

“Kamarad” - No. 23, dedicated to the boys in Terezin
See item on page 5

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Note in your diary – forthcoming events at Beit Terezin

HISTORY, MUSIC AND REMEMBRANCE

Beit Theresienstadt organizes international master classes in the framework of the project *History, Music and Remembrance* for music from ghetto Terezin and music banned by the Nazis from July 27, to August 1, 2003. The event will take place in Givat Hayim-Ihud under the artistic management of Dr. Dudu Sela and Volker Ahmels from Schwerin – consultation Prof. David Bloch, musicologist. This is now the fourth time we hold these master classes, in cooperation with *Jeunesses Musicales* in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany. This year the instructors are from Germany, the Czech Republic and Israel: Edith Kraus, Allan Sternfield and Irene Edelstein – piano, Ora Shiran – violin, Dr. Dudu Sela – cello, Prof. Emily Berendson and Prof. Anna Hanusova-Flachova – vocalists, Prof. David Bloch and Dr. Gottfried Wagner – musicology, Koby Luria – composer and playwright, Margit Silberfeld, who took part in 5 performances in ghetto Terezin. The masterclasses and lectures are open to the public; we will mail invitations to our members and friends. On Wednesday, July 30, at 20:30 a concert will be played by the instructors at Beit Theresienstadt: Irene Edelstein (piano), Frederike Hauffe (piano), David Sela (cello), Ora Shiran (violin) and Allan Sternfield (piano). The seminar will be concluded by two concerts played by the young artists: one at Givat Hayim-Ihud on Thursday, July 31, at 20:30, the second at the Felicia Blumenthal Music Center and Library, 26, Bialik Str., Tel Aviv, on Friday, August 1, 2003, at 11:00 a.m. The program: music from the Terezin ghetto, classical-romantic music played in the ghetto and music banned by the Nazis. Entrance fee to the concerts: NIS 30.-

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AN INTERNATIONAL MEETING:

THE FAMILY DURING THE HOLOCAUST – GENDER PERSPECTIVE

will take place Succot (Feast of Tabernacles), October 13, – 15, 2003. It will be organized by Beit Terezin, Beit Berl and Beit Lohamey Hagetaot. It is intended to further the critical and feministic analysis of the Holocaust era, defining new questions, which could influence research, remembrance and education. New research on the subject will be encouraged. Researchers, survivors, artists and professionals in psychology, anthropology and education were invited to lecture as well as authors and film makers, whose work touches on the subject. The meeting is meant for researchers, lecturers, students, educators, women's organizations and the general public. Please send proposals for subjects (on one page) to: Dr. Esther Herzog, Beit Berl College, POB 44905, Israel, or e-mail to: zipib@beitberl.ac.il or anitabt@ghi.org.il . This is the second time we hold this meeting (in Hebrew and English), since it evoked much interest last year.

* * *

* On Hanukka in December – as every year – will be a meeting in honoring our volunteers

* In March 2004, in memory of the 60th anniversary of the murder of the inmates of the Birkenau family camp – a meeting on this subject will be held.

ACTIVITIES AT BEIT TEREZIN

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF OUR ASSOCIATION

was held on May 17. This time almost all events took place at the kibbutz dining room. In the framework of the meeting Prof. Avi Saguy-Schwarz from the Center for the Development of Children of Haifa University talked about *The Challenge for Surviving Women to Become Good Mothers*. Another item of the program was a performance by the musician Koby Luria, who specializes in cabarets of ghetto Terezin. He presented a special CD with chansons from the ghetto. It is the outcome of many interviews held by K. Luria with former prisoners of the ghetto – he succeeded to record 17 songs. The authentic reproduction and K. Luria's professional musical treatment made this to a one-time document. Luria hopes to publish the CD soon in its final version. (The project came about in cooperation with the musician Moshe Zorman, with support from the Claims Conference – 1999). Another innovation at our meeting was an exhibition of works by our members – of all generations and various kinds of art: plastic art, photography, literature, paintings and film. The exhibition was very successful and we plan to repeat it next year.

HOLOCAUST DAY

On Holocaust Day, April 29, 2003, a meeting took place at the clubroom of Kibbutz Givat Hayim-Ihud. Its subject was the integration of Holocaust survivors in Israeli society. After a short memorial ceremony the participants, members of 3 generations, divided into small groups, moderated by the team of Beit Terezin. The discussions dealt mainly with the difficulties the first generation and their families encountered after arriving in Israel.

FESTIVE CONCERT

To gain new friends for Beit Terezin an event titled *History, Music and Remembrance* was held on the eve of Holocaust Day, April 29, 2003. It was dedicated mainly to the composers of ghetto Theresienstadt. The occasion, initiated by the businessman Tsvika Meshi, was meant to introduce to the participants the international master classes planned for the last week of July 2003 at Beit Terezin. The pianist Allan Sternfield played with students of previous master classes, among them Galit Gertsenzon (piano), Lotem Beider (viola), Ehud Weber (cello), Noa Bisanski (vocalist). The program included works by the composers Viktor Ullmann, Erich Zeisel, Gideon Klein and James Simon. The evening was moderated by Benny Hendel (of the Isr. Radio station "Kol Israel"), who read fragments of memoirs and literature connected to music creation in Israel.

The chairman of our association Dr. Eli Lawental, the musical director of Beit Terezin Dr. Dudu Sela, the director of Terezin Music Memorial Project Prof. David Bloch and the manager of Beit Terezin, Anita Tarsi spoke. The guests also visited the exhibition *Kamarad* at our Edelstein hall.

60 YEARS SINCE THE WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING

In memory of the Warsaw ghetto uprising and other forms of Jewish resistance against the Nazis a concert was given at the clubroom of kibbutz Givat Hayim-Ihud on February 23, 2003, organized by Beit Terezin. Outstanding young musicians played works by Pavel Haas, Viktor Ullmann, Gideon Klein and other Theresienstadt composers as well as classical music played in the ghetto.

The manager of Beit Terezin Anita Tarsi took part in the preparation of 2 study days (on April 8, and 9,) held at kibbutz Lohamey Hagetaot and Haifa university in memory of the Warsaw ghetto uprising. Representing Beit Terezin, Ruth Bondy lectured on *Resistance Without Arms*. She reiterated that resistance existed in many forms, not only that of armed fighters and partisans: the heroism of mothers, physicians and all those who helped others and kept their humanity.

CEREMONY FOR HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS IN EMEK HEFER

On May 1, 2003, a ceremony for Holocaust survivors of the Emek Hefer settlements was held. Many of our members who live in this area took part. In the evening was a program with 3 generations participating – Manka Alter sang together with a young singer cabaret songs from the ghetto, the granddaughter of Vera Idan sang for her grandmother and her generation. Three films were screened, about Ruth Elias, Vitka Kovner and Miriam Cervinka and their families.

The evening was organized in cooperation of Beit Terezin, the District Council and the Religious Council of Emek Hefer.

