

THANKS TO THE VOLUNTEERS

The traditional evening of appreciation of the many volunteers active in Beit Theresienstadt was held on Hanukkah, December 5, 2002, with the lighting of the sixth candle. The venue was the clubroom of kibbutz Givat Hayim-Ihud with all seats occupied. It began with the candle lighting and singing of Hanukkah songs, accompanied by Shmuel Bloch on his accordion. The head of the committee for events Shosh Sade greeted the participants. Gadi Masaryk, the author of the book *Ha'afifon Hasegol* (The Violet Kite) related how he came to search for the roots of his family in the Czech Republic (see more under "Books and Publications"). Edna Amit read two of her poems dealing with remembrance and Mihal Efrat declaimed part of a poem by Hayim Guri about various kinds of resistance, stressing the day-to-day struggle of each individual in the Holocaust. Sima Shahar spoke about her work - instruction of pupils and students dealing with the history of ghetto Theresienstadt. Yonat Klar expressed her appreciation of our members - volunteers who give their testimonies at the study days. The director of Beit Terezin Anita Tarsi underscored in her closing words that without the dedicated work of our volunteers – there are more than a hundred – the house could not fulfill its task.

The event, with the participation of members of the second and third generations, concluded with the distribution of personal letters of appreciation (designed by Orni Dror) to the volunteers and the book *Sichot im Jan Masaryk* (Talks with Jan Masaryk) by Avigdor Dagan (hebr.).

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Note in your diary – partial list of events in 2003

- On January 13, 2003, a concert will be given at the Music Academy of Tel Aviv University by young musicians, who participated in the master classes “History, Music and Remembrance 2002” in Schwerin, Germany. The program includes works by composers from ghetto Theresienstadt, led by the musicologist and specialist for Terezin music Prof. David Bloch. Entrance free.
The concert will take place in the framework of events “60 years since the Warsaw ghetto revolt”, commemorating those who raised the flag of resistance.
- On February 18, 2003, in the evening, a concert will be given at Beit Theresienstadt, played by young musicians, who took part in the master classes “History, Music and Remembrance 2002” in Schwerin, Germany. Works by composers from ghetto Terezin will be performed, led by the musical director of Beit Terezin Dr. Dudu Sela. This concert, too, is in the framework of remembrance for those who resisted the Nazis, even without weapons.
- On April 8. – 9. 2003 an international meeting “60 years since the Warsaw Ghetto Revolt” will be held at the Ghetto Fighters Museum, kibbutz Lohame Hagetaot. Participating are Beit Terezin, Haifa University and Beer Sheba University. Various subjects connected with the revolt will be dealt with, e. g. dilemmas of the revolt, personalities of fighters, the Warsaw ghetto revolt in Holocaust remembrance in Israel and diverse forms of resistance.
- On April 29, 2003, Holocaust Day, “open house” for members of all generations will be held at Beit Theresienstadt. Subjects of remembrance from the viewpoint of the individual, the family and the nation will be the theme. The meeting will take place from 9 am to 1 pm
- On May 17, 2003, the annual meeting of our association will be held at Beit Terezin.
- On Hanukkah, December 2003, a meeting in appreciation of our volunteers will be held at Beit Terezin – those, who enable the activity of our house and of our educational center throughout the year with translations, research and testimonies during study days.
- In December 2003, a further meeting on the subject “Women and Holocaust” is planned. The first such get-together was organized last year in cooperation with Beit Berl and the Ghetto Fighters Museum: it evoked much interest.

For all events our members and friends will receive invitations.

ACTIVITIES AT BEIT TEREZIN

THE UPROOTED

is the English title of Ruth Bondy’s new book *Shorashim Akurim* – chapters of the history of Czech Jewry 1939 – 1945. The book was published in autumn of 2002 by Beit Terezin in cooperation with Yad Vashem. It deals with specifically characteristic aspects of this epoch, e. g. humor as weapon, women in ghetto Terezin, the children’s barracks at the Birkenau family camp and the origin of Jewish names in Bohemia and Moravia as they are listed in the memorial book of the Bohemian and Moravian Holocaust victims.

On the occasion of the publication of the book a study day was held at Beit Terezin, Givat Hayim-Ihud, on November 18, 2002. The meeting was opened by the director of Beit Terezin Anita Tarsi. The first part was dedicated to the chapter *The Miracle of the Bread* – the story of Heinz Prossnitz, the boy, who sent thousands of food parcels to ghetto Lodz, ghetto Terezin, Birkenau and other camps. Ruth Bondy spoke about Heinz Prossnitz’ work, Edith Rosen reported on her cooperation with Heinz, sending the parcels at a time, when there were almost no Jews left in Prague. Dita Ramon, Mordechai Livni and Yaakov Tsur completed the picture, telling about “Jugendhilfsdienst” (youth auxiliary service), organized by members of the Zionist youth movements at the time of the first transports from Prague in autumn 1941, out of which the parcel project evolved.

In the second part of the study day the historian Levana Frank spoke on *Mutual Help and Resistance – From the Near Friend to the Distant Stranger*. The director of the Center for Holocaust studies at Beit Berl Batya Brutin lectured on the subject: *From Person to Person – Expressions of Visual Art*.

On November 24, 2002, an event about Ruth Bondy's new book *Shorashim Akurim* took place at the Givatayim branch of the Central Institute for Holocaust Instruction of Yad Vashem. The academic consultant Prof. Yehuda Bauer spoke about the roots of his family in the Czech Republic and the journalist Tal Bashan – Ruth Bondy's daughter – described experiences of the second generation. The director of the publishing house of Yad Vashem Dr. Bella Gutermann and the director of the International Institute for Holocaust Research Prof. David Bankier greeted the participants. The event concluded with a talk by Ruth Bondy about the emotions of Holocaust survivors in these hard times. The book *Shorashim Akurim* (hebr.) is available at Beit Terezin (NIS 55.- + postage for abroad).

WORK AT OUR ARCHIVES

During the last months the work in the archives of Beit Terezin was reorganized so as to enhance the conservation and retrievability of the material. On this occasion the entire material was catalogued anew. Further we started a new photo archive and replaced the old files with new ones made from resistant material to better protect the contents.

At the same time we scan all documents and pictures of our collection – more than 5000 -, which will be entered to our database. After that we plan to produce a CD-ROM with a complete catalog of all items in Beit Theresienstadt – this will aid the work of researchers and other interessents.

On this subject: we ask all our members, who own documents or other material about ghetto Terezin to let us have it or photograph it. As you know we continually translate such sources – this is an important basis for research about ghetto Theresienstadt.

SOON: RECOGNITION OF BEIT TEREZIN AS A MUSEUM

A short time ago we were informed that Beit Terezin will soon be officially recognized by the Committee for Museums of the Isr. Ministry for Science, Culture and Sport as a museum. We are trying to achieve that since a few years ago and took upon ourselves to fulfill various conditions and criteria. The last in the list is the renovation of our permanent historical exhibition. This project will cost about US \$ 200.000.-, but we hope to find the necessary monies and to receive the recognition. In the meantime we received a designated allocation from the "Claims Conference" for the purchase of a special ventilation system for museums. Also, these days work is carried out at Beit Theresienstadt to enhance security. This is supported by the Department for Museums of the Culture Administration and by the Committee for Museums, directed by Mr. Yona Yahav.

