes a meaningful intergenerational family artifact. Through interviews and weaving together various expressions of your identity, a facilitator can bring to life your family's journey. If you are interested in working with a writer who specializes in Zakarpattia history and Holocaust education, please reach out for an introduction."

My email to contact Dayna is: [ruthfixler@walla.co.il](mailto:ruthfixler@walla.co.il)



**7. Ours: Dr. Fixler Yoel (Khust)**

A while ago I received a photo (next page) from a friend of my son and, of course, it intrigued me... I know the Zvi Fixler Alley in Givat Shmuel – named after the late Zvi, born in Torun [Miziriyah district], who was a member of the Irgun. From examining the sign, I realized that it was an alley in Netanya. I turned to Yoel Fixler, who is living in Rehovot in recent years, but grew up in Netanya, and asked if he had any connection to the names Adina and Yaakov, which are commemorated on the sign. The simple answer was: "Yes, they are my parents." The next obvious question was: Very distinguished! Remind me where they are from? What did

they do, that they were so honorably commemorated? And so Yoel wrote: "My parents are from the city of Khust. They immigrated to Israel in 1947, with a certificate, which they bought from a soldier from Palestine, who was discharged from the British army, and stayed in Europe. When they

arrived in Israel, they immigrated with a group and established the Kherve Le'et settlement\* in Sharon. A year later, they moved to Netanya and lived there until their last day. My mother was one of the founders of the "Workers' Organization," later "Emunah." She established and managed 6 "Emunah" dormitories in Netanya and was honored to receive the "Dearest of the City" award from the Netanya Municipality.

My father was a tax consultant and volunteered in public activities, including the treasurer of the religious council, on a voluntary basis.

My mother's maiden name is Rosenfeld. Her grandfather, Moshe Rosenfeld, known as Thatcher, was one of the leaders of the Haredi community in the city of Khust".

\*Kherev La'et is a workers' settlement in the Hefer Valley, south of the city of Hadera. The origin of the name is based on the prophecy of Isaiah: "And you shall beat their swords [in Hebrew: kherev] into plowshares [in Hebrew: le'et] and their spears into pruning shears".

On the Netanya Municipality website, I found the following documentation: Fixler Adina - Community Honoree for 1983: For children She was born in Czechoslovakia. She immigrated to Israel in 1947. She arrived in Netanya in 1948. As a member of the National Religious Women's Movement, she devoted herself to volunteer work, especially in developing kindergartens in immigrant neighborhoods. Of particular note is the "Shapira" daycare center for children, whose parents are blind. Children, students of the above institutions have accomplished achievements, including military officers, educated people, and even a doctor. The extensive network of kindergartens she cared for recently became full-day daycares and a boarding school was added for children from problematic families. With the increase in immigration from welfare countries, she organized an activity group in all volunteer areas, called "Geula". Among other things, the group works voluntarily in the Soldier's Welfare Committee, at the "Laniado" hospital, etc. This, in short, is the entirety of the educational and social activities of the recipient of the "Community Honoree" decoration, and there is still much to come.

Adina was, as mentioned, the granddaughter of Rabbi Moshe Rosenfeld, the Thatcher. She was the daughter of Yoel-Zvi Rosenfeld [after whom Yoel was named], who lived between 1893 and 1944 - and Chaya Rosenfeld, née Fixler [Yaakov's sister], who died in 1978.

Yoel's father, Yaakov, was born on August 4, 1913, from Novoselice [Khust district]. He died on January 13, 1995.

Chaya Rosenfeld, Adina's mother

Adina and Yaakov Fixler had 4 children: Pinchas [1946, Liberec, Czech Republic], Yoel [1949, in Netanya], Rivka Klein [1958] and Geula Pa'aran[1962] .





In 2020, Yoel made a presentation to mark the 25th anniversary of the passing of his father, Yaakov Fixler, and the 15th anniversary of the passing of his mother, Adina Fixler.

Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=st1PRVOmpgA>

The pictures are from this presentation.