BEIT TEREZIN HELPED TO PRODUCE THE FILM *PRISONER OF PARADISE*

It has now been over two years since we embarked upon the making of a film about the life and death of the eminent Director, Actor and Cabaretist Kurt Geron. I don't think that anyone involved in our production of *Prisoner of Paradise* could have imagined the emotional impact that the film would have on the people involved in it. Although as film-makers we were far removed from the horrors of war, shooting in Terezin day after day, among the deserted barracks and empty courtyards, was a truly memorable, yet deeply disquieting experience. Knowing what had happened there, being conscious of the vast scale of the tragedy, which occurred in what was euphemistically called the "model ghetto" made every day a somber and sobering experience. We ended our production after having shot in 7 countries and our story itself became so complex that we spent a full year simply trying to find the best way to tell this fascinating, yet morally ambiguous tale of a man who made a film for the Nazis in the vain hope that he might gain favor and survive the war.

Along the way we were privileged to meet many extraordinary people; survivors of the Nazi terror, their families and friends, many of whom we tracked down through the invaluable assistance of Beit Terezin. We have since lost several remarkable 'characters' in our film... to old age and to illness. But we can at least say that we accomplished something; we placed on record the recollections and memories of some of the bravest and most stoic men and women any of us had ever met and we were able to tell a little of their stories in the telling of the tale of Kurt Geron. Any critical success that our film may enjoy when it is finally seen in movie theaters in the USA later this year will be a direct consequence of the trust and faith that was placed in us by those who were lucky enough to survive and generous enough to re-live their experiences for our cameras.

(The above was written to us on June 17, 2003 by Malcolm Clark)

MEETING OF FORMER WOMEN-PRISONERS OF CAMP FREIBERG

On April 8, 2003, thirteen women, who went together in 1944-45 from Birkenau through Freiberg to Mauthausen, met at Beit Terezin. One thousand women and girls were brought in summer and fall 1944 from Birkenau to Freiberg near Dresden to work there in the production of airplane parts. Some of the prisoners came to Birkenau from Terezin, others from Poland, Slovakia and other countries.

The local German historian Michael Duesing researched the history of the Freiberg camp, aided by a group of jobless young persons and published the stories in a book. A German TV station broadcast a film of interviews with 4 of the survivors. Following this the meeting came about, initiated by Zippora Nir, Edna Amit and Chava Livni. Edna opened with the words: "It is odd that a German searching for the past caused our meeting here today..."

The participants introduced themselves and exchanged memories. One of them brought an aluminum comb, which accompanied her throughout the years to Israel – it was made for her by another woman prisoner from a piece of scrap aluminum. A few stories were told about German foremen who secretly helped, but there were also cases of brutality. It is natural that each of the women remembered different details, but all remembered the spectacle of the bombardment of Dresden. And also the rail station in Southern Bohemia, on the way to Mauthausen, where – after many days of hunger – the villagers brought food ...

All stressed that at Freiberg camp there were no quarrels and no thefts.

MEETING OF “WINTON’S CHILDREN”

A very special meeting of “Winton’s children” took place on March 30, 2003, in Beit Terezin. They were 18 children born in Czechoslovakia, which were sent in 1941 to England and saved thanks to Nicky Winton. The original initiative for the meeting came from a member of our association, Kurt Stern, who wanted to honor Winton on the occasion of his 96th birthday. Winton could not come but in his honor all the “children” living in Israel met. Out of the meeting grew renewed contacts between the members of the group, who reminisced about those days. And somebody asked the question, how the parents then found the courage to send their children – some of them very small – to a distant country, and that in 1938-1939.

One of the ideas put forward at the meeting was the founding of an archive to document Winton’s work and the memoirs of the saved children – this was already started. Further it was proposed that the group finance a stipend fund in Winton’s name, to commemorate the children’s parents and to foster research on the subject of rescue. The steering committee of our association decided to view positively the conferring of a citation to N. Winton – in the framework of a general decision to confer such citations on people who helped during the Holocaust.

OUR EDUCATION CENTER

ISSUE NO. 23 OF “KAMARAD”

The 23rd issue of the youth newspaper *Kamarad* – a continuation of the 22 issues written in 1943 – 1944 in ghetto Terezin, appeared in April 2003. It is an impressive colorful brochure, dedicated to the “editors” of *Kamarad* in the ghetto.

For many months our education center, directed by Yonat Klar, worked on the creation of a continuation to *Kamarad* by youth, aged 13-18. These had participated in study days at Beit Terezin. They are students of the 11th and 12th grades of the Ramot Hefer Experimental School, who had visited our exhibition about the original newspaper and who had also seen the writings of students collected during 2002. Led by their graphics teacher Nili Gross they took it upon themselves to create a further issue of *Kamarad*. The last issue, in fall 1944, ended with the words: “To be continued”. A short time later all the children of the group and their teachers were deported to Birkenau. Issue no. 23 bears on its title page a red heart similar to the title page of the previous issues. Then there are face-to-face articles of the original with those written by the Israeli students. So, for example, the “editor in chief” Ivan Polak (1929-1945) wrote *How Kamarad was Created* and facing it writes Atalia Netzer *Mind and Matter*. Herbert Grotte (1929 – 1944) wrote *How I Manage with the Bread Ration* and Shirley Kaufmann writes *Diet*. Like the original, where every issue ends with comics about racing drivers – drawn by Ivan Polak – issue no. 23, too, ends with comics about racing drivers, by Aviad Schneider.

The project, which opened a new way for Israeli youth to understand better their peers in the Holocaust, was made possible by support from the Jewish Agency, the Religious Council and the District Council of Emek Hefer. The Press and Television remarked on it and it evoked much interest. We also got requests to introduce the project to Jewish communities in other countries.

After receiving issue no. 23 of *Kamarad* the deputy director of the Isr. Ministry of Education and director of its Youth Department wrote us:

I praise the idea to publish this continuation of Kamarad by Israeli youth. I have no doubt that this newspaper is the apex of an important educational process. It expresses the attitude of Israeli youth toward Holocaust remembrance. I appreciate the work of all those connected with the project.

The brochure *Kamarad 23*, is available at Beit Terezin (Nis 15.- , Hebrew)

KAMARAD 23, - RADIO PROGRAMMES AND PRIZES

On Holocaust Day the students, who edited and designed the brochure – Shirley Kaufmann, Guy Nir, Atalya Netzer and the project leader Nili Gross were invited to report about the idea and its realization in the Isr. Radio station “Aleph”. For an hour they talked about the 22 issues of *Kamarad* displayed in Beit Terezin, about the idea to publish after 58 years issue no. 23, and about editing and the graphic

design. They also mentioned the participation of Michael Kraus, a survivor of ghetto Terezin and Birkenau, who wrote a contribution to issue no. 23.

Further – Nili Gross and Guy Nir were interviewed in the program *Documedia* of the journalist Maty Golan of radio station “Bet” – many listeners reacted very positively. A great number of them already approached us to order a copy; others expressed their readiness to spread the idea of the project, to help with translation etc. One of them, David Talmor, visited Beit Terezin to view the exhibition *Kamarad* and developed a program to distribute issue no. 23 in other countries.

The 3 students received the *Jubilar* prize for research of the Holocaust in an impressive ceremony at Yad Vashem. The teacher Nili Gross and the Ramor Hefer School got a prize for educational initiative on the subject of the Holocaust by Keren Kayemet l’Israel – in a ceremony held at the Holocaust Instruction Institution *Massua*. The project was also nominated for the *Shalom Levin* prize of the teacher’s union.

THANKS TO THE EDUCATION CENTER

May Hof, non-com in the 13th flotilla of the Isr. Marine writes:

On May 12, 2003, soldiers of the technical unit of the 13th flotilla visited Beit Terezin. I would like to express our thanks and appreciation for the exalting and matter-of-fact study day. It is important to know that these soldiers are often not able to concentrate and especially at such study days.