ALLOCATION FOR THE RENOVATION OF A CLASSROOM

From the "Claims Conference" we received an allocation that will cover most of the outlay for the renovation of a classroom – the room itself was put at our disposal by kibbutz Givat Hayim-Ihud. It will serve mainly our educational center and also to store our collections.

THE FOUNDATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF HOLOCAUST VICTIMS IN ISRAEL

operates according to strictly defined criteria:

The applicant must be a Holocaust survivor, in economic need and an Israeli citizen living in Israel

The Foundation provides:

Nursing hours for those unable to care for themselves

Individual grants for purchase of vital medical and rehabilitation devices, treatments and medications

Emergency lifelines – a device next to the bed or worn on the body for contact to an emergency center

Volunteers visiting survivors

Chairman's Fund for special cases, which do not fit the criteria

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OUR EDUCATION CENTER

In addition to the problems and the pain connected always to the subject of the Holocaust, today there is also mental anguish – result of the reality we live in. Young people who participate in our study days often express their identification with the pain and the fears of ghetto prisoners. It shows in their writings and drawings. We are aware, of course, of the present difficult situation – but still we continue to present the history of Jews in ghetto Theresienstadt and in the camps and also the importance and value of artistic creation, friendship and mutual help.

NUMBER 23 OF THE NEWSPAPER KAMARAD

Our education center directed by Yonat Klar works on the project of a sequel of the children's newspaper *Kamarad*, as a sign of solidarity of Israeli youth with the boys, who published the paper in the ghetto. The raw material for the editors of the 23rd issue was created by boys and girls aged 13 – 18, who participated in study days "Kar'u lo Haver" at Beit Terezin. The project is supported by the Jewish Agency. The material was collected in 2002 and given now to 3 students of the two upper classes of the "Ramot Hefer" high school – they visited the exhibition and are enthusiastic about the idea. They took upon themselves to edit no. 23 of *Kamarad*, guided by the design teacher Lili Gross. It should be ready by March 2003 and will be sold to our members and the public at a symbolic price.

TEACHING PROGRAM IN MEMORY OF FREDY HIRSCH

These days we are putting the finishing touches on a teaching program about Fredy Hirsch. He was a sportsman, educator and idealistic Zionist, who put his stamp on a whole generation of children in ghetto Theresienstadt. Nevertheless – there is almost no written material about him, so we had to base the program on memories of those who knew him. We ask all, who remember anything about Fredy, to write it down (in whatever language) and send it to Beit Terezin.

A NEW PROGRAM FOR YOUTH DELEGATIONS TO POLAND

It is built around the subjects of the extermination camp Auschwitz-Birkenau, the Family camp, the personality of Fredy Hirsch and the children's barracks. Further we offer a teaching program dealing with the question how prisoners coped with day-to-day life in Auschwitz-Birkenau and other camps. Another subject dealt with is the artistic creation of Jewish painters in the camps, in the Holocaust in general and afterwards.

Life in the camps is researched on the basis of writings and memoirs by Jean Amery, Viktor Frankl, Primo Levi and others. Study days for youth delegations include a visit in our archives, the historical display and the exhibition *Kar'u lo Haver*.

For budgetary reasons the delegations will not continue to visit the Czech Republic, on order of the Minister of Education.

PAPER ABOUT THE GIRLS OF L-410

Shahar Green, kibbutz Ma'anit, student at the "Mevo'ot Iron" school, wrote a paper titled *Girls Speak About their Life in a Home at Ghetto Terezin*. The paper is based on a collection of essays written by girls in the home L-410, in the ghetto. They were published in Hebrew translation in the form of a brochure titled *Ima Yekara, elu Hayiti M'saperet Lah* (Dear Mother, if I Would Tell you) by Anat, the Hadassah Institute, 1982 in Jerusalem.

"HISTORY, MUSIC AND REMEMBRANCE"

INTERNATIONAL MASTER CLASS FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS 2002

This time the master classes were in Schwerin, Germany, from October 2. to 6., 2002. Works by composers from ghetto Theresienstadt were played, a competition titled *Ostracized Music* about

composers prosecuted by the Nazis was held and there were concerts, lectures and exhibitions. As was the case since the beginning of the project in 1999, the event was under the joint direction of the director of the Schwerin Conservatory Mr. Volker Ahmels, the team from Beit Terezin, the district organization of Jeunesses Musicales and many other bodies of the town and of the Land Mecklenburg. The beginning was a warm reception by the Schwerin mayor Mr. Norbert Klausen. He greeted the teachers and the participants of the music days – who all afterwards signed the guest book of the city. Young musicians from Denmark, Germany, Israel, Poland and the Czech Republic attended the master classes. Among the instructors was the pianist Edith Kraus from Jerusalem, who was very active in the music life in ghetto Theresienstadt. She evoked much interest with the local media. The musicologists Prof. Anna Hanusova-Flachova and Prof. Thomas H. Mandl – also former ghetto prisoners – were among the instructors, too.

The director of Beit Terezin Anita Tarsi lectured about cultural life in the ghetto and its influence on the prisoner's life. The grandson of Richard Wagner, Gottfried Wagner, spoke about the importance of Kurt Weill, son of a cantor in Dessau, for the musical theater of the 20th century. The daughter of Erich Zeisel and daughter-in-law of Arnold Schoenberg, Barbara Schoenberg from Los Angeles, was guest of honor of the music days. She gave a talk about the Viennese Jewish musicians, who escaped before WWII to the USA and found their place in the cultural life of Hollywood. They influenced musical creation of the 20th century, were in turn influenced by it and left their imprint.

The events of the music days included a reading from the diary of Helga Pollak, which she wrote as a girl in room no. 28 of the girl's home L-410. The authoress, now Helga Kinsky, who lives in Vienna, was present. Works by composers from ghetto Theresienstadt - among them by Viktor Ullmann, Pavel Haas and Gideon Klein – were played. The music days were the occasion for a number of exhibitions: *Theresienstadt – Music, That was Life* and prints by Fritta (Fritz Taussig) from the collection of Hanna Reinerova, the widow of the composer Karel Reiner, all three were prisoners in the ghetto. There was also an exhibition of documents from the legacy of Viktor Ullmann, which are held at the Dornach Goetheaneum.

DAS THERESIENSTADT KONVOLUT

(The Theresienstadt collection) is the title of an exhibition shown from February to April 2002 at the Altonaer Museum in Hamburg, Germany. There were 92 reproductions from the album of prominent personalities in the ghetto, prepared on orders of the SS. Further there were 54 pictures by artists in the ghetto. They were collected by Kaethe Starke, who was librarian in the ghetto. She also authored the book *Der Fuehrer schenkt den Juden eine Stadt* (The Leader Presents the Jews with a Town). An impressive catalog, edited by Axel Feuss, was published on the occasion of the exhibition, with photographs and biographies of the “prominent” personalities and also with pictures from Kaethe Starke's collection, never before shown to the public. The exhibition was shown from September 29, to October 20, 2002 at the Schwerin town museum, in the context of the project *History, Music and Remembrance*.

