

No. 45 July 1998

## 50 YEARS ISRAEL

Our annual meeting was held this year one week after the 50th Independence Day of our state. Many weeks before there were already festivities on a national, local, institutional and family level. It was an opportunity for all of us - those born in Israel and those who immigrated - to remember the happiness we felt when Israel was founded, the hard beginnings, the wars we fought, those who paid with their life for our independence. It was also the occasion to take stock: in spite of not being able to always concur with this or that politician, in spite of some mismanagement, and in spite of criticizing some aspects of our life - here is our home, here we have founded families, here we are needed, each in his or her capacity, here we did our bit to ensure the continued existence of the Jewish people in this country. M. Livni said at the opening ceremony of the meeting: "It is a huge privilege to be able to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Israel's independence. Perhaps not everything is as we dreamed - but it is the only state we have got".

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The meeting was held on May 9, 1998 at Kibbutz Givat Hayim-Ihud. Some 200 people attended, who had come despite the very hot and dry weather. In the morning there was a workshop at the kibbutz clubroom, mainly for the younger members, titled "Children and Youth Newspapers in Ghetto Terezin". The moderator was Bat-Sheva Shaviv, formerly head of the course for the teaching of history at the School of Education of Tel Aviv university. There followed a dialogue about the activities of the second generation with M. Livni, Anita Tarsi, Eli Lawental and Narda Kuczinski. Simultaneously old friends met at the plaza near Vienna House - this is, after all, the one occasion to see one another. After refreshments all gathered at Beit Vienna for the meeting. First there were songs by the choir of Givat Hayim-Ihud under the baton of Hovav ben Saadia. After a minute's silence for those who didn't survive and for our members who died later came the greetings: Ms Dasa Van der Horst for the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Israel, Miriam Ziv in the name of Givat Hayim-Ihud and Eli Lawental for the second generation. M. Livni expressed our thanks and appreciation to three of our members who - after many years of voluntary work - requested to be relieved of their duties. Haya Shen did our accounts, Shimon Lomsky the books and Alisah Schiller was the manager of Beit Terezin.

The meeting elected (by now it is almost a tradition) Willy Groag as chairman of the meeting and Ruti Duek ( from the second generation) as secretary. After the reports on the activities of the association and the financial statement the steering committee was granted absolution and a new one was elected for the coming year: M. Livni (chairman), Ruth Bondy, Nir Drori, Ronit Fischl-Tieberg (legal adviser), Amram Haisraeli, Narda Kuczinski, Eli Lawental, Shosh Sade, Alisa Scheck, Alisah Schiller. Anita Tarsi continues as manager of Beit Terezin, Bilha Rubin is her deputy. The broader steering committee has 34 members - others who would like to be active are requested to contact the chairman. All the committees - finances, events, education,

expositions and control - are empowered to enlist additional members.

As conclusion of the meeting there was a performance of "L'hayay hahayim" (Long live life) - chansons from Terezin cabarets (in Hebrew) sung by Tal Amir, Shay Ben-Tsvi, Israel

Treistman and Lilach Kaspi, accompanied by the pianist Shay Ben-Yaakov, compere: Kobi Lurie, music: Hana Hacoheh. The ensemble, applauded enthusiastically by the audience, plans shortly a full program of texts from ghetto Terezin.

### **Fund for Beit Theresienstadt**

In continuation of our fund-raising action in Israel - which began in summer 1997 - we also accosted our friends outside Israel, in January 1998, to participate and give us their contributions. Many of them reacted with largesse. We got from this source abt. US\$ 11.000, the whole fund comes now to about US\$ 36.000. This fund is meant mainly to enable us to turn the "Mishkan Yaakov" hall (named in memory of Yaakov Edelstein) into an exhibition room, where expositions of Terezin art will be shown. In addition to this, the room will also be used for lectures.

Many thanks to all our members and friends the world over for their donations for our joint target: we appreciate your help very much! And to all those, who have not yet sent their donations (perhaps our letter did not reach them) - it is never too late.

### **Exhibition Room**

As known, Beit Theresienstadt was erected on the grounds of Kibbutz Givat Hayim-Ihud. Since the opening in 1975 the kibbutz had the right - together with our association - of the use of the "Mishkan Yaakov" hall. Now we are finally near the conclusion of the negotiations with representatives of the kibbutz, to free the hall for the sole use of the above-mentioned purpose. The kibbutz will get financial compensation.

The management of the "Claims Conference" informed us at the end of 1997, that our request for an allocation for this purpose was granted - the sum of US\$ 50.000 - naturally we will have to fulfill certain conditions.

The members of the exhibitions committee, managed by Alisa Scheck, visited a similar hall in Kiriat Tivon, planned by two young Haifa architects, and were impressed. After a few visits in Beit Theresienstadt these architects were commissioned with the planning of our exhibition room and already brought some proposals. The final plan will be confirmed after discussion in the steering committee and examination of the financial resources.

### **Tender**

As mentioned in our last number (January 1998) the steering committee of our association decided to hold a tender for the post of manager of Beit Terezin. Alisah Schiller, who filled this post voluntarily for 10 years, asked to be relieved. A committee of 3 members from the founder generation and 3 members from the second generation laid down the requirements. The tender was open for members of our association and for outsiders too. 3 candidates applied - two of them were interviewed on January 16, 1998. After many deliberations it was decided to recommend Anita Tarsi to the steering committee, which agreed.

Anita Tarsi started to work in this capacity on February 1, 1998 - she manages our

education center since 1993. She was born in Argentine, immigrated in 1963 and was a member of Kibbutz Hahotrim. She is finishing her studies (MA in history) at the Haifa University. She studied pedagogy and published several papers, mainly about the teaching of Holocaust themes generally and ghetto Terezin specifically. Thanks to her, our educational work expanded significantly and so did our relations with the Isr. Ministry of Education, which contributes financially to our study days.

The management of our association and all members wish Anita much luck in her further work and are sure, that she will be as successful in this new function as she was in the previous one. Alisah Schiller does not leave Beit Theresienstadt - she continues to work, mainly in the completion of the data in our computerized file of ghetto inmates. In the name of our members, friends and all those, who ever needed her help and found the utmost patience and devotion, we thank Alisah for all she did for Beit Theresienstadt and it's connections the world over and wish her - and us - many more years of fruitful activity.

## **OUR EDUCATIONAL CENTER**

### **Study Days**

Since the start of the year till today we held 51 study days dealing with various themes connected to ghetto Terezin. The participants were high school pupils, students, teachers and various groups from Israel and abroad - in all about 2300 persons.

We want to thank our members who took part in these days and shared their experiences, often with great mental effort.

### **Special Study Days**

\* By request of the Department for Music of the Teacher's Seminar Kaye in Be'er Sheba we organized a special study day for it's students. The program included details of the ghetto's history and the hardships of life there and also: "Music in the Ghetto". This was an attempt to add more subjects to the study days - the success encourages us to continue to develop new ideas and programs.