Adina and Yaakov – in their youth  
and adulthood



As part of the "Generational Connection" project Be'ery Klein, granddaughter of Rivka Klein [daughter of Adina and Yaakov Fixler], documented the following information:[21.10.2021]

"Yaakov, my maternal uncle, was an outstanding student in yeshiva, and was diligent in studying Torah day and night. Yaakov was destined to be a great rabbi. When the Germans raided Khust, he was sent to the ghetto, from where he fled to Budapest. From Budapest, he joined an escape group to Romania, at the Kastner house [see Yoel's update below]. One of the times he was at home, the Germans raided the house and arrested Yaakov; he was sent to camps and after several incarnations, he arrived in Auschwitz. Yaakov held out almost until the liberation, but fell ill and died on Passover 1945, at the age of 29.

While still in Khust, he sent a postcard to his friend. After the Holocaust, that friend brought my great-grandmother a photocopy of the postcard as a souvenir from her brother, but she did not open it because she did not think it would be of interest. After eight years, a photocopy of the postcard came into the hands of my grandmother's son [Yoel Fixler], and he began to investigate its story. During his investigation, he discovered that the content of the postcard was not

Yaakov Rosenfeld, Adina's brother





The postcard written by Yaakov Rosenfeld

related to Torah study at all, but to archaeology in the Land of Israel. He writes that archaeological discoveries had been made in the Lachish area. The content of the discovery surprised my grandmother and the entire family, who had grown up on stories about the uncle, the scholar of the sages, who had never engaged in secular studies.

This led them to initiate a meeting with the friend, to whom the postcard was sent, who lived in Belgium at the time. The meeting revealed the complex character of Yaakov Rosenfeld, an adept at Torah study - but also interested in archaeology, studying in public libraries - and all this without anyone in his family or rabbis knowing.

Yoel Fixler, father's uncle mine, who is also the son of Adina Fixler, Yaakov's sister, chose to publish the story of the postcard in a booklet, that he gave to all family members.

For me it was a fascinating discovery. Also learning about the culture of the Vishnitz Hasidism, from which my great-grandmother came, and also about the uncle who perished in the Holocaust [see details of the subject below].

And this is the place to return to Dr. Yoel Fixler, whose academic work is extremely impressive. By his professional training, Yoel is an **electronics engineer**. He worked for about 40 years at El-Op, which later merged with Elbit. He was involved in **the space industry and was one of the founders of the field in Israel**. Yoel worked in the development of spacecraft cameras - and later managed projects in this field.

Yoel retired 8 years ago and for 4 years was a **scientific advisor to the Israel Space Agency (ISA)**. In parallel with his work, Yoel studied at Bar Ilan University, in the Department of Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology, where Yoel completed his MA and PhD degrees. After his retirement, he volunteered at the Israel Antiquities Authority and spent 4 years engaged in archaeological excavations and historical writing (articles and books).

Yoel is married to Rivka and they have three children: Hadas, Yair and Tami (Tamar). Each of the children has 4 children, a total of 12 grandchildren (6 granddaughters and 6 grandsons); the eldest granddaughter is married. They live in Rehovot and the children, 2 in Mazkeret Batya and one in Bnei Re'em.

The publications and books he had written are both professional - and deal with the documentation of life in Israel. Below is a partial list.

#### Research works:

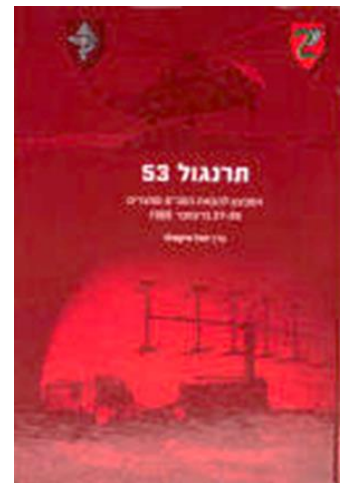
- Computerized processing of panchromatic aerial photographs for archaeological mapping purposes in the Lod Lowlands during the Mishnah and Talmud periods: Master's thesis (MA)--Bar Ilan University, 1991.

- Mapping and research on Roman roads in the Land of Israel based on aerial photographs, 2001

#### Books:

Tarnegol 53 - The operation to bring the radar from Egypt: December 26-27, 1969, 2009.

