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FUTURE ACTIVITIES

NOTE IN YOUR DIARY!

- The seminar “History, Music and Remembrance” will be held at Beit Theresienstadt from July 24th to 29th. With participation of young musicians from Israel, Germany and Poland, the seminar will deal with music composed or performed in ghetto Theresienstadt, with music banned by the Nazis and also with composition of present-day music. The instructors are Nira Zakkai (vocalist), Matitiahu Kellig (piano), Alan Sternfeld (piano), Dudu Sela (cello), Eliahu Schulmann (violin) and Michael Wolfe (composition). During the seminary there will be master classes, lectures, concerts and various events open to the public. On Monday, July 25, at 16.30 hours (the second day of the seminar) the exhibition *Drawing on Pages of Time* will be officially opened. The event will be attended by the representative of the Claims Conference in Israel Mr. Abraham Pressler, the director of the Youth Department of the Isr. Ministry of Education Mr. Noah Shalev, the chairman of our association Dr. Eli Lawental and – for the family – by Gideon Groag. The program will include a lecture by the composer Michael Wolfe: “Looking at the last works of Gideon Klein and Viktor Ullmann from the Jewish point of view.
- On Tuesday, July 26, starting at 9.30 hours, “Songs of the Youth Movements”, sung by members of the founder’s generation, will be recorded – in cooperation with the Music Department of Bar Ilan university and the Department for Music Studies of the Isr. Ministry of Education under Dr. Yael Shay. On the same day in the afternoon a meeting with Ruth Elias will take place.
- On Thursday, July 28th, at 19.00 hours the sculpture “Butterfly” created by the sculptor Rick Wienecke will be unveiled, afterwards there will be a concert by students and their instructors.
- On Friday, July 29th, at 12.00 hours the closing concert of the seminar will be performed at the Targ Music Center in Ein Kerem, Jerusalem.
- The meeting *Women and Holocaust* will be held this year for the third time. The subject will be “Gender-related Holocaust Research”. It will start on Monday, September 5th, at Beit Berl, on Tuesday September 6th it will continue at Beit Theresienstadt and the final sessions will be held at Beit Lohamey Hageaot on Wednesday, September 7th. Many researchers from Israel and abroad have registered to lecture and it will be a many-faceted and interesting program.
- On Wednesday, December 28th, at 16.00 hours all our volunteers will meet at Beit Theresienstadt.

For all these events invitations with pertinent details will be mailed.

DRAWING ON PAGES OF TIME – NEW EXHIBITION AT BEIT TEREZIN

At the Jacob Edelstein hall a new exhibition “Drawing on Pages of Time” was opened, displaying works by Emo (Emanuel) and Trude Groag and their son Willi. They had survived in ghetto Theresienstadt and willed most of their creations to Beit Theresienstadt. The family was brought in July 1942 from Olomouc (Olmuetz) in Moravia to the ghetto and liberated there in May 1945. Like many other prisoners there they continued to create their art, beside and after the daily forced labor. During all the time in the ghetto, with hunger, disease, want and despair.

The collection contains hundreds of items – drawings and paintings, letters, artifacts, portraits, Theresienstadt views, greeting cards, drawings of flowers, nature and landscapes and also handicraft made by Trude with children in the ghetto. The collection is a rich source of information about life in the ghetto and about the day-to-day difficulties the prisoners had to cope with – hunger, search for additional food, physical and mental suffering.

In spite of that the drawings radiate optimism, humor and irony and illustrate the power of creativity fighting against impossible living conditions. They embody the attempt of the Theresienstadt prisoners to maintain their human dignity and to retain their former identity as persons and artists. The works of the Groags also illuminate the warm and rich relationship among the members of the family as well as the encouragement and the support they gave to their fellow sufferers in the ghetto.

A chronology of events in the ghetto and in the world in the relevant epoch - from the Nazi's rise to power to the liberation of the ghetto - is interspersed between the displayed exhibits, to explain the full meaning of the creations. Among the exhibits there are also fragments of “Orders of the day”, which prescribed the prisoner's activities and defined, what was allowed and what was forbidden. The curator of the exhibition is Sima Shahar, the designer Dudi Gal. The exhibition was made possible through the support of the Claims Conference, our members and friends from Israel and abroad.