Beit Terezin takes the subject of the Holocaust and brings it into a personal and detailed focus and this makes it easier for the soldiers to keep their interest and to stay with the subject. The instructors of the study day succeeded to move Holocaust Day into another perspective, that of the children of those days... I also want to express my deep appreciation to the Holocaust survivor, whose testimony we heard – she succeeded to touch us and so our visit in Beit Terezin became very meaningful.

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Eli Oz, leader of youth delegations to Poland and the Czech Republic and Tova Levinovic, director of the Department for Personnel Training of the Amal schools, wrote on April 2, 2003, to the director of Beit Terezin, Anita Tarsi:

At the conclusion of the teacher training course of the Amal schools we would like to thank you for your special contribution to the success of the course. The teachers and school managers of Amal got from you important and interesting information in preparation for their task as escorts for youth delegations in Poland and the Czech Republic, under the motto *Amal Tracing the Roots*. Both the training program and the choice of lecturers and testifying survivors were excellent. The participants were confronted with a wide band of subjects, questions and problems ... The lectures, discussions and workshops made the sessions a personal, pedagogical and professional experience.

NEW PEDAGOGIC WEBSITE

Journey in Jewish Time – on the Tracks of 3 Jewish Families is the title of a new pedagogic website on the Internet (in Hebrew), developed by *Amalnet* and Beit Terezin. It deals with the true stories of three Jewish families in Europe in the years 1881 – 1945: Family Mantel from Lodz, family Eliskevic from Visnieva in White Russia and the family of Mordechai Livni (Lieben) from Prague. The modern and impressive site is intended for high schoolers and combines information and interactivity, impressing the student and leading him to absorb knowledge. The life of the families is described from the end of the 19th century up to immigration to Israel. So, for example, the story of the Lieben family in Prague begins with “The House of the Three Feathers” where grandmother lived through the years before the Holocaust, the Holocaust and Aliyah.

The web address: <http://www.amalnet.k12.il/meida/masa>

SECOND GENERATION

Issue no. 8 of the publication of the second generation of Beit Terezin, edited by Talila and Tsvika Kislev, was published in March 2003. It contains a contribution by Liora Cohen about the study day on the subject of Heinz Prosnitz (held in November 2002), 2 poems by Edna Amit, a letter by Uri

Jakobowitz from Hadera, whose father came from Slovakia and mother from Sub-Carpathian Ukraine. He writes about his deep connection to the Holocaust and asks for more information about Jews from other countries who were in ghetto Terezin – in addition to those from the Czech lands.

Two members of the third generation take leave from grandparents: Dorit Avihar, moshav Hatseva, writes about her grandfather Yitzhak Behar who survived ghetto Terezin and Buchenwald, gardener by profession, father of three, grandfather of eleven and great-grandfather of nine descendents, who died at age 85. “Grandfather’s story is also the wonderful story of Denmark, which saved his life and liberated him from the ghetto through an exchange of prisoners. He was united with his wife and son, who awaited him in Sweden, where the Danes had brought them”.

The 25-year-old Oren takes leave from his grandmother Lili Sobotka, midwife by profession, who assisted a young girl to give birth in ghetto Theresienstadt – in spite of the harsh prohibition of the Nazis. She had no medical equipment save a shoelace, rags and smuggled scissors. “A healthy baby was born, but my grandmother didn’t know anything about his fate. Only 50 years later the “baby” found my grandmother and thanked her. In Israel Lea Sobotka worked in the Elisha Hospital and among the many, many births she assisted with was also her first granddaughter, my sister Galit”.

MEETING OF THE SECOND GENERATION

In the framework of the activities of the second generation a meeting took place on March 23, 2003, with the chairman of our association Dr. Eli Lawental, director of the Center for Treatment of Drug Addicts of the Haifa Rambam Hospital and lecturer for social work at Haifa University. He talked about the problem of drug addiction in Israel.

VISITORS

- Ms Michal Smoira-Cohn, the former director of the Jerusalem Music Academy and chairman of the Public Council of the Music Section of the Culture Department of the Isr. Ministry of Education visited Beit Terezin on April 20, and was impressed by our Education Center and by the musical activities. After her visit Ms Smoira-Cohn wrote: “Beit Terezin does important work in the field of conservation, documentation and the teaching of music created in the camp. This blessed undertaking is worthy of support and encouragement”.
- The director of educational projects of the *Claims Conference* Mr. Zvi Inbar visited Beit Terezin on May 5, 2003. The *Claims Conference* supports and enables many projects and activities of our association.
- The director of the Vienna Jewish Museum Dr. Georg Haber visited Beit Terezin on May 8.
- On June 3, the chairman of the *Bracha* foundation Dr. Martin Weil visited us, accompanied by Ms Idit Amihay, the director of the Section for Museums and Plastic Art of the Culture Department of the Isr. Ministry of Education. They became aware of the necessity to upgrade and renovate the historical museum of Beit Theresienstadt.

ACTUALITIES

TEREZINSKA INICIATIVA

The annual meeting of *Terezinska iniciativa*, the organization of former prisoners of ghetto Terezin in the Czech Republic was held on April 3, 2003, in Prague. Various functionaries reported on the activities of the association in the past year. The chairperson of the Education Commission Michaela Vidlakova reported that the number of guided excursions of Czech schools to the sites in ghetto Terezin grows steadily: last year there were 86 schools with a total of 3300 students. Dr. Jaroslava Milotova reported on the activity of the research institute of *Terezinska iniciativa*, which she directs: among others there was a research project on the subject *People Escaping* about Jewish refugees, mainly from Germany and Austria to Czechoslovakia after 1933 and about those, who escaped between 1939 and 1945. The institute works on the updating of the computerized lists of all former prisoners of ghetto Terezin and in the last year alone answered some 200 requests for information. The

first volume of the series *Acta Theresiana* is now being printed. It will include – in Czech translation – all the 432 Orders of the Day posted during the existence of the ghetto.

IMPRESSIONS FROM A MEETING AT YAD VASHEM

Achi Frank (Kibbutz Givat Hayim-Ihud), who volunteers at Beit Terezin, writes:

In the last week of December 2002 an international meeting was held at Yad Vashem under the name *Confrontation with History – Commissions of Historical Inquiry*. A major part of the sessions dealt with the looting of Jewish property and the efforts to achieve restitution. On December 31, representatives of various countries of Central and Eastern Europe, which had had Communist regimes, reported about special government commissions established during the last years in their countries. They collect material about the crimes perpetrated during the Nazi occupation of their countries and also about crimes during the Communist era. The importance of these initiatives is that this is the first time these countries confront a very problematic legacy of their past during WWII. It is the beginning of a difficult internal process and it is not sure to be brought to a closure.

A short time ago Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Hungary were accepted by the EU and it begs the question, if this will not diminish the motivation of the politicians of these countries to confront the dark past since from the standpoint of internal politics this is an unpopular subject. Nevertheless, this development must be seen positively and there is hope that an open discussion of these questions and the findings arising from the research will influence the educational system. Maybe the young generation will be prompted to internalize the ethical – historical consequences and will condemn anti-Semitism as an intolerable position.