\* A delegation of VIP's from Sweden, among them a minister, members of the senate and functionaries of ministries, visited Beit Terezin in the framework of an Israel tour. They were given detailed explanations and also took part in a discussion about children's and youth newspapers in the ghetto - based mainly on the book "Karu lo Haver" (about the youth newspaper "Kamarad"). The study day ended with the testimony of Gerda Steinfeld. The participants were also taken on a short tour of the kibbutz.

\* For several years we have visits of groups of journalists, teachers and educators from Germany, organized through the "Bundeszentrale fuer politische Bildung". Since January 1998 we had 6 study days with such groups. Each day includes: a visit to our remembrance room and the exhibits there, a lecture about the ghetto, a video film "Ghetto Theresienstadt 1941-1945", a personal testimony and a discussion - about 4 hours, mostly in German. This is a confrontation of the tour members with the Holocaust and it's remembrance in Israel - the personal meeting with an Holocaust survivor and the files of the ghetto inmates leave a deep impression. These visits are organized by the "Pro" agency which is specializing in such excursions.

## **Tutoring**

17 pupils and students preparing papers were tutored in our Education Center. Toward Holocaust Day communities from the neighborhood requested and received assistance with expositions and memorial ceremonies on this day.

## **Development of the Educational Ambiance "Youth in Ghetto Theresienstadt"**

We are about to finish the first part of this curriculum. It deals with the subject "Hunger in the Ghetto" and how youth dealt with it. It is similar to a computer game, in the form of a journey through time. By animation, accompanied by words and music, the pupils are invited to "observe" the world of youth in the ghetto. Visiting parents, work, the atmosphere in the youth home, thefts, the communal kitty and its problems - all these find their expression in a story, which is at the heart of this "game". In between are also relevant parts of testimonies. This is a very new approach to learning, arousing curiosity and fostering an emotional and intellectual identification with the ghetto reality. This first part was financed mainly by the "Estate Fund" of the Isr. Ministry of Education.

## **The Guide for Visitors to Terezin**

is intended both for members of youth delegations and for adults. The difference between the present reality in the town and that of the ghetto during WWII calls for an aid to bridge this gap. The guide includes about 30 sites in a concise and matter-of-fact style. In addition to the historical description of the purpose and origin of each site there are fragments of testimonies, reminiscences and quotations from youth newspapers in the ghetto. Paintings by ghetto artists illustrate the atmosphere of those days. The sites are arranged by subject. The booklet will be used for the first time at a pilot project in September of this year - a group of tour leaders of the Youth Department of the Isr. Ministry of Education will visit the former ghetto with the help of the guide. The project was developed through a huge investment of time, talent and initiative by 2 members of our association: Yehuda Huppert and Hana Drori. The Youth Department of the Isr. Ministry of Education backs the project from the start. The joint team is led by Yael Bernholz, who has supported our educational activities for years.

## **Homage to our Volunteers**

As in the past we held a small celebration on one of the Hanukka evenings in recognition of our members, who volunteer to work at Beit Terezin. After lighting the candles there were songs accompanied by Ruth Elias (accordion) and Shmuel (Jirka) Bloch (mouth organ). Various aspects of oral testimonies were discussed and their importance both for the listeners and for the witness were stressed. Each volunteer received a modest souvenir - a flower and a greeting card with the picture of a Hanukkia (Menorah), drawn in 1943 by a child in Terezin.

## **Study Day for the Second Generation**

Last Hanukka there was also a meeting and study day for members of the second generation at Beit Terezin. In 5 hours there was a lecture about the history of the ghetto, the video film "Ghetto Terezin 1941-1945" and a workshop "Terezin - night shelter". The day ended with a dialogue: members of the first generation answered questions. All participants expressed their satisfaction with the meeting.

### **Sources from the book "Karu lo Haver" (Kamarad)**

For study days on the subject "Youth and Children's Newspapers in Ghetto Theresienstadt" Bat-Sheva Shaviv prepared a booklet with sources from the said book. The idea is, to explain that children in the ghetto were just like all other children - but the events they had to cope with changed the perspective of their own world and of the world of the adults.

Omri Meseritch from Givat Hayim-Meuhad, student of the 11th grade at the "Maayan" school, translated the brochure into English.

### **Official Czech Delegation at Beit Terezin**

On June 5, an official Czech delegation visited us, led by the speaker of the senate of the Czech Republic Mr. P. Pithart and his wife, accompanied by the Czech ambassador in Israel Mr. Schneider, the consul Ms. D. Van Horst, senators and also members of the staff of the Czech embassy in Tel Aviv. In the name of the delegation Mr. Pithart laid flowers in our remembrance room in memory of the Holocaust victims. Our chairman M. Livni explained to the guests the special character of Beit Terezin, its aims and plans for the future. A dialogue between members of the delegation and members of our association took place. The guests had also a short tour through the kibbutz and lunch at the dining room.

### **\* Children's Newspapers in the Ghetto**

An evening was dedicated to children's and youth newspapers in ghetto Terezin on the occasion of the publication of the book "Karu lo Haver - the Children's Newspaper 'Kamarad' from Ghetto Terezin" by Yad Vashem in cooperation with Beit Theresienstadt. The event was held at the Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv and moderated by the manager of Beit Terezin Anita Tarsi. Participants: the chairman of our association M. Livni, Ruth Bondy who had translated and edited the book, lectured on children's and youth newspapers in the ghetto - of which seven different ones survived, partly or in full.

The director of the Institute for Fostering Creativity in Youth, T. A. University, Dr. Erica Landau dealt with the question, if stress situations encourage creativity or hinder it - her conclusion, based on research done at the Institute before and after the Yom-Kippur war and also on experiences from ghetto Terezin: the act of creating itself means coping with stress, stress encourages children to create.

Bat-Sheva Shaviv, formerly head of the course for the teaching of history at the School of Education of Tel Aviv university analyzed "Kamarad" and other youth newspapers from the ghetto from the point of view of historiography and methodology - as a subject for teaching.

The editor of the Isr. youth newspaper "Maariv Lanoar" Assi Weinstein spoke with emotion about the keeping of human values in times of distress, as expressed in the newspapers.

\* The weekly supplement "Books" of the daily "Haaretz" printed on April 22, 1998 a full page titled "Kamarad - the Children's Newspaper from Ghetto Terezin 1943-1944". The book was published (in Hebrew) through cooperation of Yad Vashem and Beit Terezin. The director of the Center for Holocaust Studies at the Kibbutz Teachers Seminary Dr. Nili Keren emphasized, that the book visualizes the world of youth in the ghetto in an exciting and touching way. "This is an exceptionally important document, historically and educationally. It enables Israeli youth to get to know their peers, who were imprisoned in the ghetto.

## **Translations**

Our voluntary translators continue their work for our archives - from Czech and German into Hebrew and English, to enable students and researchers to use these sources in the future, too.