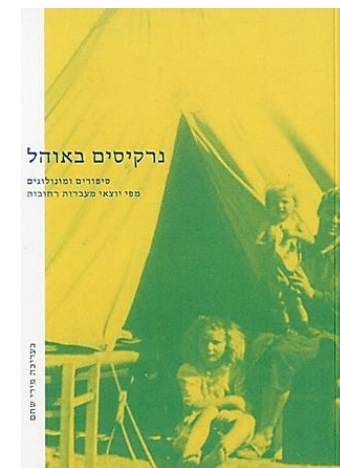
The book tells of a unique operation during the War of Attrition in 1969 to bring a complete radar station, with its operators, from Egypt. **Yoel took part in the operation, which was carried out by a paratrooper unit**, and was flown to Israel by 2 Yas'ur helicopters. The book includes authentic documents and photographs from the field during the operation



**“The Paths of a Sabra”** was published in 2020. This is what Yoel wrote on the back cover: “I was born to my parents, Yaakov and Adina, after they immigrated to Israel, the first ‘Sabra’ son in our extended family. ... I am writing down all the chapters of my life - starting with my first memories as a child - and ending with my experiences at the age of 70, after I retired. ... I am writing the story of my life for my children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who will still be born, G-d willing, so that they can read in the book about me and various events in history, in which I was involved, even if only a little, and they will not regret not asking me”.

In the book **“Daffodils in a Tent,”** **“Dr. Yoel Fixler, a volunteer at the Rehovot Archives,** added an eye-opening afterword, which includes a general overview of the establishment of the transit camps [Ma’abarot] in Israel and a review of the history of them in Rehovot - in particular”.

More about the Rehovot transit camps can be read in the presentation prepared by Dr. Yoel Fixler for the Avnei Moreshet website - [קישור](#) [link] **“Avnei Moreshet”** is an association, whose vision is: **“Communication for tangible heritage assets.”** It is a public group that focuses on making historical sites and buildings accessible in a digital environment. The topics the group focuses on are sites and buildings of historical, local, national and Israeli importance; sites and buildings that are examples of the cultures of different communities; sites where leaders acted, built and contributed to the development of the state; buildings or a set of buildings that are heritage stones in the architecture of the Land of Israel. The Avnei Moreshet group was established on the initiative of social entrepreneurs and business people, who work on a voluntary basis. **“Yoel is a member of the Avnei Moreshet council”.**



**Some of Yoel’s works are the following performances:**

- Ariel Sharon Park, February 2025 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4aygvpgenJU>
- Hebrew shops in Jerusalem, April 2025 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olfAQJ5cu48>
- Radar Hill in Har Adar, June 2025 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvOfnrov9jM>
- Mosaic floor from Hirbet Shema, July 2025 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iz5CzSM2bsM>

In this book, published in 1993, Yoel Fixler, together with Ze’ev Safrai, co-wrote the article **“Hirbet Kaspā - the settlement and its inheritance.”**

The site is located on the outskirts of Rosh Hashanah, above the bank of the Raba River, which is the smallest of the four main tributaries of the Yarkon River. The ruin contains wine presses, remains of buildings and several cisterns - apparently from the Byzantine period, about 1700 years ago.



To mark the 120th anniversary of the passing of Rabbi Shmuel Mohaliver zt"l: Computerized processing: Yoel Fixler; <https://museum-mohaliver.org.il/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/lanoar-web.pdf>  
Republished with the assistance of the Ministry of Education, Jewish Culture Division. By "Zioni Derech" - a tour and learning center.

The last book written by Dr. Yoel Fixler is "On Houses and Farmers: Houses and Founders in Mazkeret Batya". The book was published in 2023, on the occasion of Mazkeret Batya's 140th anniversary of its establishment.

Yoel provided me with a great deal of information, which I will post in the following links, in which he describes the discovery of the postcard, which his sister's granddaughter mentioned.

In the process, it was possible to learn from Yoel's review of life in Khust before the war, as well as the life story of Yaakov Rosenfeld, the brother of his mother, Adina.