PICTURES FROM THERESIENSTADT

From March until June 2003 an exhibition *The Last Expression: Art and Auschwitz* was shown at the Brooklyn Museum of Art in New York. Some 200 pictures by artists in ghettos and concentration camps – Buchenwald, Gur, Drancy, Auschwitz and Terezin were displayed, among them one by Karl Fleischmann (Courtyard in Theresienstadt 1942) and satirical drawings by Pavel Fantel. The art critic Grace Glick writes in the “New York Times” on March 21, 2003, that, contrary to the usual view that 60 years after the Holocaust it cannot shock you anymore, the exhibition leaves a deep impression – due to the down-to-earth character of the themes and the dearth of pathos in the displayed pictures.

ANNUAL CEREMONY

As every year on April 15, the day the British army liberated the Suederelbe district in Germany, two representatives of the local council laid a wreath at the memorial tablet at Neugraben near Hamburg, Germany. There some 500 women–prisoners from Terezin and from the family camp had worked, clearing the rubble after the huge bombings by the allied air forces. The first memorial tablet was erected in 1985 through the initiative of Karlheinz Schulz at the actual site of the camp, but after it was vandalized a few times it was attached to the building of the local council.

SONJA’S LEGACY

Sonja Fischerova from Prague was 11 years old, when she came to ghetto Terezin and 13 when she met her death in Auschwitz, together with her mother and sister. In the ghetto she drew under the instruction of Friedl Dicker-Brandeis, her drawings are in the collection of children’s drawings from Terezin displayed in the Prague Jewish Museum. Sonja’s relatives in New York and Israel discovered her colorful drawings only in the year 2000 on the occasion of a visit in Prague. They caused to create a traveling exhibition of these pictures, titled *Sonja’s Legacy* – in the hope to make the Holocaust better known among school children.

MUSIC FROM THERESIENSTADT

A POEM ABOUT FOOD RATIONS

The composition *Nachschub* (additional food) by Paul Aron Sandfort (sextet for string instruments, lute and trumpet) was played on May 8th 2003, at the memorial site Terezin by musicians from the Teplice orchestra. The music is accompanied by a poem (same title), also authored by Sandfort and read by him. In September 2003 the work will be played again, in Manchester. Sandfort writes: “And I will also perform *Brundibar*, as I did already more than 30 times in Norway, Sweden, The Netherlands, England and Germany – there I received an award by President Roman Herzog”.

Paul Aron Sandfort, author of the autobiographical book *Ben, Alien Bird*, was born 1930 in Hamburg, Germany, during the Nazi era the family fled to Kopenhagen. Trying to escape to Sweden they were caught and deported to Theresienstadt.

THERESIENSTADT MUSIC IN MANHATTAN

In March 2003 there were 2 concerts with Theresienstadt music in Manhattan. In the Central Synagogue on Lexington Str. On March 23, the opera *Der Kaiser von Atlantis*, composed by Viktor Ullmann in ghetto Terezin, with libretto by Peter Kien. (In the ghetto it was never performed to an audience because of its anti-Nazi content). The present performance is the start of a 3-year program with the aim to rediscover the musical legacy. It is dedicated to Jewish composers murdered or uprooted in the Holocaust, among them Viktor Ullmann, Gideon Klein, Pavel Haas as well as Alexander Zemlinsky, Kurt Weill and Bela Bartok. The New York-born composer and initiator of the program James Conlon remarks: “These concerts convey the tragic influence of wars on art, not only of WWII – but of all wars”.

The day after there was a concert of the Hawthorne String Quartet at the St. Bartholomew Church in Park Avenue. Among other works they played the Quartet for String Instruments by Haas, the Quartet for String Instruments no. 3. by Ullmann and 6 Lieder composed by him in 1937. The violinist of the Hawthorne Quartet Marc Ludwig is also the founder of the fund for Theresienstadt Chamber Music and its driving force.

As the music critic of the New York Times Allen Kozinn writes: what now is needed is – to include the works of the composers murdered in the Holocaust into the general music repertoire.

BRUNDIBAR LIVES ON

IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC:

The publication of *Terezinska iniciativa* of March 2003 informs us, that on September 23, 2003, the 60th anniversary of the Premiere of the children’s opera *Brundibar* in ghetto Terezin will be observed. The memorial *Pamatnik Terezin* is planning for that date a meeting of all who took part in the performance or saw it as children. *Brundibar* will be performed at the meeting – again.

IN THE USA:

On three evenings, from February 14th to 16th, 2003, the children’s opera *Brundibar* by Hoffmeister and Krasa was performed at the *Harry de Jur* theater in Manhattan. The initiator was the pianist Caroline Stoessinger who believes, that the opera should be performed because of its artistic value – with no connection to ghetto Terezin. It was directed by the 23-years-old Eric Einhorn as a play within a play, in which the well-known actor Eli Wallach as teacher explains to his class about the history and timeframe of the play. Ela Stein-Weissberger, who acted the role of a cat in the ghetto performance of *Brundibar*, participated in the event. At the beginning of the performance a short overture (piano) was played, which was composed by Krasa in ghetto Terezin. Heidi Waleson wrote in

the Wall Street Journal before the performance that the Chicago opera plans to stage *Brundibar* too. It is also included in summer workshops of the opera theaters in Washington and St. Louis.

IN ITALY

On the occasion of Holocaust day, observed in Europe on the day Auschwitz was liberated, the children's opera *Brundibar* was performed on January 27th and 28th at *Teatro Royal* in Bari, under the baton of Francesco Lottoro. The orchestra *Musica Judaica* played and the children's choir Orffea from Bari sang. Before the opera, the composition *Remember what Amalek Did to You* was played – the story of the deportations and of resistance in the Holocaust. The pianist and conductor Francesco Lottoro founded *Musica Judaica* 10 years ago and staged the children's opera since then in its Italian version in various cities in Italy.

OUR ARCHIVES

ALISA SHARON from Rehovot gave our archives after the death of her mother Zuzanna Fall-Stern in April 2003 five original pictures painted by Otto Ungar in ghetto Terezin. Four of them are drawn with a soft pencil – Two Women on a Cart, Old People Rummaging in the Trash, Young Couple in a Courtyard and Reposing Woman. Zuzanna Fall-Stern was born in 1920 in Moravska Ostrava and deported in 1943 to Terezin, where she survived and was liberated.

Alisa Sharon gave us also her mother's German typewritten cookbook and books about the Holocaust.

HE WAS GLAD TO COME TO TEREZIN

Walter Bressler, who (as a volunteer) did much photo-work for Beit Terezin, died in March 2003 in Tel Aviv. In a last interview, which was recorded for a research paper, titled *How Did Ghetto Terezin Influence My Later Life* and which Beit Terezin now received, Walter recounted:

“I am a special case among the many, many thousands, who were sent to Terezin – I was glad to come there. My parents divorced in 1936, I was then 10 years old. Mother went to Palestine, Father remarried, but he died during the German occupation and I stayed with the stepmother – and that was hell... I was deported to Terezin with my stepmother. 3 weeks after our arrival there in July 1942 I was included in a transport “to the East”. Honza Weinstein, who slept near me in the same room, told me to approach Fredy Hirsch and tell him that I am an orphan, since orphans were not sent away. I went and did not tell him about my stepmother – he said to me: ‘Go to sleep, everything will be all right’ and indeed, I received the order *ausgeschieden* – exempt from transport. So I was not sent to Maly Trostinec, where all were destroyed. I often dreamed and still dream about Terezin. Actually I did not suffer because of the Holocaust – I have not lost family. I played football in the ghetto in the Maccabi team of the Youth League, I was the goalkeeper and football was my whole life. I don't remember any of my teachers, any grown-up who influenced me in Terezin and I did not miss it... But now I am starting to think a lot about the Holocaust”.