Magda Katzenstein translated the memoirs of Dr. Hanus Kafka "Mein Weg durch Hitlers Konzentrationslager" (My Way through Hitler's Concentration Camps) from German into Hebrew. The book speaks of his work as a physician in Terezin and of his days in Auschwitz and then in Kaufering. Magda K. also translated letters from the director of the youth department in the ghetto Gonda Redlich, addressed to Willy Groag and also testimonies of the "girls" from L-410.

Tsippora Nir translated (from Czech) the memoirs of Milos Pick and Lydia Smolka the testimonies of former prisoners in Terezin, who were liberated in Bergen Belsen and sent to Sweden for recuperation.

Rahel Har-Tsvi is translating the Terezin diary of Antonin Rosenbaum "Fandango" from Czech into Hebrew. Shimon Weissbecker continues to translate from H.G.Adler's book "Theresienstadt 1941-1945".

Alisa Scheck translated "Pavel Bondy's Diary" (from Czech into English) - a literary diary, written in the ghetto by Pata Fischl (Gavriel Dagan) and also a diary by Jan Borsky.

## **ACTUALITIES**

### **Pages of Life**

An exhibition of works by Hava Pressburger titled "Pages of Life - Loafing through my Theresienstadt Diary and Beyond" was held from February 19, till March 22, at the Franz Kafka Gallery in Prague. Hava, the former Eva Ginz from Prague, wrote the diary at age 14. She was in the ghetto without her parents, with her brother Peter, the gifted editor of the youth newspaper "Vedem". Hava lives today at Omer near Beer Sheva, she studied painting in Prague and in Paris. Remarkable about her art is, that she herself makes the paper on which she works - from Negev plants. As she says, she seeks to create harmony between herself, nature and the surrounding world.

### **Drawings as Testimony**

From April 22 until May 10, 1998 the "Bar David" museum for Jewish Art at Kibbutz

Bar Am (curator Hedva Dahan) held an exhibition titled "We are Children all the Same - in Memory of Ghetto Terezin". Yehuda Bakon, Willy Groag, Hava Pressburger, Dita Kraus, Charlotte Bureshova and Malvina Schalekova participated. They all had drawn in the ghetto - as children or adults. The opening was on Holocaust Day eve - Willy Groag and Dita Kraus attended.

### **Children in the Holocaust**

A study day for educators was held on March 9, 1998 in the framework of the exhibition "No Child's Play", at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. Among the lecturers was Prof. Israel Guttman, whose subject was "Children with no Childhood", the curator of the exhibition Yehudit Inbar and Ruth Bondy, who talked about the children's barracks at the Birkenau family camp.

### **Bond of Generations**

Yuval Yariv, born in Israel, lives today in Duesseldorf, Germany. The artist called his exhibition, shown from June to November 1998 at the Sachsenhausen Memorial Site "Bilderserie Auschwitz - Homage fuer Dina Gottlieb" (Picture Series Auschwitz). Dina Annemarie Gottlieb, born 1923, arrived in January 1942 in Theresienstadt and was deported to the Birkenau family camp in September 1943. This whole transport was murdered in March 1944 - she survived thanks to her gift for precise drawing, used by Dr. Mengele for the visualization of his "medical experiments". After the liberation Dina emigrated to California and worked at the Walt Disney studios.

### **Addition to the Ghetto Museum**

The work in the former "Magdeburg" barracks in Terezin is finished. At the time of the ghetto it was the seat of the administration. The Czech government added the front part of the building to the ghetto museum - the rear part serves as a storeroom for collections of the National Museum. In the attic - where many performances were given at the time of the ghetto - a lecture hall was installed, to be used for performances too. On the floor below is a hostel, intended for youth attending seminars. The first floor houses the reconstruction of a women's dormitory - wooden bunks, suitcases and meager belongings of the prisoners - visualizing the cramped conditions in the ghetto. An exhibition room dedicated to music with the biographies, works and pictures of the composers and artists was already opened. It includes also equipment for listening to music created in the ghetto. Two other rooms for art exhibitions will be ready soon.

According to the annual report of "Pamatnik Terezin" among the 75.000 visitors to the former ghetto there were 40.000 youth from abroad and only 3.167 from the Czech Republic.

### **"Miss Rabbi" in Theresienstadt**

The beautiful synagogue at Oranienburgstrasse in Berlin, once the largest in Europe, whose gilded copula could be seen from far off, is now again accessible to the public - as memorial site, museum, study center and archives. It was erected in 1866. Thanks to the energetic intervention of the German police officer Wilhelm Kritzfeld it was not destroyed during the "night of the broken glass" in November 1938. But the heavy

bombings of Berlin in 1943 caused much damage. The central prayer hall was in ruins. One of the personalities mentioned in the history of the site and of the community in the permanent exhibition is Regina Jonas. She was ordained in 1937 as a rabbi of the social department of the Jewish community, but was not allowed to preach in public or to interpret religious law. "Fraeulein Rabbiner Jonas", as she was called, was deported in 1942 to Theresienstadt and was the sole female rabbi in the ghetto. In 1944 she was murdered in Auschwitz, aged 42.

### **Prague Book Fair**

Honoring the 50th anniversary of the State of Israel the International Book Fair, held in Prague March 21 - 24, 1998, put Israel and its literature on center stage. Among the authors invited was Ota B. Kraus, whose two novels deal with the family camp and with the children's barracks at Birkenau. In May 1998 another book of his was published by Yaron Golan: "Tel Kozim" (Thistle Hill). It is a satire about life in a kibbutz in the fiftieth and the stormy debates erupting on the issue of the raising of pigs.

The autobiographical book "Triumph of Hope" by Ruth Elias, whose German original had great success and which was translated into Hebrew and Czech, was published in 1997 in English, too. (The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, John Wiley & Son in New York, translated by Margot Bettauer-Dembo).

Ruth Elias was also a guest author at the Prague book fair. On the occasion of the second edition of her book in Czech (translated by Anna Lorenzova, published by "Augusta") a meeting with readers took place at the Prague Jewish Museum on May 19, where Ruth Elias read excerpts from the book.

There were two reasons for Hanna Greenfield to participate at the fair: exhibiting books from her family-owned publishing house "Gefen" and as the author of the book "From Kolin to Jerusalem", published in Czech, too. In an interview she gave to the newspaper "Lidove noviny" about her Holocaust experiences H. Greenfield reiterated her conclusions from those years: "One has to fight evil from the beginning, as the Danes did". The book "Clovek neni cislo" (Man is not a number) was also exhibited at the fair. It is a collection of articles and drawings by Czech students, who participated in a competition of the same name, held by "Pamatnik Terezin" under the initiative and patronage of Hanna Greenfield.

### **Terezinska Iniciativa**

Finally, after long and tiring negotiations, the Holocaust victims in the Czech Republic received the first annual payment from the German "Future Fund" for the time in concentration camps and ghettos and also an allocation from the "Swiss Fund". Alas, many of them did not live to see it. There are changes in our sister association "Terezinska iniciativa": The chairman of the association since its founding in 1990 Honza Schimmerling did not renew his candidacy and in his place Oldrich Stransky was elected.