ACTIVITIES AT BEIT TEREZIN

60 YEARS SINCE THE END OF WWII AND THE LIBERATION OF TEREZIN

ANNUAL MEETING

The traditional annual meeting of our association was held this year on May 28th. Its main motif was the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the ghetto; hundreds of our members from Israel and abroad participated. From the USA came: Felice Ehrmann and Ella Weissberger, from Canada: John Freund, George Brady with his daughter Lara Hana, from England: Felix Winkler with his wife. Among the guests was also Fumico Ishioka, director of the Tokyo Holocaust Education Resource Center, who reported on her work. The core of her teaching program is the suitcase of a girl, Hana Brady, which remained in Auschwitz after the 8-years-old child was murdered. A reproduction of the suitcase was sent to Japan; Fumico Ishioka built around it a teaching program and this developed more and more until it led to the publication of a book about Hana's story.

Ms Ivana Zontova, consul of the Czech embassy in Israel, recounted her connection of many years with Beit Theresienstadt and her love for Israel – in perfect Hebrew. Family members of the Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon attended the meeting also; they met Chava Pressburger.

Chava is the sister of Petr Ginz, the boy who perished in the Holocaust and whose drawing Ilan Ramon took with him on his ill-fated flight into space.

At the opening of the meeting, fragments of memoirs written by former prisoners of ghetto Theresienstadt, were read. The chairman of our association Dr. Eli Lawental stressed in his address the achievements of our association and of Beit Theresienstadt, which realizes our aims in research, education and memorialization of the Jews of ghetto Terezin. Alas, in spite of the work invested, the creativity and the impressive achievements Beit Terezin struggles with financial difficulties. The director of Beit Terezin Nira Faran moderated the event.

For the benefit of the assembled members of our association the exhibition of works by Trude, Emo and Willi Groag – who survived the ghetto and bequeathed most of their creations to Beit Theresienstadt – was opened. Members of the Groag family participated in the opening. Willi's daughter Chava Linden, who was born in the ghetto, addressed the meeting and one of the great-grandchildren of Emo and Trude cut the ribbon. (See page 3)

At the meeting of the second generation the artist Hayim Maor talked about the sources of his work *Pney hageza v'hazikkaron* (Trunk and Memory). The gripping lecture, accompanied by illustrations of his sculpture, touched on Hayim's experiences – he is a member of the second generation – and his meeting, in life and in art, with “the other side”, children of Nazis, and this reflected in his work.

Afterwards the annual meeting of our association took place: reports about our activities and our finances for 2004, absolution for the outgoing board and election of a new one. At the meeting former musicians of the Isr. Air Force orchestra Omri Spagat and Nofar Siniani performed songs.

DOLL FROM GHETTO THERESIENSTADT

On March 14, 2005, was the premiere of the film *The Olympic Doll* by Giora Gerzon at the Tel Aviv Dan hotel – it is based on the book *I am a Star* by Inge Auerbacher. The film, intended for young children, narrates Inge's story, who took her beloved doll – also named Inge – to the ghetto. The doll had been specially designed toward the Olympic games held in Berlin in 1936. It survived the war, having helped Inge to bear the horrors. Inge Auerbacher with her daughter, the director of the film Giora Gerzon and the producer Shirley Gerzon came from the USA to attend the premiere.

Before the screening the chairman of our association Dr. Eli Lawental greeted the audience, then general (res.) Nehemiah Dagan related his experiences as a young air force soldier after the war in Germany and afterwards two lectures were given – one by the authoress Naava Semel about explaining the Holocaust experience to the third generation and one by the historian Lea Balint about dilemmas of teaching the Holocaust. The journalist Tal Bashan moderated the event, the proceeds of which went to Beit Terezin.

Many deserve thanks for the successful evening: first of all, the Tel Aviv Dan hotel which bestowed his patronage on the event, “Promo – Hafakot” Mr. Shlomo Albo, the Moshon studio (lighting and audio), Guy Hakrana, the producer of the evening Tova Wald, the cheese manufacturers Jacob's, the Tishbi – Yekve Habaron wineries and the Prigat factory.

On the occasion of Inge Auerbacher's visit the film was screened for a group of Arab and Jewish Israeli teachers. Their reactions were very positive and led to the conclusion, to initiate a public discussion on the subject: how to teach Holocaust to children in primary school.

COOPERATION WITH THE HOLOCAUST MUSEUM HOUSTON

Members of the management of the Holocaust Museum Houston visited Beit Theresienstadt this last March. Following the connection arranged by Timna Ophir, an instructor at our Education Center, Susan Llanes Myers, the executive director of the Holocaust Museum Houston and Ellen Trachtenberg, of its Board of Trustees, visited Beit Theresienstadt. Very soon it became more than a visit and the first outline for a cooperative relationship between the two institutes was sketched. Beit Terezin agreed to loan the Monopoly game (made in the ghetto and donated to our archives by the Glass family) – today it is displayed in Houston on the occasion of the Grand Opera performance of Brundibar.