SECOND GENERATION

The second and third generations – children and grandchildren of the founders of Beit Terezin - not only participate in the ongoing activities of the house; they also initiate activities of their own. In July 2002 issue no. 6 of their publication came out, edited by Tallila and Tsvika Kislev. It is dedicated mainly to the message transmitted from the founder generation to the younger ones. This is expressed for example in the words of Sivan, her mother Liora Cohen and her grandfather Max (Mordechai Livni). He sees the essence of this message in honesty, the sense of justice, humor, the striving for higher things in life – and in the continuing existence of Beit Theresienstadt.

The focus of issue no. 7 of November 2002 is the Education Center of Beit Terezin. There is an essay by the director of the center Yonat Klar and interviews with Edna Amit, Manka Alter and Judith Jaegermann about their work with youth through conversations and testimonies. Often quite difficult questions surface. There are also impressions from a tour in the Czech Republic by 8 members of the Huppert-Harel family from kibbutz Hahotrim, as related by the 6-year old Rotem to her mother Ruthi, who wrote them down.

Anita Haviv, who is responsible for the cooperation with the second generation, says that more and more of its members are looking for some kind of dialog with Beit Terezin. "We welcome that since dialog with the younger generations is one of our aims."

On December 21, 2002, members of the second generation met at Beit Theresienstadt with the director of the European department of the Isr. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Danny Shek, who talked about his work in the diplomatic service. In this context: he is "second generation", too - his late father Zeev Shek, one of the founders of Beit Terezin, worked for many years at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and, among other posts, he was the Israeli ambassador in Vienna and in Rome. Danny's mother Alisa is the curator of Beit Terezin and works there daily, on a voluntary basis of course.

VISITORS

- The former Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Shimon Peres visited Beit Terezin in November 2002 on the occasion of a visit to kibbutz Givat Hayim-Ihud. Mr. Peres was very impressed by Beit Terezin, it was agreed to continue the connection.
- The director of the Winnick Family Foundation Ms Rosalie Zalis from Los Angeles visited Beit Theresienstadt on September 27, 2002. She declared her readiness to finance research on the subject of education, dealing with children from Germany, Austria and Holland brought to ghetto Terezin.
- The inspector for history instruction of the Isr. Ministry of Education Ms Dr. Yael Shay visited Beit Terezin and promised to support musical activities there.

ACTUALITIES

TRIBUTE TO THE THERESIENSTADT RABBI DR. FEDER

The highest honor of the Czech Republic, the Order of Merit in the name of T. G. Masaryk, was bestowed in memoriam on Dr. Richard Feder (1875 – 1970) in appreciation of his manifold activities for democracy and human rights. The Czech president Vaclav Havel gave the Order of Merit on October 28, 2002 – the Czech national holiday – to Alisah Schiller, the granddaughter of Dr. Feder's sister. The impressive ceremony took place in the old Vladislav Hall at the Prague Hradcany castle. Before WWII Dr. Feder was rabbi of the town of Kolin for 30 years, then for 3 years rabbi in ghetto Terezin, where he survived. After the war he became rabbi of Moravia and starting 1961 also chief rabbi of the Czechoslovak communities.

Alisah Schiller – one of the leading personalities of Beit Theresienstadt – gave our archives many photographs and documents from Dr. Feder's legacy, among them a readers card from the Terezin library, a workers card from the ghetto, a death certificate of his wife Hilde, who died in the ghetto in December 1942. Their two sons Evzen and Viktor, the daughter Ruth, the daughter-in-law, the son-in-law and two grandsons perished in the Holocaust.

FLOOD DAMAGE

The floods in the Czech Republic in August 2002 caused heavy damage both to the state memorial site in Terezin and to the Prague Jewish Museum.

The Prague Jewish Museum is near the Vltava, in an area whose inhabitants were evacuated during the flood – the damage there was not caused by floodwater, but by the rising sewage. Luckily hundreds of exhibits were taken to safe places from the ground floor of the Pinkas, Maisel and Spanish synagogues and none were damaged. But the buildings suffered. It was especially the old Pinkas synagogue, where the nearly 80.000 names of Holocaust victims from Bohemia and Moravia are commemorated on the walls, which was hit. The building is below street level and the waters rose to one and a half meters height, damaged the walls and erased part of the names. A cellar in the building of the museum management at the Spanish synagogue with the air conditioning, heating and elevator machinery and a store of stationery were destroyed. The damage – both directly from the flood and the loss of income from visitors – is estimated in the tens of millions of Czech koruny. Mid-October 2002 the museum

reopened for visitors, but it will require some 1-½ years of strenuous work by specialists to repair the Pinkas synagogue.

The river Ohre (Eger), which flows through Terezin, also rose. The waters flooded the State Memorial Site Pamatnik Terezin and especially the Small Fortress, the central Gestapo prison during WWII. The administration building with the archives and collections was flooded and heavily damaged. The cemetery near the ramparts was covered by water, also the whole town, where most of its 2.000 inhabitants were evacuated. The exhibitions of the Ghetto Museum in the town and in the Magdeburg barracks are intact – they are on higher floors.

NOMINATIONS AT THE “CLAIMS CONFERENCE”

After the death of rabbi Dr. Azriel Miller, president of the Claims Conference for the last 20 years, the board of directors assembled in March 2002 in Jerusalem and chose Dr. Israel Singer for president and also a number of other functionaries.

Moshe Zanbar, chairman of the Center of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel, was appointed chairman of the executive committee. Moshe Zanbar, born in Hungary and himself a Holocaust survivor, whose previous appointments were: treasurer of the Claims Conference, chairman of Bank Israel, chairman of the board of directors of Bank Leumi and chairman of the board of directors of the Bank for Industrial Development, is a loyal friend of Beit Theresienstadt.

SIXTY YEARS SINCE THE DEPORTATION

of the Jews of Ostrava and surroundings to ghetto Terezin, in 4 transports between the 18th and the 30th September 1942, a memorial service was held in the town near the monument for Holocaust victims in the Milada Horakova park. On this occasion an exhibition *Vanished Neighbors* was opened. It consists of works by high school students, who researched the fate of the Jewish families of the town. Moravska Ostrava (Maehrisch Ostrau), as the town was then called, was one of the largest Jewish communities in Czechoslovakia before WWII. Its 3442 Jews were deported to ghetto Terezin and from there to extermination. Only 110 survived and out of these only one today lives in the town. Other memorial services were held in Valasske Mezirici, in the presence of Michael Honey-Honigwachs, one of the last survivors of the town, who came specially from Israel. Chana Adar from Yif'at gave Beit Terezin cuttings from the Czech press about the events.

FRIEDL DICKER-BRANDEIS EXHIBITION

On November 12, 2002, an exhibition titled *Friedl Dicker-Brandeis and the Children of Terezin – an Exhibition of Art and Hope* was opened at the Museum of Tolerance of the Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, California, USA.