The newsletter of January 1998 of this association brought a contribution by Luise Fischer, a social worker at the children's home L-417 in the ghetto. Luise, called Lola, was the secretary and right hand of Alice Masaryk, the chairwoman of the Czechoslovak Red Cross. In Terezin Luise became the warden of all children without parents in this home - there were 53 of them - and was renowned for her dedicated work for all the children in the home. Lola could have gone to Switzerland in time, before the German occupation, but she did not want to leave her parents. In autumn of

1944 she was deported - together with them - to Birkenau.

#### Project "Brundibar"

More than 500 schools in Germany showed interest in the youth and children's project "Brundibar" of "Jeunesses Musicales" and plan to perform the children's opera by Krasa and Hofmeister, which was shown in the ghetto over 50 times. Joerg Malang writes in the issue of February 1998 of "Gedenkstaetten-Rundbrief" (Circular of Memorial Sites), that 56 general and music schools all over Germany will perform the opera. The project is intended mainly to help children to cope with the subjects of the Nazi regime and the Holocaust and to educate them toward tolerance. With this aim in mind "Jeunesses Musicales" published the "Brundibar file" with the history of ghetto Terezin, a video film and a CD.

#### **The Voices go on**

"Voices of the Children" is the title of a documentary film by Zuzana Justman, which was shown at various places in the US and met with remarkable response. It is about three children from ghetto Terezin - Helga Hoskova (Prague), Helga Kinsky (Vienna) and Misha Kraus

(Boston). After it's screening at the Jewish Film Festival in Boston (September 1997) the "Boston Sunday Globe" wrote about the special combination of fragments of diaries, written by the three in the ghetto, present memories and talks with their children about the influence of their parent's experiences. "Variety" from December 1997 said, that Zuzana Justman achieved the almost impossible: she found a new angle in documenting the Holocaust. On April 13, 1998 a festive screening of the film took place at the Columbia Jewish Community Center in Washington in the presence of Zuzana Justman - herself one of the Theresienstadt "children". The next day "Voices of the Children" was aired by the TV station WETA in Washington. The "New York Jewish Week" commented on the film after it was shown by WNET on April 19, and 20,: Sensitivity without a trace of sentimentality. On April 23, the film was aired by KCET in Hollywood.

#### **The Neugraben Women**

The camp Neugraben near Hamburg, where in 1944 women prisoners were brought from ghetto Terezin and from the Birkenau family camp, was only a small spot in the mass of German concentration camps - and not the worst among them. But for years now Karl-Heinz Schultz from Hamburg makes sure that it is not forgotten. He again and again tells the story of the camp to students in the vicinity. On January 27, - which in 1996 was declared by the president of Germany as an official memorial day for the victims of Nazism - Karl-Heinz Schultz, his wife and their friend Guenther Bock read at the "Buecherhalle Neugraben" letters by survivors of the camp, a branch of the Neuengamme concentration camp.

#### **Friends in Sidney**

Edith Sheldon nee Drucker, who, as a girl, came in 1942 to ghetto Terezin and survived there, is a voluntary guide at the Jewish Museum in Sidney, Australia. She calls the attention of our members and readers to the existence of this museum. Some of the voluntary guides there are former prisoners of ghetto Theresienstadt - among them Kitty Fest, Jucka and Gerti Lachowitz and Jarda Rind. They will be happy to meet visitors, who chance to come to Sidney. The museum's address: 148, Darling

Hurst Rd. Darling Hurst 2010.

## **Synagogues in the Czech Republic**

On Tu B'Shvat - February 11, 1998 - a torah scroll was brought into the newly restored synagogue at Plzen and for the first time prayers were held there again. A large audience attended the ceremony. During the Nazi era the synagogue - consecrated in 1893 - was a storeroom for sequestered property of Jews, deported to ghetto Terezin and to the East. The synagogue was damaged during the battles between the Wehrmacht and the US army. Out of 3200 members of the Plzen Jewish community only 400 returned, about 200 emigrated in 1948 - the large synagogue became superfluous. In 1995 the restoration of the building was started. Until now the cost was 63 millions Czech koruny, provided mainly by the Czech government. A similar sum will be needed to finish the work, including the repair of the organ, to convert the main room into a concert hall for an audience of 1200. A symposium about the history of the Jews in the Sudeten area was held in the building on January 10 - 13, 1998.

The Czech National Science Library will be erected where once the synagogue of Liberec stood, destroyed during the "night of the broken glass" in November 1938,. The cornerstone was laid in the presence of many guests on December 16, 1997 by the speaker of the Czech senate Mr. Petr Pithart.

## **Jan Masaryk**

On March 10, 1998 fifty years have passed since his death (or, more precisely: since he was murdered by agents of the Communist regime). He was the Czechoslovak foreign minister. His father Thomas G. Masaryk, the first president of Czechoslovakia and a staunch supporter of the Zionist idea was not forgotten in Israel: a forest, a kibbutz, streets in various towns and squares in Tel Aviv and Haifa are named in his honor. But Jan Masaryk's memory did not get it's due after all he did for us Jews: he helped in London after the German occupation of Prague, after WWII he facilitated the escape of Holocaust survivors from Poland to Palestine through Czechoslovak territory, he actively helped with the dispatch of Czechoslovak weapons to the Haganah and to the fledgling Israeli defense army at the most critical time and he openly supported the Zionist organization, the pressures of the British government notwithstanding. The author Avigdor Dagan (Viktor Fischl), Jan Masaryk's secretary at the time, when the Czechoslovak government was in the London exile, wrote in 1952 a booklet "Conversations with Jan Masaryk". In Czechoslovakia it was published only after the fall of the Communist regime in 1989 and was received enthusiastically. In Israel until now no publisher was willing to finance the translation.

## **OUR ARCHIVES**

### **Erich Kulka's Library**

The Holocaust researcher Erich Kulka, author of the first book about Auschwitz "The Death Factory" and many other publications bequeathed to Beit Theresienstadt his library with books about the Nazi regime, Holocaust and the history of Czechoslovak Jewry. His heirs gave us also the bookcases, housing the about 250 volumes. Kulka was born Erich Schoen in 1911 in Vsetin, Moravia. He came to Auschwitz as a

political prisoner, emigrated in 1968 to Israel and died in 1995 in Jerusalem. In 1989 Erich Kulka received the honorary doctorate of Spartus College of Judaica in Chicago and in 1991 a fund was established in his name at Jerusalem university. This fund distributes an annual prize for outstanding research about Jewish history in the Middle Ages and in modern times - preferably about Czech Jewry and the Holocaust. On June 9, 1998 the prize was given to Hava Ben-Sasson for her work on the historiography of the Warsaw ghetto.