David Magen, member of the Beit Terezin board, made a reciprocal visit to HMH to further the plans for joint ventures. As a result two more guests arrived in July in Beit Theresienstadt: Dr. Mary Lee Webeck, Assistant Professor and Milken Educator and Brent Hasty from The University of Texas. The focus of this visit was to explore more specific opportunities for cooperation and development. Beit Terezin is proud to be associated in a mutually beneficial partnership with this reputable museum and more exciting projects are ahead.

HMH's concept as appears in their Internet site <http://www.hmh.org/auhome.asp> :

“The mission of Holocaust Museum Houston is to promote awareness of the dangers of prejudice, hatred and violence against the backdrop of the Holocaust, which claimed the lives of millions of Jews and other innocent victims. By fostering Holocaust remembrance, understanding and education, the Museum will educate students as well as the general population about the uniqueness of that event and its ongoing lesson - that humankind must learn to live together in peace and harmony.”

AFTER TWO GENERATIONS – STUDY DAY “60 YEARS SINCE LIBERATION”

A study day was held on April 10, 2005, at the clubroom of Givat Hayim-Ihud, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the end of WWII and the liberation of ghetto Theresienstadt, with many participants. Our chairman Dr. Eli Lawental opened the meeting and spoke about the decrease in investment by state bodies in Israel in the perpetuation of Holocaust remembrance – contrary to the increasing needs.

In the first part of the study day, moderated by Anita Tarsi, Prof. Moshe Zuckermann of Tel Aviv University talked about the changing perspectives of the analysis of WWII after 60 years. The authoress and lecturer at the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzlia, Dr. Idith Zertal, spoke about the persona of the survivor in testimonies and research. The lecture by the historian Margalith Shlain, who is working on a comprehensive research paper about the three “Jewish elders” of ghetto Terezin, was dedicated to the last months of the ghetto.

In the second part of the study day, moderated by the journalist Tal Bashan – there was a polylog about the days of liberation, held by Manka Alter, Chana Drori, Alisa Shek, Yaakov Tsur and Peter Lang. They related their exciting experiences at the time of liberation in the ghetto and in various camps and spoke about the difficulties of those times.

HOLOCAUST DAY AT BEIT TEREZIN

As every year, this time, too, the events of Holocaust day were in the form of “open house” at Beit Theresienstadt – for survivors and members of the second and third generation of our Association as well as for guests from the vicinity. After a short ceremony with readings,

small groups were created which – moderated by Shosh Sade, Yonat Klar and Anita Tarsi – covered the subject “60 years after liberation”. The participants talked about their feelings at war’s end and how they coped with “the day after”.

This time, too, a delegation from Germany took part, led by the director of the conservatory of Schwerin Mr. Volker Ahmels, with the participation of the musicologist Gottfried Wagner (a great-grandson of Richard Wagner) and young German musicians. Dr. Wagner said that he believes that German society did not yet deal seriously with the subject of the Holocaust. The German delegation came to Israel to meet survivors and to talk with them and also to play works by Theresienstadt composers for various audiences in Israel. A concert of Israeli music students together with young musicians from Germany was given at the art school Ironi A in Tel Aviv on May 8, 2005, directed by Ruth Katz. Dr. Gottfried Wagner gave a talk about the ideological connection between Wagner and Hitler.

VOICE OF THE CHILDREN OF TEREZIN

The violin instructor prof. Ruth Fazal from Toronto, daughter of an Anglican pastor, was deeply impressed by the children’s poems from Theresienstadt “I Never Saw Another Butterfly”, which she read for the first time in 1999. Under their impression she wrote *Oratorio Terezin* for a chamber ensemble, two choirs and three soloists, which combines children’s poems from Terezin with quotes from the Bible. The composition, performed for the first time in 2003 in Toronto, was included in the events in Beit Terezin for the 60th anniversary of liberation through the initiative of Ruth Fazal.

In the concert participated: The Isr. Chamber Orchestra under the baton of Mark Trevor from England, the soloists Friday (voice of God), Nathanel Watson (voice of the prophet) and Tereza Gomez (voice of suffering), the children’s choirs “Bat Kol” and “Maayan”, directed by Anat Morag, representatives of the children’s choirs “New Streams” from Toronto, the boy’s choir from Bratislava and the Slovenian chamber choir.

The Israeli premiere, under the patronage of Beit Theresienstadt, was offered in three performances, from May 5th to May 7th, in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Karmiel. Many Holocaust survivors, who were invited, attended; the critics and the media were enchanted.

A Canadian TV team, which is shooting a film on the subject, accompanied the whole “expedition”; the children’s choirs from Bratislava, Toronto and Israel spent a day in Beit Terezin, where they had rehearsals.