Thanks to Friedl Dicker-Brandeis (1898 – 1944), Bauhaus-artist and art teacher in Theresienstadt, hundreds of children's drawings made in the ghetto were preserved. The exhibition was shown previously in Vienna, Graz, Cesky Krumlov, Paris, Stockholm, Berlin, Atlanta and other places. On the occasion of the opening of the exhibition in the Paris Jewish Museum (January – March 2001) a catalog was published by Somogy. It was edited by the initiator of the exhibition Lena Makarova and includes color reproductions of paintings made by the artist and her pupils.

* * *

Reacting to the abovementioned exhibition and to the work of Friedl Dicker-Brandeis with children in ghetto Theresienstadt Prof. Gabriele S. Silten from Los Angeles, USA, a member of our association, sent us the following letter representing a different viewpoint about children in ghetto Terezin.

At the time of this writing, the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, California, is showing an exhibit about Friedl Dicker-Brandeis and "the children" of Terezin. It shows drawings and poems made by "the children" of Terezin, or Theresienstadt, the name I knew it by, the concentration camp in what used to be Czechoslovakia. I object to that description because

when one speaks of "the children" of Theresienstadt, or any other place, that presumes that one is speaking of all the children. In actual fact, though, in Theresienstadt, with very few exceptions, only the Czech children were able to draw and write. I was a child in Theresienstadt, born in Germany, but arriving with a Dutch transport because my parents and I had emigrated to Holland and in 1943, when we were first deported (to Westerbork, a concentration camp in Holland) we were living in Amsterdam, Holland. Contrary to many children, I stayed with my mother (my father was in a different barracks). I was not in what was then euphemistically called: a children's home (Kinderheim). Many, if not most, of the Czech children in Theresienstadt lived in one of the children's homes. It was there that Friedl Dicker-Brandeis taught and worked with them. They were taught whatever the grown-ups who watched over them, knew. Friedl Dicker-Brandeis had brought to Theresienstadt whatever she had or could obtain: paper, paints, pencils, possibly some brushes, etc. The children under her care were taught drawing and writing; they drew and wrote what they saw and experienced.

We others, the German- and Dutch-speaking children as well as the other nationalities who were there, had none of these advantages. I can, of course, speak only of my own experience there, but I had no time for drawing or writing poetry, even if I had had paper and pencils - and that is a very big IF. I arrived in Theresienstadt in January of 1944. By then I was 10 years old. Both my parents were gone during the day, to work, and it fell to me to clean our space (that is my mother's and mine) as best I could, to make our beds, to sweep the wooden floor with Lysol and water, to do whatever was necessary and to mend whatever was to mend (stockings and tears in our clothing) as far as it could be mended or we had materials to mend with. For our stockings, that was not too difficult: we unraveled my doll's knitted clothes and used that for mending holes in stockings. At set times I had to go and fetch our food. That meant I had to guard our rationing cards, so that they would not be lost. Then I carried the food back to the barracks where, when my parents' shifts were finished, we ate together. As of autumn 1944 all children from the age of 10 had to work. That included me; by then I had turned 11. We had to go to the administration building in the Magdeburger Kaserne (barracks) and there we were assigned to a job. My first few days were spent going from one job to another; then I was assigned to the Siechenheim, the Home for the Old and Sick, as an Ordonnanz, i.e. a message carrier. I carried oral or written messages within the Siechenhaus or I was sent out to another building. We Ordonnanzes not only delivered every day notes and messages but also, at times, the notification of the recipients' being included in a transport to a death camp, be that Auschwitz, Treblinka, Minsk, or any other such camp. This essentially made the innocent children into an Angel of Death. My shift was as long as everyone else's; there were no shorter shifts for children. There was also no extra food. Various other jobs, temporary ones, came up as well. One of them was to go and collect chestnuts. We were notified by "mail", i.e. a note was sent to us that we had to arrive at a certain date, at 6:00 o'clock in the morning, and to be at a certain place. That job lasted maybe two or three days. Later another job came along: I was sent to the crematorium to collect cardboard boxes containing ashes of those people who had been cremated. We children stood in what I usually call a "fireman's line" and passed these boxes from one child to another. At that time, I did not know what happened to those boxes. I was not to learn that until many years later.

With all that to do, there would have been no time for anything like writing and drawing - indeed there was no time. Pencils I never saw in Theresienstadt. I had barely enough, if any, toilet paper, leave alone paper to write on or to draw on.

Lately, I have heard a lot about "the children" of Theresienstadt and every time I hear about this issue, I speak up and tell what I know. It was not "the children" of Theresienstadt who had these privileges; it was only the Czech children. At that time, had I known about it, I might have been envious; today I just want to set history straight. If we survivors don't do it, then who will?

SEARCHING FOR VANISHED NEIGHBORS

The project of searching for traces of Jewish neighbors, vanished in the Holocaust, initiated in 2000 by the Department for Education and Culture of the Prague Jewish Museum, goes on. High school students at various places in the Czech Republic researched the fate of Jews, who had lived in their vicinity, collected photographs and looked for gravestones in forgotten Jewish cemeteries. One of the girls found the diary of her Jewish grand- grandfather, another one learned that her grandmother had named her firstborn daughter Eva in memory of a Jewish friend in primary school, a third one – of Roma descent – found the similarity of the fates of Jews and Roma during the Nazi regime. The numerous material collected by the young people was displayed in a traveling exhibition at various places of the Czech Republic in 2001. A program *Vanished Neighbors* was broadcast by the Czech television and also made into a videocassette with English translation, in cooperation with the Czech branch of “Hidden Child”. We received a copy from Chana Adar, Yif’at.

MUSIC FROM THERESIENSTADT

GUSTAV MAHLER

was baptized, he died in 1911 – but this did not prevent two Israeli composers, Arik Shapira and Gideon Levinson, to compose works on “Mahler in Ghetto Theresienstadt”. Not only that, the two sued each other at the Jerusalem court for the copyright of the idea. Finally a compromise was found: in future Levinson will not use the words *Gustl in Theresienstadt* (the title of Shapiro’s work).

BOSTON AND TEREZIN

Terezin and Tanglewood - Art Against Holocaust was the title of a program consisting mainly of music from Terezin, performed on July 17, 2002, by the Walter Piston Company and the Boston Symphony Orchestra at the Tanglewood Music Center, where the orchestra plays every summer.

The driving force of the activities for music from Terezin is the viola player Mark Ludwig, the founder of the Terezin Chamber Music Foundation and of the Hawthorne String Quartet.