LOYAL TO DEATH

Martin Gerson, born 1902, managed since summer 1943 the vegetable garden in ghetto Theresienstadt, whose produce was delivered to the German command post. In the fall of 1944 he volunteered to join a transport to Birkenau = from a feeling of mission and loyalty to his comrades and wards, who were sent in this transport – as he wrote in his last letter to the “Jewish Elder” of the ghetto Paul Edelstein. His wife and children were deported to Birkenau a few days after him. His niece Judith and her husband Gideon Vaadi from kibbutz Ein Harod gave us original documents about Martin Gerson. He was a pupil and later teacher at the Jewish school for Agriculture in Ahlem, Germany. The documents include reports from a Zionist preparatory group he led at the agricultural estate Winkel, photos, essays about him and a film on his life. Judith also wrote an essay *Traces of my Family Which I Lost in the Holocaust*.

PAVEL FANTEL'S LIFE

Hanna Greenfield from Jerusalem researched the life of Pavel Fantel, whose drawings and essays from Terezin look at the ghetto reality with an ironic smile. Fantel, born 1903, was a biochemist, a specialist in public health and the highest ranking medical officer of the Czechoslovak army – in Terezin he became director of the hospital for typhoid cases. A short time before he was deported to Birkenau, together with his wife and 5-year-old son, he succeeded to smuggle his drawings and essays out of the ghetto, including caricatures he had made for the satirical newspaper *Salom na patek*. Fantel survived the selection but was shot dead on his 45th birthday, on January 7, 1945, in Silesia, after he contracted typhoid fever. In addition to Pavel Fantel's biography Hanna Greenfield gave us her correspondence with his brother Ernst, who lives in England, on the family history and Pavel's life. She also gave us invitations and programs from cabaret performances of the comedian Ernst Morgan (Morgenstern) in the ghetto and photographs of 31 pictures drawn by Otto Ungar in Terezin.

DOCUMENTS ABOUT GHETTO LIFE

Margit Silberfeld nee Kampert from Jerusalem gave our archives a number of original documents, among them a postcard written in December 1941 by Artur Nefels from ghetto Lodz to Prague, attests from ghetto Terezin about the deaths of Hermann Hirschel and Yekutiel Gustav Kantorowitz, who came to the ghetto from Berlin and died there in 1943. Margit Silberfeld also let us have some of her personal documents from Terezin - vouchers for a used dress and shoes, a request for an additional food allotment, a receipt of the ghetto bank, medical reports, a request for a *Zulassungsmarke* (a stamp entitling the addressee to receive a parcel from outside the ghetto) and others.

FROM BERGEN-BELSEN TO THERESIENSTADT

Gershon Kedar from Ramat Gan gave us a copy of the original as well as a Hebrew and an English translation of a diary, written by his grandfather Moritz Gans from January 1944 to July 19, 1945. Moritz Gans and his wife Else were sent in January 1944 from the concentration camp Bergen-Belsen to ghetto Theresienstadt. They were liberated there – and met their son Manfred, a British officer, who came to the ghetto to look for them. “All the suffering of the last years is forgotten – the sons are alive”. The diary describes in short the difficulties of life in the ghetto and there is also a description of the remnants of *death marches* which arrived in the ghetto in April 1945, walking skeletons. The diary ends with the return of Moritz and Else Gans in June of 1945 to Holland: “After 26 months and two days free people again”.

Gershon Kedar gave us also a copy of interviews of Judy Ziv with Manfred Gans (the brother of Gershon Kedar) about his time in the British army as well as a research paper written by her on this subject from March 2001, titled *Europe 1945 – Travelogue*, where the meeting with the parents in ghetto Theresienstadt is described.

CHILDREN IN THE GHETTO

Gerda Steinfeld nee Kreuzer from Givatayim gave our archives a German poem she wrote (at age 12) together with her friend Ruth Maiberg in 1944 for their teachers in the ghetto toward the New Year – they also read it in the attic of the *Hamburger* barracks: “So suess wie heute der Honig – so brav wollen wir sein dieses Jahr” (as sweet as today the honey – as well-behaved will we be this year). Gerda came in July 1942 from Hannover, Germany, to the ghetto. She re-wrote also from memory other poems from the ghetto, among them also a song, sung by her group of about ten children, aged 8-12 at an outing on the ramparts of the town: “Ich bin ein kleiner Chalutz, Chalutz / ich fahr' nach Eretz Jisrael / wer faehrt mit mir?” (I'm a little Chalutz / I am going to Palestine / who will come with me?) She also wrote down a fragment of a performance rehearsed by groups of children for Passover 1944 – they sang “Avadim hayinu” (we were slaves), carried stones on their shoulders, trudging with heavy steps.

POEMS AND DRAWINGS

Yehuda Manor from Ramat Hasharon gave us 77 German poems written by his father Hans Munk (born 1899) in ghetto Theresienstadt. He came to the ghetto in summer 1943 and was deported in September 1944 to Birkenau, from there to Kaufering camp near Dachau, where he died in February 1945. Hans Munk also drew in the ghetto and Yehuda maintains that there is a connection between the poems and the drawings. One of the poems, *Ich bin Abortfrau in der Kavalleriekaserne* (I am the toilet lady in the Kavalier barracks) was written in memory of his aunt Else Munk. She came, aged 63, from Vienna to Theresienstadt, worked there as a toilet lady and died in March 1943.

BIRTHDAY IN THE GHETTO

Steven Bruce-Lambert from Shorewood, Wisconsin, USA, gave our archives a birthday wish for the 75th birthday of his great-grandmother Adelheid Gruenebaum-Strauss – she celebrated it on June 28, 1944, in ghetto Theresienstadt. Though her cousin Bertl with husband Heinz, who had rhymed and drawn the wish, wished her “be strong and don’t despair”, Adelheid died in the ghetto shortly afterwards. Steven’s second great-grandmother Klara Simon-Katz also died in the ghetto – 2 months after liberation. Steven Bruce-Lambert also gave us a photo of Adelheid with her husband and son Leo, who had succeeded to escape in time to the USA.

PREPARING TO EMIGRATE

A collection of documents about preparations for the emigration to Palestine (as it was called then) of Else Ellinger in the framework of *Youth Alyiah* in 1939 from Prague was given to Beit Terezin by her son Yaakov Ritov. Among other papers is the request by *Juedische Jugendhilfe* (Jewish Help for Youth) of her parents, to inscribe her in a preparatory group in Prague, disguised as “Youth Alyiah School”. Else made it in 1939 to Palestine – the parents, a brother and a sister died in the Holocaust.

DOV STRAUSS

from Yokneam gave us a copy of an album from his youth with pictures of members of *Maccabi Hatzair* in Jihlava (Iglau) from summer camps of the movement and from the training group in Denmark. Young people were sent there for agricultural work (since they could not go directly to Palestine) – and that saved their lives. The photographs depict also some of the leaders of *Maccabi Hatzair* who perished in the Holocaust: Fredy Hirsch, Dov Revesz and Kapsi Karplus. Dov Strauss – then Ossi – also gave us letters written by his friends in the “Protektorat” in 1939-1940 to Denmark.