Inspired by Ruth Fazal’s music, the sculptor Rick Wienecke created a bronze sculpture in the form of a butterfly, which he donated to Beit Theresienstadt – it will be unveiled on the occasion of the music festival in July.

CLAIMS CONFERENCE

For years now the Claims Conference supports special projects of Beit Theresienstadt; this enables us to meet new challenges. We got the first grant in 1997, toward the renovation of the Yaakov Edelstein exhibition hall. Since May 2000, three exhibitions were shown in this room, these days the fourth, *Drawing on Pages of Time*, is being opened. The Claims Conference supported three of the four exhibitions. This organization also gave us significant allocations for modernization of our computer system, for actualization of the archives, for restoration, scanning and catalogization of the art collection and for teaching and research programs. We stand now before the realization of further allocations – renovation of a classroom and library, actualization of the historical museum, development of teaching

programs and the creation of an on-line archive – database, accessible to the public. We are grateful to the Claims Conference for its solid support and appreciate its cooperation and understanding for the special needs of Beit Terezin.

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“MAROR” – FUND

The “Maror” – fund finances collective aims of Israelis hailing from The Netherlands. It agreed to allocate a sum for the actualization of our museum, renovation of a classroom and for computerization. We thank the fund for its readiness to help and for its intention to enable Beit Theresienstadt, to remember all communities deported to Theresienstadt ghetto – including of course the Dutch Jews.

RENOVATION

After three years of complicated bureaucratic procedures we finally got the green light for this project, which enables us to start with the work. The project includes renovation of toilets and of the part of the building Givat Hayim-Ihud let us have for a library, erection of a new classroom and of a storage room answering all safety requirements for our art collection. We plan to start work in August and everything should be ready within a year.

OUR EDUCATION CENTER

TEACHING PROGRAM FOR THE EXHIBITION: *DRAWING ON PAGES OF TIME*

These days the team of our Education Center started work on a teaching program based on the new exhibition *Drawing on Pages of Time*. “In this exhibition, too, there are many useable elements of creativity and research” says Yonat Klar, “nearly each of the displayed objects makes it possible ‘to dive’ into it and to reach a story or a dilemma. In the new program we will add to the means of expression – drama, marionettes and essays will enable every pupil to choose the preferred form of creativity”. At the same time a film is being made for the new exhibition – by the director Koby Paz, who also shot the film about *Kamarad*, supported by the TV children’s channel.

CLOSING THE YEAR AT THE EDUCATION CENTER

On June 22, 2005, a nice celebration was held at Beit Terezin, marking the end of the project “Kamarad – continued” of the Tel Aviv art school Tihon Ironi A. The music and the drama departments performed a concert/drama, titled *Zitra* (Tomorrow). It was based on music works from the ghetto around which stories were woven, whose heroes were ghetto musicians. Karel Svenk (personified on stage by a grandson of the well-known actor Moshe Bertinov) related the plot. In the end Manka Alter was asked to sing the leading song of the performance with the audience – which was moved to tears. Following the enthusiastic reception of the performance it was decided to repeat it.

On the same evening an exhibition of works by the Department of Art and Design of the **Ort** Guttmann School in Netania was shown, inspired by the encounter with *Kamarad*. Raheli Josef and Bareket Ben-Yaakov directed the exhibition. It documented a Jewish-Arab group, which worked this year with the team of Beit Theresienstadt, led by Nili Gross and Otman Hatib. In the framework of our Education Center more than 120 classes of high school

students visited BeitTerezin this year; in addition there were teacher's courses, including such for music teachers, dealing now for the second year with the children's opera *Brundibar*. On the request of the Gordon School in Petah Tikva we also had this year – for the first time - a teacher's course on the subject "Teaching the Holocaust to young children".

"On this occasion we want to thank Nili Gross, Timna Ophir and Eynat Tachnai, who help at our study days with high schools and also to our volunteers, members of the first generation, always ready to give their testimonies" says Yonat Klar, the director of the Education Center, "The lessons are carried out under difficult conditions, space is at a premium, 5 – 6 classes work at the same time and we are waiting impatiently for the new classroom".

GOOD-BYE KAMARAD

After four years of displaying the exhibition *Kamarad* about the children's newspaper in ghetto Theresienstadt, Beit Theresienstadt has now replaced its exhibition (See page 3), but the education project *Kamarad 23* which was based on the exhibition, continues. "*Kamarad* was, from a pedagogical viewpoint, a very well chosen subject", says Yonat Klar, "inviting, accessible and speaking to everybody". Yonat adds that the teaching program around *Kamarad*, now ending its second year, will be continued in schools with art departments "and we hope to be able to display the exhibition in the new classroom".