To aid the state memorial site in Terezin, heavily damaged by the floods, the Hawthorne String Quartet gave a festive concert on November 4, 2002, at the Spanish Hall of the Hradcin castle in Prague under the patronage of president V. Havel and of the US ambassador in Prague. The quartet played works by composers of Czech origin, who perished in the Holocaust and also by the composer David Post, Boston. A second concert was given at the Spanish synagogue in the old town of Prague. Edgar Krasa, a former ghetto prisoner who lives in Boston, guided a tour in Terezin on November 7.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE PUBLICATION of the book *Kolot min Hahosheh – Hamusika b’ Getaot uv’ Mahanot Bepolin* (Voices from the Darkness – Music in Ghettoes and Camps in Poland) by Moshe Hoch a festive meeting was held at the Givatayim branch of Yad Vashem. The Jerusalem String Trio played *Trio for Violin, Viola and Cello* by Gideon Klein. G. Klein was a pianist, composer and educator in ghetto Theresienstadt – he was deported in October 1944 to Auschwitz and died in January 1945 in the Fuerstengrube concentration camp.

OUR ARCHIVES

FUTILE HOPE

Trude Regev from Moledet gave our archives the copy of a letter sent by her father Hermann Roubicek (born 1879) from camp Komarow near Lublin through the International Red Cross in August 1942. The addressee was his son Kurt Roubicek, physician in Ahuza, Haifa. The letter read: “Mother Samosc heart attack died. I day laborer builder’s firm, healthy. If exchange of Reich Germans from there against relatives of Jews from there living here possible, please do immediately everything, greetings, father, R. Hermann” Since then there are no traces of Hermann Roubicek. He was among the 1000 persons of a transport, which left ghetto Terezin on April 28, 1942 – of these only 5 survived.

In 1941 father Roubicek had sent to his children in Palestine radish seeds with a smuggled note saying: “Sow a Czech produce, sing Czech memories ‘Where is my home’ “ (The beginning of the then Czechoslovak national anthem).

LAST MEMENTO

Aviva Bar-On from Kiriath Ono, whose former name was Beda Winkler, gave us the copy of a small album from ghetto Terezin, into which her friends at the girl’s home had written aphorisms. A few of the pages were written in autumn 1944 in the “Schleuse” – before the transport with her friends left for Auschwitz. Eva Abeles wrote: “Beda, I am leaving and I don’t know if you will ever see me again. Think of me. Written in the Schleuse on October 3, 1944, in memory of a true friend”. These were the last words remaining of the 14-years-old Eva.

FATEFUL LETTER TO PALESTINE

Dr. Edith Rueff from London, known to her friends as Dita Orenstein, sent our archives 3 photographs of Dr. Erich Oesterreicher, the director of the labor center in ghetto Terezin: one from an agricultural training center in 1940, one from 1941 and the last, made on order of the SS commander in 1943 in the ghetto. Erich Oesterreicher, born 1910, was before WWII one of the leading personalities of the “Hehalutz” movement in Czechoslovakia and worked with Jacob Edelstein at the Prague Palestine Office. On December 4, 1941, he went voluntarily with a group of 23 members of the staff of J. Edelstein (the first “Jewish Elder” of the ghetto) to Terezin. Dita Orenstein was also a member of the staff – in the ghetto she managed the women’s labor center.

At the time when 1200 children from ghetto Bialystok came to Terezin, who remained totally isolated, the SS let it be understood that they are designed for exchange for German citizens from Palestine. A few of the members of “Hehalutz” volunteered as instructors for these children. Through one of them Erich sent surreptitiously a letter for his friends in the Palestine “Hehalutz”. In October 1943 the Bialystok children and their instructors were sent for extermination to Auschwitz, Erich’s letter was intercepted by the Nazis. He was interrogated by day and by night at the ghetto commander’s office and his fate was sealed: on October 28, 1944 he was sent with “special order” straight to his death in the gas chamber.

AN ARTIST’S DONATION

Yehuda Bakon, who teaches at the Bezalel art school in Jerusalem and is a well-known painter, donated five numbered prints of his paintings to Beit Terezin – women’s heads and images. We received the paintings as a donation, to be sold – but in spite of our difficult financial situation we decided to keep the prints in our collection. They express Yehuda Bakon’s life experience – he came to ghetto Terezin as a child and was deported at age 14 to the Birkenau family camp. In July 1944 he was in the group of boys chosen by Dr. Mengele before the camp and its inmates were liquidated, to serve as messengers in the Auschwitz men’s camp.

GREETING CARDS FOR BEIT THERESIENSTADT

On July 28, 2002, Dr. Leonard J. Hoenig from Pembroke Pines, Florida, USA wrote us: “Learning about the Holocaust helps me to connect with my family’s past and with the grandparents I never knew, who were among the Six Million. It also enables me to feel closer to my people. Recently I came across a catalog with the title “Art and Medicine in Ghetto Terezin” put together by Dr. Thomas Spenser. One of the drawings therein caught my attention. It was created by Dr. Karel Fleischmann, an artist and physician sent to ghetto Terezin in 1942 and transported to Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1944, where he perished. I was moved to read about Dr. Karel Fleischmann and how Jewish physicians in ghetto Theresienstadt struggled to save lives. Dr. Spenser and I have since written an article for a medical journal about Dr. Fleischmann. We were greatly helped in our research by Anita Tarsi and Beit Terezin’s staff. We hope to send you the article when it is finally published.

To show our appreciation to the Beit Theresienstadt's staff my daughter Suri (18 years old) has crafted a special Rosh Hashana card to help raise funds for Beit Theresienstadt."

From Suri Hoenig's words:

"Last summer I traveled through Poland and the Ukraine on a synagogue youth program. Emotionally it was difficult to see the death camps where so many of our people suffered and perished. One of the moving moments for me was to stand where Sienna Street was in the Warsaw ghetto, which is where my great-grandparents were sent from Kalish. How they perished is unknown. The experience made a powerful impression on me and strengthened my commitment to my people. I respect and appreciate much more deeply my dear grandparents, who are Holocaust survivors.

I hope you enjoy my Rosh Hashana card. May you be blessed with good health, happiness and peace".

LEGACY OF AN ACTRESS

Ora Vine from Telshe-Stone near Jerusalem gave our archives many items from the legacy of her mother, the actress Naava Shan, who died on August 3, 2001. There are books (most in Czech), audio recordings of a program by London radio with Naava, recordings of two of her performances, a cassette about Naava's husband Hubert Hermann and 12 envelopes with documents, not yet sorted.

FATE OF TWINS

Gerda Levisohn-Marcus from Jerusalem worked after WWII with the organization *Rescued Children*, which brought – in 1947 or 1948 – two children from a French transit camp to New York. One of them was a girl, aged about eight years, registered as Irene Gutmann, who did not answer any questions in any language. Gerda Levisohn-Marcus requested information from the Jewish community in Prague and it was determined that Renee Gutmann, born in 1937, was deported in September 1942 with her twin brother Rene and their parents to ghetto Terezin and from there on December 15, 1943, to Birkenau. The twins were saved from the gas chambers because of the "scientific" experiments of Dr. Mengele. After further search the brother Rene was found in Slovakia and also brought to New York. Gerda Levisohn-Marcus writes that Renee, now called Irene Hizmi and living in the USA, never saw her registration in the card index of ghetto prisoners and so she did not know her exact birth date. Beit Theresienstadt sent her now copies of the index cards of the Gutmann family.