### **Hand-crafted in Ghetto Terezin**

Lacking more expensive materials, presents for birthdays and other occasions were made in Terezin from simple metals or wood. Five such items - a bracelet with a flower motive and the date 19. 9. 1943, a pendant with the coat of arms of Terezin, a pin with the initials HE, a ghetto policeman's pin with the letters GW and the number 121 - belonged to Hedvika Neumannova, nee Ehrmann, born 1913. We received them from Zuzana Neumannova - Weisova from Prague (through Ruth Elias). Hedvika got them from her husband Frantisek, whom she married in the ghetto. Both survived in Terezin thanks to their work in agriculture.

### **Fredy Hirsch was to be saved**

During his stay in Israel for a meeting of volunteers from abroad, who took part in the War of Independence in 1948, Franta Kraus from Prague visited Beit Terezin. There his testimony,

which mentions various contacts with Fredy Hirsch, was recorded on video tape. Franta K., born 1925, worked in the ghetto together with his friend Jirka Weiss, their task was to bring food from the central kitchen to the hospital barracks. Once they received in the kitchen by mistake 100 "buchy" over the usual allocation and decided not to return them. Instead they brought them to the children's home L-417 for distribution. They were denounced and had to stand trial - but since they were under age, a special youth court was arranged. Their defender was the deputy director of the youth department Fredy Hirsch, who put forward mitigating circumstances: both boys were alone in the ghetto and they did not steal for themselves. Nevertheless the court decided to have them included in a transport to the East. At the Birkenau family camp Fredy Hirsch succeeded to arrange for Franta the job of gatekeeper at the sick bay. There Franta saw on March 7, 1944, the head of the sick bay in the family camp Dr. Heller, as he gave to Dr. Mengele a list of names of the sick bay personnel and their families, whom Mengele spared from gassing, when the remainder of the September transport was destroyed. Fredy Hirsch was on this list, too, but he decided to kill himself, he was not able to witness the death of his wards in the camp.

Rudolf Vrba's book "I escaped from Auschwitz" was published in spring of 1998 by "Sefer", Prague, translated into Czech. Vrba, together with Alfred Wetzler, both from Slovakia, did in April 1944 the impossible: they escaped from the extermination camp and so became the first to inform the outside world about the daily mass murder by gas in Auschwitz - Birkenau. One of the chapters of the book concerns the Birkenau family camp. The arrival of the healthy and good looking girls in their own dresses in September 1943 in the adjoining camp impressed the 19-year old so much, that he describes them coming from Terezin "in silk stockings and with high heels". It was Vrba, who brought to Fredy Hirsch on March 7, 1944, the message from the resistance in the main camp, that - should the members of the September transport led

by Fredy rebel in front of the gas chamber - others would join in. Fredy asked: "And what happens to the children?" Vrba explained, that the children are lost anyway. Fredy asked for an hour to think about it and when Vrba returned, he found him unconscious. He probably took "Luminal" - he could not face seeing the murder of the children.

### **Voices of the Boys of Birkenau**

Harry Goldberger of the Birkenau Boys asked his wife Linda in his last will, to give a copy of the video film "Lost Childhood", recorded in 1994 by Richard Newbag and Mike Mombrea, to Beit Terezin. The film shows the meeting of the former boys, now in their seventies, who came from the USA, Canada, Venezuela, Belgium, Holland and Israel to Prague and went from there to Terezin and Birkenau. In the film - while finding bone fragments at Birkenau, seeing heaps of hair, shoes and suitcases in Auschwitz - it can be seen, how emotions held in check for decades burst out. The "boys" could never forget the black smoke rising from the Birkenau chimneys on the day their parents were murdered. Out of the 95 Birkenau Boys, whom Mengele sent at the last moment before the family camp was liquidated - for unknown reasons - to the men's camp, only some 30 are still alive. One of them asks with tears in his eyes the coming generations: "Listen to us! Hear what we have to say".

### **Edelstein's Aide**

Ari Tarsi (Harry Tressler), born 1922, was - in spite of the difference in age - one of the people nearest to Edelstein and worked with him at the Prague Palestine Office and in ghetto Terezin. After Ari's death on February 15, 1998 at kibbutz Hahotrim - he was a member there since his immigration in 1949 - our archives received a detailed interview with him from 1976, the main subject of which was Yaakov Edelstein. Ari discusses very openly the character, activities and philosophy of life of Yaakov Edelstein and also his contacts with the Nazis. Called by his friends "Yeykev", he was the leading personality of Czech Jewry in the fateful years 1939-1943. We also received an article "Fortitude within the Ghetto Walls", written by A. Tarsi 20 years after the liberation of the ghetto, which was printed on May 21, 1965 in the daily "Davar". Both documents show Ari Tarsi's esteem for Edelstein and his brave attempts to save thousands, trapped by the German occupation. Alas, in the end, all was in vain.

### **A Portrait of Edelstein**

Dov Biegun, born in Ukraine (1911-1980), arrived in the twenties as a student in Prague, was active in the Zionist movement there and in this capacity he traveled all over Czechoslovakia. From 1934 to 1956 Dov Biegun wrote a diary, mainly in Hebrew, which includes - in addition to personal remarks - many details about Zionist activities and specifically about the Zionist-Socialist movement in the CSR. His widow Anna Biegun (Tel Aviv) gave us the parts of his diary concerning the director of the Prague Palestine Office and later first "Jewish elder" of ghetto Terezin, Yaakov Edelstein. Dov B. was more than 4 years a lodger with Yaakov and Miriam Edelstein in Prague and writes among other details how devotedly they nursed him when he fell ill. In June 1936 Biegun wrote, that Edelstein went to Palestine to work there for the

Keren Hayessod and in 1937: "...a sad letter from Edelstein, he could not gain a foothold in the land". Among the portraits of personalities noted by Biegun in his diary shortly before the German occupation is one of Edelstein, too. It is not always flattering - though he wrote about a sharp mind, quick decision making and rational reasoning, there is also: ..."he walks only on sturdy steel bridges... and beware of paper bridges and of long-range plans ... he is a wonderful orator and a bad writer...".

### **From the Memoirs of Dov Herschkowitz**

For the last years Dov (Berl) Herschkowitz wrote his memoirs, mainly of the Holocaust era, almost feverishly - as if he wanted to finish as much as possible. The thousands of pages left after his death on March 18, 1998, not yet published, include also a chapter about the "Bialystok children". These arrived in ghetto Terezin in August 1943 and were put up in separate barracks surrounded by barbed wire. On August 17, the "Jewish elder" Yaakov Edelstein informed the "Hehalutz" leadership, that some 1300 children from Poland are due to arrive and that physicians, nurses, instructors and others will be needed. A rumor had it, that the children were to be exchanged. The "Hehalutz" leaders conferred with a wider forum of the movement and it was decided to enable members to volunteer for these tasks. According to Dov's memoirs about 10 persons applied, among them such central personalities as Leiser Moldavan and Aaron Menczer. The sight of the children, who arrived about a week later - during curfew in the ghetto - was scary: five to thirteen year old children in rags, tottering and frightened, who panicked when led to the showers and shouted: "gas, gas!" until the nurses went together with them under the showers to reassure them. But the Bialystok children knew better: in October 1943 they were murdered in the Birkenau gas chambers together with their nurses and instructors. The exchange never materialized.