The interest in the teaching program *Kamarad* abroad continues to grow. Last year our team worked with three schools abroad – in Richmond, Virginia, USA, in the Jewish School in Ottawa, Canada; both created well-made follow-up newspapers to *Kamarad*, which we received a few days ago. And there is also a school in West Virginia, USA, where artistic and written work, choreography and an album with historical essays were created to *Kamarad*.

Shortly an Internet website for *Kamarad 23* will be launched, to connect all groups in Israel and abroad, relates Yonat Klar "and we intend to continue this work next year in cooperation with schools abroad". Working with the Youth Department of the Isr. Ministry of Education we are now writing an auxiliary teaching program on the subject.

NEW FLYER OF OUR EDUCATION CENTER

To coincide with the opening of our new exhibition, our Education Center published a new flyer (Hebrew only) about educational activities at Beit Terezin: study days, helping students with research, preparation courses before study trips to Poland and the Czech Republic and developing teaching programs on various subjects. Orly Drori designed the flyer; it is intended to help marketing in schools. It may be ordered at Beit Theresienstadt and will also appear on our website: <http://www.bterezin.org.il>

STUDY DAYS AND VISITS BY SPECIAL GROUPS

Through the initiative of Amram HaIsraeli, member of our board, caretakers of the "Amha" organization from Netania visited Beit Theresienstadt. The program included a visit to the museum and to the exhibition and a conversation about the possibilities of cooperation of the two institutions. Then there was a second meeting, with a group of Holocaust survivors from Hadera and vicinity. On this occasion there was a discussion about the special kind of educational activities developed by our Center over the years for students of different ages and backgrounds.

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the end of WWII and the liberation of ghetto Terezin we organized study days for adults and retirees: members of the *Korczak* association, two groups of retirees from “Prothea in the Village”, the senior’s village “Drorim” and organized groups of travel guides.

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Groups of soldiers from the Isr. Marine visited us – part of the unit, which adopted the “Shafririm” school at Kibbutz Givat Hayim-Ihud; also soldiers from the Intelligence Corps.

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A number of groups from abroad came to Beit Terezin for study days: an adult group from the town Siegen in Germany, which for years now is in contact with the District Council of Emek Hefer and also youth groups from various countries, arriving here in the framework of the Jewish Agency.

BEIT TEREZIN AND BETH SHALOM

Beth Shalom (near Nottingham, England) came into being as a place of memory of the victims of the Holocaust and as a place to teach future generations about its happening and consequences. Beth Shalom is a way of showing that, if the victim’s wasted lives are to have any meaning at all, we must not only learn about what happened, but also learn from it. Active in Beth Shalom are a number of survivors from ghetto Terezin who settled in England after WWII.

Recently Beit Terezin entered a dialogue with Beth Shalom in order to design a joint educational project for the many English school children who visit Beth Shalom.

FROM MELBOURNE IN AUSTRALIA TO BEIT TEREZIN

Dr. Bill Anderson from Melbourne, Australia – researcher, author, poet and educator, who deals with the history of the Holocaust, received from the *Yahad Fund* a stipend to visit Holocaust remembrance institutions in Israel. For one week he studied at Beit Theresienstadt and let the activities there influence him. Dr. Anderson researched both the historical museum as well as the new exhibition *Drawing on Pages of Time* in depth. With Alisah Schiller he learned about the database of the Jews of ghetto Terezin, with Sima Shahar about the archives, the library, the art collection and teaching programs and with Yonat Klar he talked about our Education Center and about planning joint work on *Kamarad 23*. Our thanks to Liora Mezrich from Givat Hayim Meuhad who hosted Dr. Anderson.

SECOND GENERATION

ISSUE NO. 13 OF THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SECOND GENERATION

Issue No. 13 of the newsletter of the second generation of Beit Theresienstadt appeared in March 2005, edited by Tallila and Tsvika Kislev. The brochure includes a report on the meeting of the volunteers in December 2004, where founders of Beit Terezin told stories about the first days of the house; there is also a report about the book *Armonot Hatikva* (Palaces of Hope) by Pavel Kohn. He wrote about the activities of the Czech humanist Premysl Pitter who established rest homes in Czech castles for children, who had survived concentration camps. The newsletter includes a shortened version of the stories of two of these children, Chava Pressburger and the late Yehuda Huppert.

There is also an item about the event on the occasion of the premiere of the film *The Olympic Doll* (See page 4) and an article by Narda Kuczinsky about the meeting of members of the second generation with the artist Michael Deiml.