URIEL REINGOLD

from Raanana gave our archives a letter written (in Polish) by his uncle Sigmund Reingold after the liberation in ghetto Theresienstadt. He had come there with one of the “death marches” in April 1945, sick with typhoid fever. The letter is addressed to his two brothers, Arie (Uriel’s father) and Moshe – both in Palestine. The letter narrates Sigmund’s ordeal and the fate of the family – which lived in Lodz – during the Holocaust.

AVIGDOR LEFKOVITZ

came from a religious family, he was born in 1909 in Lazy near Moravska Ostrava. In 1939 he came to Palestine, served in the British Army and became later a member of kibbutz Givat Hayim-Ihud. His two sisters were in ghetto Terezin, they died later in Bergen-Belsen, his father survived in the ghetto but lost his religious beliefs. His grandson Oriah celebrated his bar-mitzvah in 2002 and at the ceremony he wore the talith which had belonged to his great-grandfather. All this is recorded in the brochure published by the family for Oriah’s bar-mitzvah in memory of Avigdor Lefkovitz.

EVA AND PETER ENGELMANN

from Bathurst, Australia, sent us a copy of *Terezinska Epopej* (Terezin Epos), which they had received from friends. It consists of 32 typewritten pages of Czech verse, written in the ghetto by Dr. Karel Hartmann. He was born in 1885 and wrote under the pen name Karel Manhart. Dr. Hartmann was deported in July 1942 to ghetto Terezin and from there in October 1944 to Auschwitz. The *Epos* was buried in the earth and found after the liberation. It is a testimony of the suffering of the ghetto prisoners, but also of their ability to laugh at themselves.

ELI BREDA

from Tsur Israel, who had come to then Palestine in 1939, gave our archives letters sent to him by his parents and relatives from the "Protektorat". His mother writes about the impossibility to emigrate and about the dreadful worries for the future – the letters from him being the only joy the family had. "You, too, pray for us". The family, which hailed from Brno, perished in the Holocaust. Eli Breda gave us also a picture of his brother Pavel Breda, taken during a football match in the ghetto for a Nazi propaganda film and also photographs of Fredy Hirsch, Zeev Shek and others from a summer camp of Maccabi Hatzair in Brno.

TRANSLATIONS

Shimon Weissbecker translated from German into Hebrew Kaethe Starke's book *Der Fuehrer schenkt den Juden eine Stadt* (The Fuehrer gives the Jews a town).

Alisa Shek translated from Czech into English from the yearbook 2002 of *Terezinske studie a dokumenty*, among others an article by Miroslav Karny *7 months in Kaufering*, one by Tomas Fedorovic about the Terezin ghetto commander Siegfried Seidel and a report about an escape from the extermination camp Zamosz by Lukas Pribyl.

Mordechai and Chava Livni translated from German into English documents from the *Prominenten* file from ghetto Terezin, which we have in our archives, from Czech into English documents and letters from the file *Karl Lagus*, who – together with Josef Polak – wrote one of the first researches about Terezin in Czech, titled *Town Behind Bars*.

Miriam Cervenka translated from Czech into Hebrew *From the Diary of Pavel Bondy* by Pata Fischl (Gabriel Dagan), correspondence of Irma Lauscher, educator in the ghetto, with her husband Jiri from the time of the ghetto's liberation and an essay about radio communications of the resistance in Terezin and memoirs by Josef Svehla from 1948.

Ruth Bobek continues to translate the children's newspaper *Vedem* from ghetto Terezin from Czech into Hebrew. She also works with Sima Shahar from the team of Beit Terezin at the re-organization of our photo archives.

PRESS

ALFRED KANTOR'S DEATH

Many newspapers in the USA (among them the New York Times, Boston Globe and the weekly Time) eulogized Alfred Kantor, who died in Yarmouth, Maine, USA, aged 79. He was born in Prague in 1923 and studied there graphics. After his deportation to ghetto Terezin, from there to the Birkenau family camp, to Schwarzheide and the "death march" he started to paint in water colors - scenes from his horrible experiences, with special attention to small details in the prisoner's life. His drawings from Terezin were preserved thanks to a friend, those from Birkenau and Schwarzheide were lost – but immediately after liberation in summer 1945 Kantor redrew them from the still fresh memory and added short explanations. As he said, in the camps he painted mainly out of survival instinct.

In the USA Kantor worked in commercial graphics and advertising. An album of his paintings was published in 1971 by McGraw-Hill in New York and also published in Germany. With the artists and his family's permission Beit Terezin published a teaching program titled *Color in Gray*, in Hebrew

and in German. The folder contains 28 full size color prints of Kantor's paintings, 28 reduced, postcard-sized black and white pictures, explanations by the artist and a teaching aid for teachers and students. The folder is available at Beit Terezin.

PLATONIC COOKING

is the title of an article by Nira Russo, published in the Isr. daily *Haaretz* on April 25, 2003. It deals with the habit of prisoners and mainly women in ghettos and camps to talk about cooking and even to write down recipes from "before". The expression *platonian cooking* was coined by the historian Mina Paechter, who wrote a cookbook in ghetto Terezin. It was published in the USA in English translation by her family and friends. A few months before her death in Terezin Mina P. finished the cookbook with 70 recipes from her and her friends in the barracks, it contains also poems. Before she died she gave the booklet to a friend who sent it after the war to her daughter Anny Stern in New York.

LIFE STORIES

The publication of the Jewish communities in the Czech Republic and Slovakia *Ros Chodes* brought in its issue of January 2003 the chapter *What my Listeners Loved to Hear* from the book *Three Years in Terezin* by Anna Aurednickova, in honor of the 130th anniversary of her birth. Aurednickova nee Schick was the widow of Zdenko Aurednicek, counsel for the defense in the case of Leopold Hilsner, accused of ritual murder, which – accompanied by a wave of wild Jew-baiting – was held at the end of the 19th century in Bohemia. Aurednicek became the target of unbridled hate. On the advice of Tomas Masaryk the couple moved to Vienna, where their house became a center of Czech culture. In ghetto Terezin the by then 70 years old Aurednickova (who was not required to work anymore) used to read to sick, blind and old people, to allay their suffering. She talked about her reminiscences, about people she knew, countries she had visited and – on request by her always hungry listeners – about the menus of feasts she had attended.

REPAIR OF FLOOD DAMAGES

Issue no. 1, of the publication of the Prague Jewish Museum for 2003 reports on the repair of damages caused in August 2002 by the high water in the Pinkas Synagogue. On the walls of this old building are the names of all victims of the Holocaust from Bohemia and Moravia. Dozens of professionals of various branches checked the damages caused by dampness, salts absorbed in the walls and mikro-organisms brought in by sewage. The professional treatment notwithstanding, which saved part of the lettering, some of the names will have to be re-written, mainly at the lower part of the walls. The work for structural strengthening of the building began in February 2003, but possibly further means of stabilization will be necessary in addition to the steel supports.