### **Art and Reality**

"Days of Hope and Despair" is a joint project for youth by Chava E. Linden and Lilach Gotcovitch - to make the visit in concentration camps and especially in ghetto Terezin easier through the use of art. In the preface of her final paper at Lesley College Graduate School for Arts and Science, in the framework of her MA studies in Cambridge, Mass., Chava Linden explains her relationship to the subject: she was born in February 1945 in ghetto Terezin, 3 months before the liberation. But only 50 years later she visited her place of birth with her family, accompanied by her father Willy Groag, who was the head of the girl's home L-410 in the ghetto. Just as art helped the children in the ghetto to cope with reality, the nine chapters of the booklet are intended to make the pupils visualize the various aspects of ghetto life - the overcrowding, the fear, the loss of freedom - through artistic activity: writing a story or poem, drawing, craft work or dancing.

### **Not Aware of the Impending Death**

A very comprehensive study of education in ghetto Theresienstadt was written by Rahel Maly, concluding her course for Jewish Identity at the "Oranim" seminar. The

kindergarten teacher Rahel M. is a member of kibbutz Givat Hayim-Ihud and that connects her to the subject: Beit Terezin stands on the grounds of her kibbutz. In her paper, written under the supervision of Dr. Avihu Ronen, Rahel explains various aspects of education in the ghetto - nurseries, children's homes, the children's opera, drawing lessons, youth newspapers. Her conclusion: in the belief that after the liberation all will return to normal life, education in the ghetto went on without regard for the impending death.

## **Holocaust Organizations**

In the "Directory of the Association of Holocaust Organizations", edited by Dr. William L. Shulman, published by the Holocaust Research Center in Bayside, NY, is a list of some 150 institutions all over the world, from Las Vegas to Capetown, from Charkow to Sidney. The issue of 1998 includes also Beit Theresienstadt with all details, it's exhibits and activities.

In Queensboro College in Bayside there is a Holocaust Research Center including an exhibition about day-to-day life in the ghetto. There are exhibits from ghetto Terezin, provided by Felice Ehrman (Lixie), one of the "girls" in L-410, who lives in Bayside. She volunteers as a guide in the center and gives lectures to visiting students.

## **THERESIENSTADT MUSIC**

### **Terezin Music Memorial Project**

Prof. David Bloch, director of the TMMP and Music Adviser to Yad Vashem, reports that volume 4 in Koch International's Terezin Music Anthology, a series of CD recordings documenting the complete surviving repertoire of music composed in the ghetto, has been released. Volume 4 was sponsored by Yad Vashem, GEMA-Stiftung (Munich), Pierre Gildesgame Sports Museum (Kfar Hamaccabiah), Jean and Joe Rosen Trust (Australia), Leo Baeck Institute (Jerusalem), German Embassy (Tel Aviv), M.E.A. Foundation (Tel Aviv, founded by Margot and Ernst Hamburger), Theresienstadt Martyrs Remembrance Association (Beit Terezin, kibbutz Givat Hayim-Ihud), Lonnie Darwin and Gerald Rosenstein (San Francisco) and an anonymous donor. The CD, titled "Al S'fod" (Do Not Lament), after a choral work by P. Haas, is devoted to the specifically Jewish music of Terezin and includes works by D. Gruenfeld, P. Haas, G. Klein, H. Loewenthal, Z. Schul, C. S. Taube, V. Ullmann and V. Zrzavy. Choral music is performed by the Prague Philharmonic Choir (J. Brych, conductor) and Bambini di Praga (B. Kulinsky, conductor), vocal soloists are E. Berensen (mezzo-soprano), M. Cekova (soprano) and N. Herstik (cantor), members of The Group for New Music include O. Shira and Carmela (violin), M. Kugel (viola) and F. Nemirovsky (cello), additional artists are I. Ivtzan (accordion), R. Goldstein (organ) and D. Bloch (piano). The CD includes a number of world premiere recordings, e. g. Schul's "2 Chassidic Dances" and the finale from his "Cantata Judaica", V. Zrzavy's "V'I'yerushalayim" and H. Loewenthal's "Traditional Melodies". The latter, for violin and accordeon, was written in June 1942 and is a potpourri of synagogue melodies for Sukkot, Pesach and Shavuot. It was dedicated by the composer to Prof. E. Drachman and his wife Henriette. Drachman was principal of the Jewish gymnasium in Brno and was active in Terezin's Freizeitgestaltung. He died of typhoid in the ghetto and after the piece was performed in his memory the manuscript was given to his wife. After the war she

joined her son Shlomoh Doron at kibbutz Matzuba. She had brought the music with her and years later Shlomoh gave the work to the Lohamei Hagetaot archives. "Al S'fod" and the other CDs in the Terezin Music Anthology are available at shops in Israel and at Yad Vashem, since volume 3 partner to the series.

In April E. Berensen and D. Bloch appeared in recital at Bar-Ilan University and Hebrew University, Jerusalem, presenting songs by Ullmann, Krasa, Simon and Haas, including the first performances in Israel of Haas's "Six Songs in Folk Tone", Op. 1 (1919). Prof. Bloch also lectured on Terezin in June at Kedumim in a series sponsored by Yad Vashem's Holocaust and Teaching program.

## **TEREZIN IN BOOKS**

### **Imprisoned Dreams**

In April 1998 Bet Terezin published an instruction booklet for viewers of the film "Uveznene sny" (Imprisoned Dreams), made by Milos Zverina. The film deals with children's drawings from ghetto Theresienstadt. The booklet was written by Anita Tarsi and Bilha Rubin and produced by Daniela Kraus. It includes information about the painter Friedl Dicker-Brandeis, who taught children in the ghetto to draw, a history of the ghetto by Ota Kraus and a historical table of events starting with the Munich agreement in 1939 until the liberation in May 1945. The video cassette with the booklet (Hebr.) is available at Beit Terezin - NIS 85.-

### **Jewish Culture and History**

The Jewish Museum in Prague published in 1997 a booklet (145 pages) about the history of the Jews, their tradition and customs and specifically the history of the Jews in Bohemia and Moravia. There is an article by the director of the museum Dr. Leo Pavlat titled "Antisemitism - the Most Lasting Hate in the History of Mankind" and another by Miroslav Karny and Anita Frankova "The Persecution and Annihilation of Jews in WWII" - one chapter is dedicated to ghetto Terezin.

### **Mother's Shawl**

Stella Shapira nee Rokach from Haifa gave us a copy of her book "Tse'if shel Kokhavim" (Shawl of Stars), published in 1997. Stella emigrated in the beginning of 1940 from Brno to Palestine - she was a passenger of the "Patria", which exploded and sank in Haifa port. Stella's brother Leo, born 1924, called in the Youth Movement Eli, went through ghetto Theresienstadt to Auschwitz where he worked as electrician and survived. He came to Palestine in 1947, was inducted into the army and fell in July 1948 in a Syrian ambush. The shawl mentioned in the title of the autobiography relates to the shawl which Stella's mother threw to Eli before entering the gas chambers in Auschwitz, asking him to bring it to Stella as a last keepsake from her.