MICHAEL DEIML AT BEIT TEREZIN

In January the second generation was invited to an exciting meeting with Michael Deiml. He is an artist and educator, lives in Germany and is the brother of Dana and Petr, members of our second generation. Michael told the story (in remarkably good Hebrew) of his work of many years as a sculptor and lately also educator in Germany, where he lives for over 30 years. In connection with his work he takes part in tenders, published in Germany for projects of Holocaust remembrance. Michael shared with the group his frustration caused by the ambiguous message of the Germans regarding Holocaust remembrance: on the one hand they initiate memorials and finance them, on the other each such project is accompanied by many limiting conditions, downplaying the component of destruction of Jews – forcing the artist to design rather general and ambiguous works. During the last years Deiml deals with education, he is one of the founders of “The Association for Remembrance of Cernovice Jews”. This was established in 2002 and organizes educational seminars in the Czech Republic. Deiml also participated in the erection of a memorial for the Jews of Cernovice. For this Alisah Schiller supplied him with a list of those who perished in the Holocaust, from our database.

PERFORMANCE: EXCUSE ME, ARE YOU FROM THE HOLOCAUST?

On March 8, another meeting of the second generation was held, dedicated to a solo performance of Renana Mankin from Tirat Tsvi. Renana, member of the second generation, drama teacher and stage director, acted and also staged the performance. The naïve story of a girl (in reality Renana) is told in a very special way – she relates what she learned from her grandmother, who had survived the Holocaust – and she asks big questions like “were we all there?” How do we want to educate the next – fourth – generation, to understand and to commemorate? The performance was deeply touching and thought-provoking.

ACTUALITIES

THE VIOLIN FELL SILENT

The well-known violinist Paul Kling accompanied the seminars “History, Music and Remembrance” at Beit Theresienstadt already in 1999. Since then he was twice in Israel to lead classes for young violin players. He had a personal relationship to Beit Terezin: Paul, born in Czechoslovakia, performed already at age 7 as a soloist with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, at the age of 13 he was brought to ghetto Terezin, where he succeeded to continue playing the violin. In the fall of 1944 he was deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau and survived. After the war he continued his music career, first in Prague and after the Communists took over, in Vienna. As a soloist he performed in European countries and also in Japan – there he met Taka, who became his wife.

After their wedding in 1957 the couple immigrated to the USA. They lived in Louisville; Kling was there the first violinist of the Philharmonic Orchestra and taught at the university. After that he directed for some 20 years a music academy in British Columbia and continued, as a soloist, to record music, especially his beloved works by Brahms, Dvorak, Mendelssohn

and Beethoven. In the last years Paul Kling invested most of his energies in the development of young talents and that brought about his connection with our music seminar. He died in San Diego on January 2, 2005.

60 YEARS SINCE THE LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ

On January 27, 2005, Auschwitz liberation day – which in Europe is marked as Holocaust Remembrance Day – about 100 people met in wintry weather at a memorial tablet installed at the building of the municipality of Suederelbe near Hamburg, Germany. It was a memorial ceremony for Jewish women, former prisoners of ghetto Terezin, who worked in the vicinity and lived in Neugraben, a branch camp of Neuengamme concentration camp. The ceremony was attended by representatives of the Evangelic and Catholic churches and also by Karl-Heinz Schulz, the initiator of the memorial for the Neugraben women, a historian of this camp. In his address he quoted from the memoirs of some of these former women prisoners – he is in constant contact with many of them.

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Another memorial ceremony was held at the site of the former camp Neuengamme – Susi Weiss, a member of our Association, who was in this camp, participated. About 1300 persons, former prisoners and their families were invited; they were greeted by a delegation and took part in the event. Among these was the consecration of a memorial at the site of the buildings, used as gas chambers – the first trials of killing by gas were carried out in Neuengamme. “The ceremony was very dignified and we all laid wreaths at the site” Susi Weiss related. Another memorial site was erected in this camp in memory of the German ship “Cap Arcona”, which carried Jewish prisoners and which was sunk by mistake by the British.

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On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz on January 25, 2005, the Czech embassy and the Czech Center in Paris invited to a festive meal in honor of Sir Nicholas Winton. Shortly before the start of WWII Sir Winton organized the emigration of 669 Jewish children from Czechoslovakia to England and thereby saved their lives. The same day the Czech-Slovak film *Nicholas Winton, Sila lidskosti – Loterie zivota* (power of humaneness – lottery of life) was screened. Afterwards the 95-years old guest of honor answered questions from the audience.