Below are summaries of the 3 sources that were provided to me:



**A booklet written by Yoel Fixler and distributed to family members: The Story of a Postcard**

<file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/%D7%A1%D7%99%D7%A4%D7%95%D7%A8%D7%94%20%D7%A9%D7%9C%20%D7%92%D7%9C%D7%95%D7%99%D7%94-%D7%9E%D7%9C%D7%90.pdf>

In the summer of 1990, I came across, by chance, a photocopy of a postcard, that had been lying around with my mother for about 8 years, and which was given to her by a friend, who knew a man who was a friend of her brother, Yaakov Rosenfeld, and with whom she had even corresponded, by letter, before World War II. My mother never attempted to read the contents of the postcard, believing that her brother, as a yeshiva boy, who did not go to a regular school, must have written Torah verses, which, to her knowledge, he spent most of his time studying.

My father, who was a Zionist in Khust, and was the only one in the family, who visited the local library, testifies that Yaakov never set foot in a library and was never "caught" reading literature, newspapers, or anything else, related to the Land of Israel or Zionism.

These facts increase the astonishment and wonder at reading this postcard, especially since Yaakov did not study the Hebrew language, and, certainly, did not study the subject of paleography [the science that deals with the study of ancient manuscripts], in a systematic manner in school.

Yaakov (Yakel) Rosenfeld was born in 1916 in the city of Khust, Czechoslovakia, to his parents, Rabbi Yoel Zvi and Chaya Rosenfeld, grandson of his famous grandfather, Rabbi Moshe (Thatcher) from the city of Tyachiv, a well-known family in the Vizhnitz Hasidic court. Yaakov was the second of five children in the family: Shmuel, Yakel, Adina, Mordechai-Shlomo and Michael. The brothers Shmuel and Mordechai-Shlomo perished in the Holocaust, Adina (Fixler today) and Michael survived the Holocaust, were able to immigrate to Israel and establish large families. Michael Rosenfeld died in 1989. The father, Rabbi Yoel Zvi, perished in the Holocaust - while the mother, Chaya, was also able to immigrate to Israel after the Holocaust. Yakel proved to be a genius and diligently studied Torah

day and night. He first studied at Rabbi Dushynski's yeshiva in the city of Khust; at the age of 16 he moved to study in the city of Viszvw [according to Yoel's parents] and at the age of 18 - to the yeshiva in Piešťany [in Slovakia]. Here he met Ephraim Storch (see below), who was a "veteran" and had already studied in the yeshiva for a year. He studied in the yeshiva in Piešťany for two years and at the age of 20 returned to the city of Khust.

Around 1937, Yakel, together with his older brother, Shmuel, began establishing a factory to manufacture umbrellas in Khust called "The Rosenfeld Brothers" and the business slowly began to gain momentum. They marketed their products throughout Czechoslovakia.

On 3/1944, the Germans decided to put the Jews of Khust into the ghetto. In May 1944, one day before the liquidation of the ghetto and the transfer of the Jews to the extermination camps, several relatives (the Fixler, Rosenfeld, and Kassirer families), including Yakel, fled to the city of Budapest. There, the group hid under assumed names while changing hiding places. Yakel, together with his uncle, Shlomo Fixler (now Rosenberg - living in Canada), looked for a way to escape from Budapest. Despite the warnings of the other members of the group, the two went to meetings at the home of Kastner and Joel Brand, his partner, who organized groups to move to Romania. In June 1944, on one occasion, when the two were staying at Joel Brand's home, the Germans raided the house and arrested Yakel and Shlomo. The two were sent to camps and after several incarnations – they arrived in Auschwitz. Yakel endured almost until the liberation, when he fell ill with typhus and died on Passover 1945, while his uncle, Shlomo, was next to him; Yakel was 29 years old.

From the interrogation of his relatives, who knew him closely, the image of a self-taught Ilya emerges, without formal general education, who was fluent in many languages (Hebrew, Yiddish, German, Czech and English), wrote fiction for the press in Warsaw (sometimes under a pseudonym), was interested in and understood archaeology and paleography (as reflected in the postcard) and above all – he was sharp and well-versed in Shas and poskim.