### **Each Day in Theresienstadt is a Present**

In June 1942 Martha Glass was 65 years old, when she came to ghetto Terezin, together with her husband Hermann, aged 80. He had owned a large fashion house in Hamburg. After a short time Hermann died, Martha survived and emigrated - via Germany - to her daughter in New York, where she died in 1959. She did not talk

much about the Holocaust years and nobody saw the 3 copybooks, in which she had described her life in the ghetto from January 1943 until leaving Theresienstadt for Berlin. This diary was published in 1996 under the title "Jeder Tag in Theresienstadt ist ein Geschenk - die Theresienstaedter Tagebuecher einer Hamburger Juedin 1943-1945" (Each Day in Theresienstadt is a Present - the Th. Diaries of an Hamburg Jewess 1943-1945) by Barbara Mueller-Wesemann, who also wrote a comprehensive introduction. ("Landeszentrale fuer Politische Bildung" Hamburg). Martha Glass described - without literary ambitions - the day-to-day life with it's pleasures like parcels from relatives, lectures, performances and concerts, the joy of a hot shower, but also the sorrow for friends and family who were deported one by one, the constant hunger, the lice.

### **For the Daughter**

When his small daughter Marenka asked him about the blue numbers on his forearm, Rudolf Beck (1900-1988) used to avoid answering and only in later years he wrote "Vzpominky pro moji dceru" (Recollections for my Daughter), though even here he did not describe the horror he was witness to. The daughter Marie Talafantova-Beckova published her father's memoirs in 1997 in the Czech Republic. Rudolf Beck from Nachod was arrested and imprisoned in the Gestapo prison at the "Small Fortress", later he was brought to ghetto Terezin together with his wife Wilma and their young son Tomik. In 1945 he was deported to Auschwitz, worked there as a carpenter and remained there, half dead, when the camp was evacuated in January 1945. Vilma, who arrived in Auschwitz two days after him, survived too, but little Tommy was torn from her arms at the railway ramp. Throughout his life Rudolf Beck tormented himself with the thought, when and where his only son Tomicek lost his life.

### **Jewish Fate 1937-1997**

The autobiography "Als Boten der Opfer" (Messengers of the Victims) by Pavel Stransky describes in terse words and often with fine humor his journey from Prague to Terezin, Auschwitz, Schwarzheide and back. It was published in 1997 by Hartung-Gorre Verlag, Konstanz, Germany. P. Stransky writes about his father's suicide who was not able to bear the degradation of the Jews under the Nazi regime, about his "honeymoon": he married his friend Vera nee Stadler in the ghetto in December 1943 before his transport to Auschwitz - Vera and her mother volunteered to go with him. P. Stransky describes the horrors of the death march from the Schwarzheide camp to Terezin in April 1945. At the end only half of those, who had started the march, lived and these were half dead. The SS-men maltreated the prisoners until the last moment. Stransky described in the last chapters his meeting with Vera after the liberation in Prague, their life together, their children and the anti-Semitism which existed in the Czech lands both before and after the war. He ends with the exhortation to all survivors, to become messengers of the Holocaust victims and to speak out in their name.

### **Did they Know?**

The book "Mama a ja - terezinsky dennik" (Mother and I - Terezin Diary) by Hana Posseltova-Ledererova was published in 1997 by "G plus G" in Prague. The heart of

the book is a diary, written by the young Hana from November 1942 until December 1943, which was hidden by a friend in the cellar of a house in the ghetto before she was deported together with her mother to Birkenau, then Hamburg and Bergen-Belsen. Only 40 years later she found the strength to return to the diary and to add her reminiscences about childhood in Mlada Boleslav and about what happened later: the news about her father's and sister's death at Sobibor. Of special interest are the notations toward the end of 1942, where she writes - in the context of transports to the East: "... to death, probably in the gas chambers (everybody says so)" and also from September 1943, where she mentions the destination of the transport "...the Auschwitz gas chambers". The Holocaust researcher M. Kary from Prague pointed out in the publication of the "Terezinska iniciativa", that this is the first time that gas chambers are mentioned in one of the many diaries from Terezin. He requests all former ghetto prisoners to write to him, when and where they heard about the existence of gas chambers.

### **Women in the Holocaust**

Research on the "female aspects", pursued mainly in the USA, deals with "Women in the Holocaust", too. The Yale University Press in New Haven and London published a book under this name, edited by Dalia Ofer and Lenora J. Weitzmann, including 21 contributions about women before WWII, activities of women in the resistance and with partisans and the particular suffering of women in concentration camps. Prof. Yehuda Bauer wrote about Gisi Fleischmann who was at the heart of resistance in Slovakia, Ruth Bondy wrote about "Women in Terezin and in the Birkenau Family Camp". Though she was originally against judging Holocaust suffering according to gender, she arrived at the conclusion, that Theresienstadt was a natural continuation of the situation, in which women then found themselves: all key positions in the ghetto administration - except mobilizing women for work - were in the hands of men. Also, in calculations, women's work was assessed always lower than that of men.

### **A Bitter Smile**

"Von Sehnsucht wird man hier nicht fett" (You won't get fat from yearning here) is the title of a book dedicated to the author of cabaret texts Walter Lindenbaum. It was published in 1998 by Mandelbaum Verlag in Vienna, edited by Herbert Essenberger and Eckart Frueh. Lindenbaum, born 1907 in Vienna, was one of the founders of the Socialist Writers Association. Many of his bitter-ironic poems deal with the "little man": the shoeshine boy, the street singer, the newspaper vendor. In Theresienstadt, where he arrived in April 1943 with his wife and small daughter, both his earlier chansons - mainly from his time as house poet at the Vienna cabaret "ABC im Regenbogen"- and those written in the ghetto were performed. The best known are: "Und die Musik spielt dazu" (And the Music accompanied), "Das Lied von Theresienstadt" (Song of Th.) and "Nimmt der Herr die Suppe?" (Sir, do you want the soup?). Lindenbaum was deported in September 1944 to Auschwitz and died in one of the branch camps of Buchenwald. His wife and daughter were murdered in the gas chambers.

### **The Jews of Bohemia**

Dr. Rudolf M. Wlaschek, Moenchengladbach, supplemented the first volume (of

1995) of short biographies of some 3000 Jews of Bohemia with a brochure with 500 additional names. "Biographia Judaica Bohemiae 2", Dortmund 1997, includes the names of many former inmates of ghetto Terezin. Among them: The head of the children's home L-417 Ota Klein, the actor and member of Schwenk's cabaret Jiri Suessland ("Tsailais"), the well known harpsichordist Zuzana Ruzickova and Madeline Albright's parents Ernst and Olga Koerbel.