UNDER THE SPELL OF MEMORIES

Annika Tetzner was born in ghetto Theresienstadt and only two years old when she was deported in autumn 1944, together with her father Josef Tetzner, her mother Marta and her 9-year old brother Jiri to Birkenau. The father came from there to camp Kaufering near Dachau, where he died in February 1945. The mother and the brother were killed in Birkenau. The traumatic images of their death and the suffering she went through in the Birkenau children's barracks accompany Annika throughout her life and are expressed in her poems and paintings. We received a copy of the poems (English), which were not yet published, together with copies of family documents from Annika Tetzner, Moshav Yishai. An exhibition of her pictures *B'gay Hatsalmavet* (In the Valley of Death) was opened on January 12, 2003, at the Culture Center of Ramat Beit Shemesh.

THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND THE GHETTO

The International Red Cross is connected in many ways to ghetto Terezin – through letters, parcels with medicaments, transmitting messages, but mainly through the visit of its delegation in the ghetto on June 23, 1944. Its result was an enthusiastic description of the "good conditions" under which the ghetto prisoners lived, written by the head of the delegation Dr. Maurice Rossel. Through connections, which evolved in the last years, Beit Terezin received from the International Red Cross in Geneva a folder with copies of all their documents about the ghetto. It includes letters by the first "Jewish Elder" of the ghetto Jacob Edelstein, his deputy Otto Zucker and the last "Jewish Elder" Benjamin Marmelstein to Switzerland. From the letters it is clear that the writers were aware of the German censor. In a letter from November 3, 1943, Marmelstein confirms the arrival of a consignment

with medicaments and requests not to send any more, since “the health of the Jews here is fully satisfactory”. A second folder contains all documents connected to Dr. Rossel, who also visited Auschwitz, Ravensbrueck and other camps. 15 pages of the report deal with the visit in ghetto Theresienstadt, which lasted hardly 12 hours.

MEMOIRS OF A CZECH VILLAGER

During the summer vacation of 1943 Josef Bukovsky, a farmer in the village of Cechotin, got a letter from his aunt. She wrote that two children of an acquaintance of hers need – for health reasons – a country vacation, for payment. The Bukovsky family agreed to accept them. Their names were given as Eva and Tomik Huler, later a girl named Zdena joined them. The children were quiet and well behaved and helped in the house. Tomik’s mother asked to prolong his stay, the Bukovskys agreed, Zdena remained in the village, too. When the radio announced in the beginning of May 1945 that Germany had surrendered, Tomik was overjoyed and shouted: “...do you know that we are Jews?” Only then the hosts understood, what risk they had taken, if the true identity of the children would have become known: The real surname of Eva and Tomik was Turk, Zdena’s was Roubicek – the parents had procured forged documents for the children. After the founding of Israel both families immigrated there. The 81 years old Josef Bukovsky in Cechotin wrote down his memories in his simple language, we received them from Katia Vered, Tel Aviv.

DR. ABRAHAM DAVID from the National Library at Jerusalem University gave Beit Terezin parts of Torah scrolls, which he had received from the Prague chief Rabbi Karol Sidon. They had belonged to Torah scrolls of Jewish communities in Bohemia and Moravia, destroyed in the Holocaust.

BRUNO MARCUSE came from Berlin to ghetto Theresienstadt in January 1944, aged 66, and survived there. A short time after liberation he published a brochure with the title: *Erlebnisse im KZ Theresienstadt* (Experiences in Concentration Camp Theresienstadt). It contains 30 poems he wrote in the years 1942 – 1945: on hunger, stealing potatoes, shooting the propaganda film in the ghetto, the visit of the Red Cross and on other subjects from life in the ghetto. We received the brochure from Ruth Hermann, archivist at kibbutz Hazorea.

MARGIT SILBERFELD from Jerusalem gave us a list of girls and instructors in room number 13 of the girl’s home L-410, where she had lived, and also photographs of five of the girls. We also got from her photographs of wards of the Jewish orphanage in Prague, deported from there to ghetto Terezin.

SHIMON LOMSKY from Haifa gave us the copy of a “Transportliste” of the SS with the names of 99 prisoners, who were brought on October 10, 1944, from Auschwitz to camp Hasag Taucha near Leipzig, a branch camp of Buchenwald. The list, with date and place of birth and occupation, includes the names of a few members of Zionist youth movements in Terezin, e. g. Leo Demner, Leopold (Polda) Huppert and Jindra Goldstein.

MAGDA BARNEA from Omer sent our archives documents and photographs connected to camp Schwarzheide, where young men from the Birkenau family camp were brought before its liquidation. Further she also gave us essays written about the camp. The material comes from the legacy of her husband Honza Barnea (Bramer), who was imprisoned in the camp.

HANS REINES, Kfar Saba, gave us a list of children from Holland deported in September 1944 from Bergen-Belsen to ghetto Terezin. It lists name, address in the ghetto, transport no. and year of birth.

SHOSHANA CHASSON-KOLB from Ramat Hasharon sent our archives a brochure with the diary of her father Eugen Kolb (1899 – 1949). He wrote it in Bergen-Belsen after he was brought there in 1944 from Budapest. The brochure includes also essays by the two editors of the publication, Alexander Barsel and Thomas Rahe about Eugen Kolb, who was the art director of Tel Aviv Museum.

LENA MAKAROVA from Jerusalem gave us a copy of the diary by Willy Mahler, written in Terezin from July to September 1944; the original is in Památník Terezín in the Czech Republic. She further gave us the copy of a diary by Hanna Steindler, who was sent in June 1942 to Terezín and who reached Switzerland in February 1945 with other freed prisoners. She also gave us a book with essays in English, German and French about the composer Viktor Ullmann.

TRANSLATIONS

The voluntary translators of our archives continue their work with documents and research papers from Czech and German to Hebrew and English, to enable the next generations of students and researchers to access the material. We do not publish the translations – they are intended for internal use at Beit Theresienstadt.

MORDECHAI AND CHAVA LIVNI, Kiriat Tivon, translated from German to English sermons of the only Terezín female rabbi Regine Jonas, an essay by Prof. Emil Utitz about *Eroticism and Love in Theresienstadt* and a chapter on working women in the ghetto from *Theresienstadt 1941 – 1945* by H. G. Adler. They also translated from German to English material about Vitezslav Lederer, who escaped from Auschwitz and entered ghetto Terezín surreptitiously, to warn the prisoners there. They also translated a diary and poems by Renate Seligman nee Kraus (born 1927), written in the years 1942 – 1946 in ghetto Theresienstadt and after liberation. Renate Seligman died in 2002 in Quito, Ecuador.

SHIMON WEISSBECKER from Haifa translated from German to Hebrew H. G. Adler's book about Terezín *Die verheimlichte Wahrheit* (The Concealed Truth), consisting mainly of documents.

ALISA SHEK, Caesarea, translated chapters from the children's newspapers *Vedem* and *Kamarad* and material about Fredy Hirsch from Czech to German, the second part of Norbert Fried's book *Lahvova posta* (Bottle Post) and the book *Krabice zivych* (Box of the Living), both dealing with ghetto Terezín, from Czech to English and chapters from Herbert Thomas Mandl's book *Die Wette des Philosophen* (The Philosopher's Bet) from German into English.