**An article by Yoel Fixler, published in the newspaper "Etmol", a newspaper for the history of the Land of Israel and the people of Israel, issue 267, Nissan 5754 | March 2020**

<file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/%D7%A2%D7%AA%D7%9E%D7%95%D7%9C%20-%20%D7%A9%D7%9E%D7%95%D7%A2%D7%95%D7%AA%20%D7%A2%D7%AA%D7%94%20%D7%9B%D7%99%D7%95%D7%9D.pdf>

A few years ago, I found in one of my mother's drawers a photograph of a postcard, with Hebrew written on both sides in great density. The postcard was written in 1936 by her brother, Yaakov Rosenfeld, and according to the postmark, that appears on it, was sent from the city of Khust to Philip Storch, who lived in the city of Nove Mesto. My mother never tried to read the writing on the postcard and did not know what it contained. The writer of the postcard, Yaakov Rosenfeld, was from the city of Khust, and Ephraim (Philip) Storch studied with him in yeshiva and was his roommate in boarding school. During the "Bein Hametzamin" vacation in Passover 1936, Yaakov went to his parents' house in Khust, while his friend, Philip Storch, went to work as a supervisor in a matzot bakery in the city of Nove Mesto, Slovakia. Philip sent Yaakov a letter, complaining about the hard work in the bakery. In response, Yaakov wrote the postcard. The postcard includes 678 words.

The date the postcard was sent can be determined by the title of the letter, combined with a partial date on the postmark. The full date is: Monday, of Parashat Tzav, 7th of Nisan 3006 (30.3.1936). Yaakov was 20 years old at the time of writing the postcard, a yeshiva student and autodidact.

Yaakov Rosenfeld was born in Khust in 1916. Like the other boys in his family, he studied at the "Heider" and at the age of 18, after studying in several yeshivahs, he went to study at the yeshiva of Rabbi Issachar Shlomo Teichtal in the city of Piešťany. As is customary in the yeshiva world, the subjects taught were religious studies and the language of instruction was Yiddish. Yaakov Rosenfeld was especially beloved by the head of the yeshiva, Rabbi Teichtal, who expressed this in one of his responses in the book "Mishneh sakhir": **"To the honor of my beloved students, the excellent young man, the diligent and witty Mr. Yaakov Rosenfeld, born in the holy community of Khust, my beloved students"**.

Rosenfeld's friends described him as an autodidact, who was interested in the world around him. He knew five languages perfectly, a fact that was lost on his immediate family. He wrote stories in rich Hebrew and sent them to various newspapers. Yaakov's rich language and his command of the Hebrew language, which he did not learn formally, neither in a rabbi, nor at school nor in a yeshiva, are astonishing, as are the topics he writes about. It is amazing how a yeshiva student, who had no formal education beyond religious studies, explains complex grammatical rules to his friend in a postcard. In his writing, he reinvents the word "mishmorah" as a name for the guard room, reveals knowledge of the latest excavations at Tel Lachish, including details of the finds discovered there, and is familiar with the new studies published on the subject.

Daily newspapers, weeklies, and books in Hebrew arrived in the city of Khust from all over Europe and Israel. The city also had a municipal library, which had a section that contained books in Hebrew. It is likely that Yaakov Rosenfeld frequented the library and bookstores and, thus, completed his general education, and there he also read the article "Lachish Certificates", which appeared in the collection "Knesset - in Memory of Chaim Nachman Bialik". It is assumed that he did not dare to bring this literature home.

When the ghetto was established in Khust in 1944, the family members, including Yaakov, fled to Budapest and hid there. In one of his attempts to find an escape route, he visited the home of Joel and Hanzi Brand, members of the Rescue Committee. During a surprise search of their home, he was caught along with his uncle, Shlomo, by the local police and they were sent to the camps. Yaakov fell ill with typhus and did not survive; he was 29 years old when he died. His uncle, Shlomo, lived to the age of 100, survived and brought us the story of their hardships in the camps. The recipient of the postcard, Ephraim Philip Storch, was saved, thanks to Yaakov Rosenfeld, who convinced him to accept a rabbi's position in Switzerland. As a result, Storch moved to Switzerland and remained there throughout the war. In 1991 he was located in Antwerp, Belgium - with the help of Rabbi Issachar Shlomo Teichthal's son, Chaim Menachem Teichthal, and arrived in Israel to meet Adina, Yaakov's sister [and Yoel's mother].