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Under the headline *Here was all of Europe* four memorial days and meetings were held in April 2005, marking the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Sachsenhausen concentration camp. Many Jewish prisoners had been brought there from ghetto Theresienstadt. A delegation of 80 persons from Israel participated in the events, among them our member Yaakov Tsur. He related that in the beginning the Israeli delegation had to fight for its participation – against the arguments of the representatives of former Communist parties that “60 years ago there was no prisoner from Israel in the camps” and that Israel is “an occupying state”. About 500 former prisoners of the camp and their relatives, from many countries, attended the meeting. At the main ceremony, with participation of the Israeli delegates, a Rabbi said the Kaddish prayer. Representatives of various Christian churches said their prayers. On the fourth day of the meeting the guests dispersed to the former branch camps and along the route of the “death march”. The victim’s graves were tended to and decorated; in a few places ceremonies and receptions were held. “The meeting was excellently organized, regarding transportation and accommodation”, Yaakov Tsur relates, “the police, too, has to be

mentioned positively – they prevented disturbances and safeguarded the participants, especially us”.

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Toward the 60th anniversary of the liberation a delegation of 8 former prisoners traveled to the site of Schwarzheide concentration camp. 1000 Jewish prisoners who had been in ghetto Terezin were brought on July 3, 1944, from Auschwitz-Birkenau to Schwarzheide. Only 326 of these survived. First there was a memorial ceremony in the town of Sebnitz near the Czech border, where the death march went by – from there the delegation reached Schwarzheide. The members of the delegation were guests of the “Synthese” plant, which had manufactured liquid fuel from coal; the prisoners had worked in the plant. Near to the former camp, at the memorial, a ceremony was held. The former prisoner Honza Gaertner spoke in the name of the survivors, another former prisoner said the Kaddish prayer.

The next day the delegation followed the route of the death march, first to the town Kamenec, where a memorial ceremony was held. Representatives of the town received the Israeli delegation; “Along the way there are many memorial tablets and at the Saupsdorf cemetery a number of our friends are buried, who died during the death march. At the grave of the Zionist activist Seppl Lichtenstern, who led the Birkenau children’s barracks after Fredy Hirsch’s death, a memorial ceremony took place”. On Holocaust Day, at the close of the visit, there was a ceremony at the Pinkas synagogue in Prague with participation of the delegation and many other former prisoners. The next day many of them traveled in 4 buses to a memorial ceremony to Terezin.

NEW MUSEUM AT YAD VASHEM

The opening of the New Holocaust History Museum at Yad Vashem took place on March 15th – 16th 2005, in Jerusalem. The president of Israel Mr. Moshe Katzav, the general secretary of UNO Mr. Kofi Annan, heads of state, premiers, ministers and representatives of 40 countries, donors, Holocaust survivors and “Righteous among the Nations” participated.

The new museum, an impressive project, stresses specifically the Jewish point of view with the aid of original objects, testimonies, photographs, artwork and video displays. Of the eleven display spaces one is dedicated to ghetto Terezin with a great number of objects. Among the hundred documentary films, each of 2 – 10 minutes length, accompanying the exhibition, is also Reuven Hacker’s film about ghetto Theresienstadt. The screen is divided in two; the right half shows parts of the Nazi propaganda film shot in the ghetto in summer 1944, the left side shows pictures by Theresienstadt artists showing the hard reality as it was.

MEDICINE IN THE HOLOCAUST

For six years now there is a program for research of medicine in the Holocaust at the medical department of the Haifa Technion. On May 18, 2005, the fifth meeting about diseases and medicine in the Holocaust was held in Naharia, in cooperation with the Ghetto Fighters House. Dr. Danny Nadav lectured about medicine in ghetto Theresienstadt. Other subjects were late illnesses of Holocaust victims and Osteoporosis of Survivors.

In the study year 2004/2005 for the first time the Haifa medical department had a course on the subject of Medicine in the Holocaust. In this framework Ruth Bondy gave a lecture about the changes regarding the Holocaust and the survivors, felt in Israel in the course of the last 60 years. The chairman of our association Dr. Eli Lawental gave a lecture about the relationship of the state to Holocaust remembrance. In the next study year the course will

become obligatory – one of its aims, in addition to transmission of professional knowledge, is to enhance the humaneness of the students.

FROM GHETTO TEREZIN TO LITHUANIA AND ESTONIA

At the Robert Guttman Gallery of the Jewish Museum in Prague an exhibition was opened on April 14, 2005, dedicated to the transports of Jews deported in 1942 from the Protectorate to the Baltic countries. Their first destination was Riga, where two transports – each of 1000 persons – were brought from Theresienstadt in January 1942. After a terrible journey, of these only 120 survived. In August and in September of the same year two further transports – Bb and Be – left Theresienstadt for the Baltic countries. The fate of transport Bb is unknown because nobody survived; transport Be went to Raasika in Estonia, from there most of the prisoners were taken in buses to their deaths. Only a small group of young women survived, they were taken through concentration camps in Estonia, Poland and Germany to Bergen-Belsen, where they were liberated.