MIRIAM GAL from Givat Hayim-Ihud translated from German to Hebrew a paper by Ivan Kamenec about *Slovakia and the Final Solution* and also a testimony by Manfred Trodler about the death march from Schwarzheide to Theresienstadt in April 1945.

RUTH BOBEK from Nof Yam translated from Czech to Hebrew a number of issues of *Sesit* (Copybook) with articles about humanities. Now Ruth started to translate the children's newspaper *Noviny* (Newspaper) and the youth newspaper *Vedem* (We lead).

MIRIAM CERVENKA, Givat Hayim-Ihud, translated from Czech to Hebrew memoirs by Helena Schuetzova, the book *He Who Wants to Say Something Has to Speak* by Margit Hermannova and H. Schuetzova, memoirs from the camp in Freiberg/Saxony and memoirs about the camp Wulkow.

CASSETTES AND FILMS

- Alisah Schiller interviewed Margit Silberfeld on July 16, 2002. Margit also gave us a film about Kurt Geron.
- Helene Berg from Stockholm sent us a teaching program about ghetto Theresienstadt on CD-ROM (Swedish) with an explanation.
- We received a video cassette *There Are no Butterflies Here* written by Michiko Nomura from Omiya in Japan, with music by Yomoshitu Nakamura. The text is in Japanese and Czech.
- Lutz Noack, Stroud, England, sent us a recording of a BBC radio program moderated by J. Harding, broadcast on October 3, 2002. There are interviews with survivors of ghetto Terezín.
- We also have an audiocassette of interviews with teachers, Holocaust survivors and students who participated in the seminar *History, Music and Remembrance* in 2001 at Beit Terezín.

PRESS

MEDICINE AND POESY

Dr. Tomi Spenser from Sasa gave us two research papers of the director of Naharyia hospital Dr. Shaul Shasha on *The Spread of Diseases in Ghettoes in the Holocaust* and *Medicine in Ghettoes in the Holocaust*, which were published in the Israeli medical publication *Harefua* in April 2002 as well as an essay by Dr. Stanislaw Waller, Holon, about medicine in the Warsaw ghetto.

Dr. Spenser, who researches medicine in the Holocaust at Haifa university gave us also an article about his father, the poet Hugo Sonnenschein, who used the pen name Sonka and came from Kyjov in Moravia. The article appeared in May 2002 in the Prague newspaper *MF Dnes*. Sonka was a communist since his youth but an anti-Stalinist. He was arrested by the Gestapo and survived Auschwitz. During the Communist regime he was sentenced to 20 years in prison, the charge was “collaboration with the Nazis”. He died in 1953, aged 64, at the Mir prison in then Czechoslovakia. The article has the title: *Sonnenschein is Innocent*.

THE LOYAL DOLL

Marin Independent Journal in Marin County, California, USA, printed on September 1, 2002, the story of Inge Auerbacher and her doll Marlene, as filmed by Giora and Shirley Gerzon. The doll, the impersonation of the “Aryan” ideal, was mass-produced for the Berlin Olympics 1936. Inge, aged ten, came to ghetto Terezin with her doll Marlene - a present from her grandmother. Inge stayed with the doll in the ghetto until liberation. Inge Auerbach believes that the doll helped her to overcome all sufferings, including tuberculosis. The doll is now displayed at the Washington Holocaust Museum.

AN EDUCATOR’S FATE

The publication *Igeret of Moreshet Gordonia-Makkabi Hatzair*, Tel Aviv, printed in its issue no. 56, in November 2002 an essay by Malka Tor about the educator Aron Menczer, born in Vienna, who was the director of the “Youth Aliyah” there. “See you in Palestine” Aron used to say every time, when he parted from his pupils, who succeeded to leave Vienna in time, 1939 – 1941. Aron accompanied one of the groups from Vienna to Palestine, but though his relatives there urged him to stay, he refused – because young people in Vienna still needed him: he would go after the last of his wards. But he did not make it. In September 1942 he got his transport order, came to ghetto Theresienstadt and worked there as an educator with German speaking youth. When 1200 children from Bialystok arrived in Terezin in August 1943 and were totally isolated on orders of the SS, Aron volunteered to care for them. Contrary to rumors that the children were destined for an exchange and going to Palestine, they were deported with their instructors in October 1943 to the Auschwitz gas chambers.

About 30 of the living relatives and former pupils of Aron Menczer, who live in Israel, met in June 2002 at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem to commemorate his person and work.

COOKING AND MUSIC

The publication of the Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic and Slovakia *Ros Chodes* printed in its issue of December 2002 a conversation with Edgar (Eda) Krasa from Boston, USA. Eda was born in 1924 in Karlovy Vary and lived with his parents since 1933 in Prague. After the Munich treaty his parents decided – luckily for him – that the son should acquire a practical education and he became a cook, learning at well-known Prague restaurants. So he came with the *Aufbaukommando* AK1 toward the end of November 1941 to the newly founded ghetto Terezin and started to work as a cook in the Sudeten barracks. Krasa speaks about the food in Terezin and describes the infamous grayish lentil soup made of soup powder as “edible, but not for gourmands”.

He talks much about his friend, the conductor Rafi Schaechter, under whose baton Eda sang, inter alia also Verdi's Requiem. Krasa initiated a stipendium for musicians, in commemoration of Schaechter. He often lectures at schools and universities about his Holocaust experiences – Auschwitz, Gleiwitz, death march and speaks also about “Music as a Means of Resistance”.

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

WOMEN PRISONERS IN FREIBERG

1000 young women, among them a large group, who were in ghetto Terezin, were brought from Auschwitz to the mining town Freiberg in Saxony in autumn 1944. There they were in a branch camp of Flossenbuerg and worked in the war industry. Members of the anti-racism project “Shalom Sachsen – Boehmen” of the *Christliches Jugenddorfwerk Deutschland* (Christian Youth Village Organization Germany) deal since 1991 with commemoration. Among its projects is the search for traces of Jewish life in the town, an exhibition on the subject, research about the Jewish students and lecturers of the Freiberg mining academy and an invitation to all Jewish survivors born in Freiberg, to visit the town. A TV program about the forced laborers evolved from this initiative, too.

The book *Wir waren zum Tode bestimmt – Lodz, Theresienstadt, Auschwitz, Freiberg, Oederan, Mauthausen* (We were Destined for Death) – memoirs of and interviews with former forced laborers and Freiberg citizens, edited by Michael Duesing, was published in 2002 by Forum Verlag in Leipzig, Germany (German). Mainly young people, most of them out of work, participated in the project and in the preparation for the book, in the framework of their retraining. Searching for Jewish cemeteries in the vicinity, they found an old forgotten and dilapidated one in Sobedruhy, a suburb of Teplice. The organization is now trying to mobilize contributions for the restoration of the cemetery. (See also “Information required”).

THE NOVEL BY OTA B. KRAUS about the children's barracks at the Birkenau family camp was published in German translation by Dietrich in autumn 2002 with the title *Die bemalte Wand* (The Painted Wall). The English original was published in 1994 by Yaron Golan in Israel, the Czech version in 1993 under the name *Muj bratr dym*. Beit Terezin is now preparing a Hebrew translation.