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At the state memorial Pamatnik Terezin the battle goes on to repair the destruction left behind by the floods, writes the director Dr. Jan Munk in his annual report, published in March 2003. Some of the ground-level exhibitions at the Small Fortress were destroyed completely, as was the mortuary in the walls and also the columbarium, which was restored only a short time ago. The ghetto crematorium was flooded for 4 months and the drying-out will have to continue until summer 2003. The improvised synagogue in a store-room of one of the houses of the former ghetto, with Hebrew inscriptions on its walls, was heavily damaged. The exhibition at the second floor of the ghetto museum is intact, but repair of the damages at ground level and the branch at the "Magdeburg" barracks will be finished only in the summer. Dr. Munk calls the flood and the heavy damage caused to some 300 objects a tragedy and expresses his thanks to all the many persons and organizations that helped.

ABOUT THE FAMILY CAMP

The Austrian publication *Zwischenwelt* for literature, resistance and diaspora published in its issue of February 2003 a contribution by Martin Krist about three books dealing with the Birkenau family camp of former Theresienstadt prisoners. (The books appeared in German translations). *Die bemalte Wand* (The Painted Wall) by Ota B. Kraus (Dietrich Verlag, Cologne 2002), *Als Boten der Opfer* (Emissaries of the Victims), an autobiographical report about the journey Terezin – Auschwitz – Schwarzheide – and back to Terezin by Pavel Stransky (new printing of the 1997 edition) and the biography *Fredy Hirsch* by Lucie Ondrichova (Hartung – Gorre, Constance 2000). They all are focused very much on the history of the children's block in the family camp. Krist writes about the uniqueness of the children's block, describes the novel by Ota Kraus as extraordinary and many-faceted and also praises P. Stransky's book. The book by Ota B. Kraus will be published shortly in Hebrew translation by the Kraus family with Beit Terezin and support from the Rabinovitz foundation.

DRAWINGS BY CHILDREN IN TEREZIN

The publication of the organization of Zionist women in the USA *Hadassah* printed in its issue 2003 an essay by Lisa Alkalay-Fuerstenberg about the artist Friedl Dicker-Brandeis and the drawings made by children in ghetto Theresienstadt under her instruction. The essay was written on the occasion of the exhibition *Friedl Dicker-Brandeis and the Theresienstadt Children* in the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles and is illustrated by some of the drawings. Among these are two, drawn by girls: *Composition with Circle* by Ruth Guttmann and *Candle and Boat* by Lili Bobas (now Edna Amit in Mihmoret). The essay informs us that 2 women – Lena Makarova from the former USSR (now living in Jerusalem) and Regina Seidmann-Miller, USA, started to take an interest in the person and work of the artist at the same time, the exhibition and the catalogue are the result of their cooperation.

RUTH BONDY'S BOOKS

The newsletter of the Association of Former Czechoslovaks in Israel *Hazman Haze*, edited by Nathan Steiner, brought in its issue no. 69, (spring 2003) a book report by Dr. Bella Gutermann about Ruth Bondy's book *Shorashim Akurim* (Uprooted) – chapters from the history of Czech Jewry. Issue no. 70, (summer 2003) brings a segment from her new autobiographical book *Nehamot K'tanot* (Small Comfort), published in early 2003 by *G'vanim* (Hebr.). The books are available in Beit Terezin.

RESEARCH

THE MEANING OF THE GHETTO EXPERIENCE

The Search for Meaning – Childhood Memories of Survivors of Theresienstadt Ghetto – a Narrative Study is the title of a paper by Liora Tokair, submitted by her to the School for Education of Bar Ilan University. The theoretical basis of her work are the writings of Viktor Frankl about the search for meaning in human life, even in extreme situations like concentration camps. For her research Liora Tokair interviewed 15 survivors who were children (up to age 14) in ghetto Terezin. One of the aims of the research was to find the source of the mental faculties, which enabled people to keep their optimism and motivation in a world of suffering. The interviewees said that they found the necessary strength in cultural activities in the ghetto, in their relationship to surrounding people – family, instructors and friends in the group – and in hope for the end of the war. Another chapter of the paper deals with the importance of the so-called re-biography – the building of a meaningful life in the later life of the survivors.

In the introduction to her paper Liora T. thanks the director Anita Tarsi and the whole team of Beit Terezin for the great help they gave her.

MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS

The parents of Edna Mor from Haifa came in 1934 from Czechoslovakia to then Palestine, but their families Blonsky and Zajicek from Brno were deported to Terezin and perished. Basing herself on her work in the framework of the organization *Amcha*, which gives mental support to Holocaust survivors and members of the second generation, the psychologist Edna Mor wrote a paper on the subject *The Process of Inter-Generational Mourning as Trigger for the Search of a Connection to Mother – Surviving Mothers and Their Daughters*. For her research she chose 7 mothers from Poland, Hungary, Rumania and Italy, who were children during WWII – 3 of them lost in the Holocaust both parents, 2 lost one. The paper makes it clear that the majority of the mothers never talked to their Israel-born daughters about their Holocaust experiences. They locked themselves into themselves; most of the daughters characterized the atmosphere at home as heavy and depressing. The aim of the treatment of the mothers was, to help them to mourn their losses and to accept their daughters as independent persons. The aim of the treatment of the daughters was, to help them to define their own autonomous personality, to separate from the mother and to meet her again – and then the daughter can really take part in the mother's grief.

An exhibition of drawings by Edna Mor on the subject *Landscape and Holocaust* was shown in December 2002 in the Culture Center of Hod Hacarmel.

CHILDHOOD IN GHETTO TEREZIN

is the title of a final paper in history by Inbal Eisner, Kol Israel Haverim High School in Haifa, written under the supervision of Rahel Wallach. The idea, to write about children's handicraft in the ghetto grew out of a visit to the Prague Jewish Museum in the framework of a family trip to the Czech Republic. The paper describes 3 outstanding educators in Terezin – Egon Redlich, Trude Groag and Friedl Dicker-Brandeis. There are analyses of handicraft by children of Kindergarten age from the collections of Beit Terezin, of drawings and poems and also of a children's newspaper *Domov*. Each of the works is accompanied by an explanation of the material and the technique used, about the obvious and the subjective impression. On the basis of these analyses Inbal found that most children were optimistic and full of joy of life and that the instructors had the will to educate toward humanism, love of humankind and human dignity.

ORA PORAT

from the Ami Assaf High School, Beit Berl, wrote her final paper in history, supervised by Shira Ohayon on the subject *Ghetto Terezin – the Town the Fuehrer Gave to the Jews - as a Means of Nazi Propaganda*. In the paper (50 pages) Ora draws the conclusion that the Nazis succeeded, mainly thanks to the positive report written by the chief of the Commission of the International Red Cross Dr. Maurice Rossel after visiting the ghetto in June of 1944.

GHETTO THERESIENSTADT – MODEL GHETTO.

The relation between the character and the composition of the ghetto population and its designation as model ghetto is the title of a paper written by Daphna Siboni, kibbutz Nir Am, the Shaar Hanegev School. The research is dedicated to her brother Assaf, who lost his life at the major helicopter collision in 1991. After details about the historical background, the Jewish autonomy and culture and education in the ghetto Daphna concludes that the ghetto population had a rather German orientation, educated toward discipline and lawfulness – the Zionist leaders of the ghetto were interested to manage the ghetto as efficiently as possible: common interests of the Germans and the Jews served both sides and made it easier to convert the ghetto into a "model ghetto".