**A story, written by Yaakov Rosenfeld and published in the newspaper "Darkenu" [Our Way] - the main outlet of the Agudath Yisrael World, Parashat Shelah 1935**

**Yaakov Rosenfeld: Gabriel's Prayer - A Story**

<file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/%D7%93%D7%A8%D7%9B%D7%A0%D7%95%20-%D7%AA%D7%A4%D7%9C%D7%AA%D7%95%20%D7%A9%D7%9C%20%D7%92%D7%91%D7%A8%D7%99%D7%90%D7%9C%201.pdf>

**"The Story of "Sipur" - Completed by Yoel Fixler from 2 Sivan 2018**

As you may recall, in the booklet called "The Story of a Postcard" that you received, there is a transcript of the interview I conducted with Ephraim Storch, Yakel's roommate at the Piešťany Yeshiva. In that interview, which took place in December 1990, he said that Yaakov Rosenfeld showed

him a newspaper called "Darkenu", which was published in Hebrew, in Warsaw, between the years 1934 - 1936, and in which a story that Yaakov wrote was printed. I tried to locate the issues of the aforementioned newspaper at the time, but was unable to (the Internet did not yet exist). After I distributed the booklet among the family, one of my cousins, Zvi Rosenfeld, drew my attention to the fact that I had not yet found the story, that Yaakov Rosenfeld wrote. He told me that someone in the US had found the story in a library. I immediately sat down to fill in the gaps – and with the help of the Internet, I located several volumes of the newspaper "Darkenu", which were scanned and are available on the website called Hebrew books. After going through about 50 issues, I located the story of Yaakov Rosenfeld, which was published in the newspaper "Darkehnu" on the Thursday of Parashat Shelah 1935. Yaakov Rosenfeld wrote the story when he was 19 years old. Grandma Adina (my mother, Yaakov's sister) had no idea that he was fluent in Hebrew, as well as in 4 other languages. I retyped the story due to the poor quality of the scanned material, and at the same time, in light of its high level and rich language, I bring you his story - as written by Yaakov. An enjoyable reading.

Interestingly, both Yoel and his uncle, Yaakov Rosenfeld [the postcard writer], chose to become interested in and delve deeper into the field of archaeology.

Yoel manages the family tree (MyHeritage) and has over 2,000 people in the general tree. He added the immediate family section, all the descendants of his parents (including daughters-in-law and sons-in-law) - 135 people. Yes, they will grow!

Link to the family tree:

[file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/%D7%A2%D7%A5%20%D7%9E%D7%A9%D7%A4%D7%97%D7%94%20%D7%A9%D7%9C%20%D7%99%D7%A2%D7%A7%D7%91%20%D7%95%D7%A2%D7%93%D7%99%D7%A0%D7%94%20%D7%A4%D7%99%D7%A7%D7%A1%D7%9C%D7%A8%20\(2\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/%D7%A2%D7%A5%20%D7%9E%D7%A9%D7%A4%D7%97%D7%94%20%D7%A9%D7%9C%20%D7%99%D7%A2%D7%A7%D7%91%20%D7%95%D7%A2%D7%93%D7%99%D7%A0%D7%94%20%D7%A4%D7%99%D7%A7%D7%A1%D7%9C%D7%A8%20(2).pdf)

A few words about Yoel's siblings:

Pinchas lives in Tel Aviv. He is an accountant and has an office in Netanya.

Rivka lives in Netanya. She is a freelance supervisor of daycare centers, Studied early childhood education.

Geula lives in Ra'anana. She is a retired physiotherapist. She also earned a PhD in Israel Studies at Bar-Ilan University.

**...Indeed, the apple did not fall far from the tree of his great-grandfather!  
May G-d bless you, Yoel, for your professional and diverse work.**

**Full disclosure: We are not related by family!**

**Wrote the leaflet: Ruthi Fixler.**

**For comments: [ruthfixler@walla.co.il](mailto:ruthfixler@walla.co.il)**

**Thanks to Gita Berkowitz for helping with the English translation**