HAM'GERA HASHLISHIT SHEL SABA (Grandfather's third drawer) is the title of a book by Judy Tal-Kopelmann, published in 2002 by *Yediot Ahronot* (Hebr.) - a story for parents and children, grandfathers and grandmothers. It is about grandfather's secret drawer, where the grandson discovers mementoes from the Holocaust. All items depicted in the book – a homemade Domino set, a doll, a transport number, the binding of an album from the ghetto – are in the collections of Beit Terezin.

THE ART OF DARKNESS is a book by Charlotte G. Opfermann, published in 2000 by University Trace Press on Houston, Texas, USA (Engl.). The book's subtitle explains its contents - Marat/Sade and Adolf Eichmann: The truth about the “Paradise Ghetto” and cultural programs known as Freizeitgestaltung at the Nazi concentration camp Theresienstadt with special focus on music and theater programs performed 1942 – 1945, facts and fiction during and since WWII with many drawings, created between 1942 – 1945 by my fellow prisoners.

The authoress, then Lotte Gutmann, came in November 1942 from Wiesbaden, Germany, to the ghetto, aged 16. According to her the children in the German language children's home lived in conditions of dirt, diseases, hunger and thirst.

HA'AFIFON HASEGOL (The Violet Kite) is the name of a collection of stories by Gad Masaryk, published in 2001 by Halonot in Tel Aviv (Hebr.). The author's parents had come from Czechoslovakia and were members of kibbutz Sarid. They hardly ever talked about their past and Gad, born in 1948, never asked. Only when he was 50 – after the death of his parents – he traveled to the Czech Republic and especially to Plzen (Pilsen) to look for his roots. He also wanted to solve the secret of his father's two sisters, of whom he learned from a black folder inherited from his father. The father's name was originally Masarek, but at immigration the clerk registered him as Masaryk, after the first president of Czechoslovakia, well known here.

A PLAY ABOUT KURT GERRON, the actor and producer of the Nazi propaganda film about ghetto Theresienstadt, titled *Camp Comedy* by Roy Kift was published in the second volume of *Theater of the Holocaust* by the University of Wisconsin. Roy Kift was helped by Beit Terezin in the collection of material about Geron. He asked us to announce, that the play will be premiered on March 7, 2003 at the campus of the State University of New York in Genesio.

VICTOR LEWIS from New York published the story of his Calvary in 1942 – 1945: *Hardship and Near-Death Experiences at the Hands of the Nazi SS and Gestapo – What it Took for One Jewish Man to Survive the Holocaust* (English). Lewis, who was born in Krakow and whose surname was originally Leserkiewitz, jumped from the train on the way to an extermination camp. Later he was among Oskar Schindler's workers – first at Plaszow and then at Brinnitz in Moravia - which saved his life. Victor found his brother Leszek in ghetto Terezin, totally emaciated. He succeeded to get him out of there and to get the necessary medical care for him, which returned him to life. Regine Steiner, his friend from youth, reached ghetto Terezin at the end of her travails, too. They married in July 1945.

BARNET LICHT, an enthusiastic and talented choir conductor from Leipzig, Germany (1874 – 1951) is the central persona of a booklet *Musik als Lebenshilfe* (Music aiding Life) by Thomas Schinkoeth, published in 2000 by Verlag Juergen Kamprad in Altenburg, Germany (German). Thanks to his non-Jewish wife Licht was deported to ghetto Theresienstadt only in January 1945 and survived there. The book contains 2 drawings of the then 70-years-old B. Licht in the ghetto, created by the painter and graphic designer Ernst Kaufmann: one shows him reading, the other eating out of a pot.

INFORMATION REQUIRED

Women who in the Holocaust went through **Auschwitz – Freiberg (Sachsen) – Mauthausen**, are requested to phone one of the three following:

Edna Amit 09-8666291 or Chava Livni 04-9835839 or Tsipora Nir 04-9854852.

The three plan a meeting of former Freiberg women prisoners. A short time ago a German TV station broadcast a film about the camp (we have a copy) and a German book on the subject was published (See under "Books and Publications"). Details of the meeting, place and date will be announced later.

* * *

Those who knew or remember **Friedericke Wulkan-Eckstein**, born on June 5, 1888, who was deported on September 24, 1942, to ghetto Terezin and from there on January 23, 1943, to Auschwitz are requested to contact: **Edna Arzi, Givat Hayim-Ihud, phone 04-6369103**

* * *

Wanted: information about the last transport from Westerbork to Bergen-Belsen on September 13, 1944, with 279 persons (including the group known as 51 "unknown children", deported further from Bergen-Belsen to Theresienstadt on November 17, 1944).

I am looking for the last five fellow victims who have not yet been found and who belonged to this group of 51 children. Their real names and dates of birth – between 1040 and 1943 – are at present not fully known. These children are:

1. Hatty de Beste or Elsas/Elzas
2. Rita Zwaab or Blitz = ? Riwka Blits (Australia ?)
3. Freddy (Israel ?)
4. Janneman (Israel ?) = Harry Arnold Merin
5. Louise (Israel ?)

All information will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. Please contact:

**Hans van den Broeke (previously Hans Culp), Stichting Onbekende Kinderen,
Ridderspoor 56, 2631 TL NOOTDORP, The Netherlands
Phone: *31-1531 09655, e-mail: hj.vandenbroeke@wanadoo.nl**

* * *

Shalom,

The following is addressed to all 669 children saved by **Nicholas Winton**, when he organized transports from Prague to a safe haven in 1938 – 1939.

After the making of the documentary film by Matej Minac called *The Power of Good*, shown at the Haifa International Film Festival on September 27, 2002, I am writing to you to find out if you are interested in joining a get-together to honor Mr. Winton here in Israel, with his participation.

Beit Terezin, Kibbutz Givat Hayim-Ihud, would be willing to help organizing such an event in the near future.

I have a list of 25 “Kinder” living in Israel and this letter will be sent to everyone who was on the Kindertransports from Czechoslovakia. If you know of anyone else, please let me know.

Please contact me with your opinions and ideas as soon as possible.

Kurt Stern, 18, Hakishon, 47205 Ramat Hasharon, tel: 03-5406839, 052-571073, fax: 03-5496960

* * *

MEMBERSHIP DUES

The membership dues for 2003 are:

	<u>Israel</u>		<u>Abroad</u>	
Singles	NIS	100.-	US \$	50.-
Couples	NIS	150.-	US \$	70.-

Please remit the appropriate sum as soon as possible – our activities depend on it. We did not raise the membership dues, the inflation notwithstanding – we leave it to our members and friends to add to the minimal membership dues according to their possibilities.

Contributions may be remitted to the bank account of our association:

Beit Terezin, Bank Leumi L'Israel, branch no. 958, account no. 11810/25.

Address of the bank: Bank Leumi L'Israel, branch Herzlia Pituah, Kikar De Shalit, Herzlia Pituah

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