### **Terezin Poems in Italian**

Fabri, Milan, published "I ragazzi di Terezin - Poesia da un lager" (Terezin Children - Poetry of a Camp), edited by Aitanga Petrucciani Gargini and Anna Turi Simoni. The book is ordered by subjects e.g. "Beauty of Nature" and "Death Feelings". Each poem is accompanied by the author's name, explanations and an analysis.

### **Visit in the Ghetto**

"No Time to Die - a Holocaust Survivor's Story" is the name of a book by Karl-Georg Roessler, published in 1998 by Robert Davies Multimedia in Canada. Roessler, son of a Jewish mother and a German father, born 1923, was not imprisoned in ghetto Terezin. In his naivety he traveled there in April 1942, to visit his beloved 83 years old grandmother Laura Hertmann, who was deported there in February of that year from Plauen. Only months later he heard, that she had died one day before he came to Terezin on his way to Prague. He went to the German commander's office and asked to speak to the commander Dr. Seidel. He was thrown out under threats and succeeded to escape from the ghetto with the help of prisoners working in the fields. In 1944 he was sent for forced labor to France, escaped, was caught - and finally liberated. In June 1945 Roessler went again to Terezin, to bring his mother home, who was in the ghetto since January 1944.

## **FROM PUBLICATIONS**

### **Savior or Collaborator?**

Councilor of Commerce Berthold Storfer was a controversial personality. The Jewish Culture Magazine "David" in Vienna published in December 1997 a contribution by Gabriele Anderl "Berthold Storfer: Savior or Collaborator?" (in German) and the answer is - both. At the time when the Nazi regime forced Jewish emigration, mainly from Austria, Storfer organized (with Eichmann's support) transports of "illegal aliyah" (Aliyah Bet) to Palestine. Some 3800 Austrian Jews and about 5300 from the Protectorate and Germany were saved in this way - at the last moment before the borders were closed and before the "final solution", the mass murder began. Storfer, born 1880 in Czernowitz, who lived in Vienna was a successful and self-confident businessman. He was often in conflict with the emissaries of the Aliyah Bet who also saved Jews from Europe and who saw him as a collaborator. Finally, in 1944, Storfer was deported to Auschwitz and died there. At his trial in Jerusalem Eichmann testified, that he met Storfer in Auschwitz and that he, then aged 64, begged Eichmann to get him easier work.

Terezin - in the Neighborhood

This year local newspapers of Emek Hefer paid special attention to Beit Terezin -

which is located in the center of this area. The publication of the district committee "Emek Hefer" published in January 1998 an article "Beit Terezin - Theresienstadt at Givat Hayim-Ihud". The illustrated contribution describes the history of the ghetto and the activities in the house. The newsletter of the pensioners of Emek Hefer "Kivun Hadash" (New Direction) printed in April 1998 a reportage by Bina Bermann about ghetto Terezin, Beit Terezin and its aims. The bulletin of kibbutz Givat Hayim-Ihud "Betohenu" (Among us) brought on March 13, 1998 an interview of Beeri Zimran with Alisah Schiller, Anita Tarsi and Bilha Rubin titled "Terezin betohenu" (Terezin within us) about the past, present and future of the house.

### **Children in Birkenau**

The supplement "Galeria" of the daily "Haaretz" printed on April 23, 1998, on Holocaust Day, a comprehensive article by Ronit Rokas about the children's barracks at the Birkenau family camp - a subject almost unknown to the wider Israeli public. Ronit Rokas interviewed Ruth Bondy and Ota Kraus, both instructors in the children's barracks no. 31 and she also used written testimonies by Dita Kraus and Harry Karny, who were wards in the children's barracks and other material from the archives of Beit Terezin.

### **INFORMATION REQUESTED**

#### **To Former Prisoners of Schwarzheide**

Yaakov Tzur writes:

Lately we succeeded to receive material from the archives of Sachsenhausen concentration camp about the Schwarzheide concentration camp, where in July 1944 1000 prisoners from the Birkenau family camp were sent. The material includes an exact plan of the camp, a report by the commanders office concerning the behavior of the prisoners during bombings and a partial list of the camp's inmates including those sent in April 1945 to Sachsenhausen - Oranienburg, who were liberated there. With the aid of this list we managed to identify the names of 565 prisoners - of these some 300 survivors - and we would like to complete the list and add the 400 missing names. In Schwarzheide each prisoner received a new number in alphabetic order, starting with 85171 and ending 86170. We request former Schwarzheide prisoners, to let us have their names and prisoner numbers (if known) and also names of other prisoners. We also want to make a list of the prisoners of Blechhammer and ask the former prisoners of this camp too, to send us their names and names of comrades. Please contact:

Yaakov Tzur, Beit Terezin Givat Hayim-Ihud, M.P. Emek Hefer 38935, Israel

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For a new book the Canadian author Carla Wittes looks for letters and postcards, written in the Holocaust and especially such, written before the addressee or sender were deported. She would like to have copies of the originals, in whatever language. Please contact:

Carla Wittes, 598 St. Clements Ave., Toronto M5N1MG, Canada

e-mail: [minute@interlog.com](mailto:minute@interlog.com) Phone: 416-782-1566

\*

For a research paper information about the fate of the following former prisoners of ghetto Theresienstadt - after the liberation - is needed:

Prof. Hedwig Bamberger from Vienna and Alice Bloemendahl from Hamburg, who went in February 1945 with a transport to Switzerland. Further Marcelle Bentschik (1921), Berta Deutsch (1919), Ing. Max Sever (1920), Ing. Erich Neuberg (1919), Dr. Martha Friedmannova (1915), Walter Steiner (1914), Leopold Weisskopf (1912), Rabbi Dr. Bedrich Hamburger (1912), Franz Perlsee (1919), Gerta Schlosser (1909), Dr. Karl Witz (1907) and Dr. Carl (Karci) Castelin (1903). Most of them survived in Terezin, three in other camps. Whoever knows anything about these persons or their families, is requested to contact:

Elena Makarova, 7/3 Tchernikhovsky, 92581 Jerusalem, Israel Phone: (972) 2-5633023

\*

## **CORRECTION**

An error occurred in our last issue (January 1998) under the title "Play in the Shadow of the Holocaust". Below is the correct sentence, which was wrongly translated from the Hebrew:

... Marianne Grant from Glasgow reconstructed for the exhibition the drawings of Snowwhite and the Seven Dwarfs, Eskimos and other colorful figures, which she together with Dina Gottlieb had drawn on the walls of the children's barracks in the Birkenau family camp....

We regret the mistake.

## **MEMBERSHIP FEES**

Our activities are almost exclusively financed by membership fees and donations from friends. We ask those, who did not yet pay their membership fee for 1998, to do it as soon as possible. The fees are unchanged:

	Israel		Ausland	
Singles	NIS	70.	US\$	40.
Couples	NIS	100.	US\$	60.
2nd generation - singles	NIS	40.	US\$	
2nd generation - couples	NIS	60.	US\$	