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

LAST LETTERS

The book *Ele D'varay Ha'ahronim – Mihtavim Aharonim min Hashoa* (These are my last words – last letters from the Holocaust) was published in 2003 by Yad Vashem. Among others it contains a letter by Heinz Schuster and Leser Moldavan, members of the *Hehalutz* in Prague, dated May 20, 1943, sent through Switzerland and addressed to their Hehalutz comrades in Palestine. On the situation in the Czech lands it says: “There are only a few left here, the same situation is in Theresienstadt – only a small part of those deported from here”.

The majority of the letters, of course, was sent from Poland – but there are some from Germany, The Netherlands, France, Italy, Hungary and other occupied countries. Some of the letter-writers found their deaths in ghetto Terezin or were deported from there to extermination. The editor of the book Prof. Tsvi Bachrach was 14 years old when he came from Hamburg to ghetto Theresienstadt and was deported to Birkenau in the fall of 1944 together with his parents and brothers.

CHILD IN THE GHETTO

A Look Over my Shoulder Gary Fabian called his memoirs, published in 2002 in Coulfield South in Australia. Gary, then Gerhard, was born in 1934 in Stuttgart, Germany, but two years later his parents decided to move to Czechoslovakia, which seemed to be a safer place. The father bought a plant for the manufacture of medical instruments in Bodenbach (Podmokly). But when the Sudeten were occupied, they had to flee again. The father – as a specialist for medical instruments - luckily found work at the Prague Jewish Community. Gary was 8 years old when he came to Terezin, together with his parents – here, too, the father's work in the health department saved the family from transports to the East. Gary was not in a children's home and didn't study much. In his memoirs he relates that from age ten he worked in a sewing workshop, where German uniforms were repaired.

After the war the Fabian family immigrated to Australia. Because of his inadequate education Gary could not fulfill his dream to become a veterinarian. He became an electrician, worked with his father in business and switched finally to journalism. When he visited Terezin in 1996 and saw the Nazi propaganda film shot there, he identified himself among the spectators of a football match.

RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTS

The year book *Theresienstaedter Studien und Dokumente* (Theresienstadt Studies and Documents), edited by Jaroslava Milotova, is dedicated to the memory of Miroslav Karny (1919-2001), the initiator and editor in chief of this project until his death. The German – Czech volume, published by *Terezinska iniciativa* and *Akademia* publishers begins with a biography of M. Karny, a bibliography of his writings and an essay written by him: *Seven Months in Kaufering*. There is also an article by Jaakob Tsur about camp Schwarzheide, which was a branch of concentration camp Sachsenhausen, a contribution by Ruth Bondy: *The Past is Not Past* on the influence of ghetto Terezin on its former prisoners, a research paper by Anna Hajkova about Dutch Jews in Terezin and the report about the dramatic escape of Ruth and Armin Beck from Zamosz, where they were brought in April 1942 from Terezin in transport Ar. The Czech part of the yearbook contains also an article by Tomas Fedorovic about the first commander of ghetto Terezin Dr. Siegfried Seidel.

INFORMATION ON BERGEN-BELSEN

The memorial of concentration camp Bergen-Belsen, where in the last months of WWII also hundreds of women prisoners from ghetto Terezin reached their last stop, started publishing a Hebrew-language newsletter. It informs the reader of the enormous mortality rate in the camp – from hunger, cold and diseases – and not only among the Jewish prisoners: 22.000 Russian prisoners of war were brought to the camp in July 1941, of these 14.000 died until spring of 1942. The permanent exhibition was opened only in 1990, the international commission of professionals for documentation and research includes researchers from Germany, the USA, Poland and Israel.

LETTERS

EVA DUSKOVA FROM PRAGUE

wrote us in March 2003:

"After I read your newsletter I realized, how important it is to inform you about a ceremony, held on December 3, 2002, in Litomyšl, commemorating the deportation of the town's Jews 60 years ago. (I am one of three Terezin children born in Litomyšl, who survived)".

The wreath-laying at the location, where the synagogue once stood – destroyed long ago – was attended by the chairman of the Prague Jewish Community Tomas Jelinek and by representatives of the embassies of Argentina, Rumania and Israel. Eva Duskova addressed the meeting after a speech by the mayor Ing. Jancek. The ceremony ended with a prayer by the Prague chief rabbi Karol Sidon. There were also meetings with students, educators and citizens of Litomyšl. The town is located in the East of the Czech Republic and has about 10.000 inhabitants.

ILANA KIRSHNER FROM KFAR SABA

wrote on February 5, 2003:

I received your issue no. 54, and would like to remark –

1. In the article in memory of the deportation of the Jews of Ostrava 60 years ago you write: "... Only 110 survived and out of these only one today lives in the town". I am from Ostrava and my cousin Jan Mayer, also born in Ostrava, lives with his wife – also born in the town – in Ostrava.
2. Prof. Gabriele Silten writes: "...only the Czech children were able to draw and write" It has to be stressed that not all Czech children enjoyed such advantages. I, too, was a Czech child, one and a half years in Terezin, but I understood even then – at age 12 – that there is not a sufficient number of children's homes to accommodate all.

PART OF A LETTER BY MICHAL BAR:

... the circles are closing. A few days ago I got a letter from Ms Hildegard Steckelmacher from Germany. First I thought that she must be a lost relative – my maiden name was Steckelmacher. It transpired that she is German and collecting material on Prof. Irma Lauscher to honor the nearing anniversary of her 100th birthday. Prof Lauscher taught us (after liberation) at the rest homes of Premysl Pitter, she taught my sister in Terezin, too. In 1947 the youth movement Gordonia Maccabi Hatzair sent me to Prague to organize Jewish youth for immigration to Israel. I contacted Irma Lauscher and she said to me: "You have to organize here a Zionist youth movement".

FRANK BRIGHT (FORMERLY BRICHTA) FROM IPSWICH

wrote in December 2002:

Many thanks for sending me a copy of "Art and Medicine in the ghetto Terezin" which is a phantastic achievement.

Looking through the book was sad and inspiring at the same time.

I was in the children's hospital with suspected nephritis there myself, also had two operations for blocked and infected sinuses (no anesthetic), still remember the thick needle being pushed up my nose crushing through the bone into the sinus and being told by the doctor to not to move because there was a sight nerve close by and then having the cavity flushed out, it felt as if the top of my head would come off. I also remember my mother being rushed to hospital with a gall bladder attack. Often the operations were successful but the patients were too weak to recover. The difficult conditions doctors and nurses lived and worked under came back looking at the drawings...

HELGA KING nee WOLFENSTEIN (1922–2003) – IN MEMORIAM

In the following is an extract from two letters about the death of Helga King, one by Dr. Tomi Spenser from kibbutz Sasa, the other by Francis A. Maier from California.

From 1941 to 1945 Helga King was in ghetto Theresienstadt. There she met the painter Peter Kien – he became her great inspiration and youthful love. She was a talented painter, but too modest to allow her work being shown widely. Her story can be read in Juergen Serke's book "Boehmische Doerfer", published also in Czech translation in 2001 by Triada publishing in Prague.

She died June 19, 2003, in Lake Worth, Florida, mourned by her husband, daughter and son-in-law.

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MEMBERSHIP DUES

Time flies, the year passes fast, there is steadily more and more work at Beit Terezin and money is needed very much – please, remit your membership dues as soon as possible! And an additional donation would be appreciated.

The membership dues for 2003 are:

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

Membership dues and 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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