The exhibition depicts the long ordeal of the prisoners through the many camps, mainly with the help of quotations from the survivor's mouth. These are written on tablets – visual material from there is very rare. The exhibition, titled *Od te doby verim v osud* (Since Then I Believe in Fate), is based on research by Lukas Pribyl, photographs collected by him and interviews with survivors – in preparation for a documentary film to be screened in the Czech Republic in the spring of 2006.

The Jewish Museum in cooperation with the Terezin Memorial and the Terezinska iniciativa institute prepared the exhibition.

DRAWING IN SPACE

The name of Petr Ginz, the talented editor of the children's newspaper *Vedem* in ghetto Terezin, whose life ended at age 16, became known in the whole world after the Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon took Petr's drawing *Moonscape* in 2003 on the flight of the spaceship "Columbia", which ended tragically. In January 2005 the Ministry for Information of the Czech Republic, the Prague Jewish Museum, the Postal Authority and the Association of Czech Philatelists brought out a special stamp, showing Petr's drawing and his portrait.

A couple of Czech astronomers, Jana and Milos Tichy from the Klet observatory decided after the Columbia disaster to bestow the name Petr Ginz on a small planet they had discovered between Mars and Jupiter in the year 2000 – the International Astronomical Association confirmed this.

On May 13, 2005, the Terezin Ghetto Museum opened an exhibition about *Vedem*, the newspaper of the home *Shkid* at the ghetto children's home L-417. Petr Ginz edited the paper and published in it poems, articles about life in the ghetto and illustrations. Here, too, the idea for the exhibition came from Petr's *Moonscape*, the drawing that ended in space. The director of the State Memorial Terezin Dr. Jan Munk opened the exhibition and Petr's friend from the home Jiri Kotouc gave a speech. He was among the first ones, who tried – still under the Communist regime – to publish *Vedem* in book form, but the censor forbade it for political reasons. The exhibition will later travel to various museums in Europe and the USA.

On April 25, 2005, the American magazine *Newsweek* published an article about Petr Ginz and his sister Chava and the story of Petr's diary. This was found only in 2003, when Yad Vashem was offered 6 notebooks written by Petr still in Prague. It transpired that an

inhabitant of the Prague quarter Modrany found them in the attic of a house he had bought a few years earlier. He realized their value only after the Columbia disaster became known.

Denik meho bratra (My Brother's Diary) is the title of a book by Chava Pressburger, published in 2004 by Trigon in Prague. Its central point is the diary written by Petr Ginz during the German occupation – before his deportation to Terezin – in 2 small self-made notebooks. It starts on September 19, 1941: An emblem was introduced for Jews. On my way to school I counted 69 sheriffs (=people with stars). The book contains also Chava's memories of her brother, Petr's drawings and poems, a story he wrote and a fragment of his novel *The Secret of the Devil's Cave*, which he did not finish.

The jacket of the publication of Esperantists in Israel *Israella Esperantisto* of December 2004 bears the drawing of the moonscape and a portrait of Petr Ginz. The brochure contains a long article by Doron Modan about Petr, including one page of the Czech-Esperanto dictionary Petr had written for himself. His father Otto Ginz was an enthusiastic Esperantist, both in Czechoslovakia and after his immigration to Israel. Otto Ginz survived thanks to the fact that his wife, mother of his children, was Gentile – but Petr and Chava were, according to the race laws, Jews and therefore deported to the ghetto, without their parents. In September 1944 Petr was sent to Auschwitz, Eva (Chava) survived in the ghetto. Today she is a well-known artist whose work is deeply influenced by her Holocaust experiences.

BRUNDIBAR

Pupils of the fourth grade gave a performance of Hans Krasa's children's opera *Brundibar* in Kiriati Tivon on May 15, 2005. The initiator was the teacher Chani Ricardo, who translated the texts by Adolf Hoffmeister into Hebrew, rehearsed with the children and accompanied the songs on the piano. (The opera was performed 55 times in ghetto Terezin).

Only after she started working with the children she found out that she has a personal connection to Theresienstadt – her grandparents and other relations were in ghetto Terezin and were deported from there to Auschwitz, where they found their death.

In the framework of their work with *Brundibar* the children visited Beit Terezin. It was a special experience to lead such young children through the museum and the exhibition.

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The newsletter of the Australian Jewish Museum in Melbourne reported in March 2005 that the "Gandel Jewish Festival" would take place there for 4 months. Among other works there was a performance of *Brundibar*, performed by children of the local OzOpera, which was loudly applauded by the audience.

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A Greek booklet, published by "Acroasis" in Athens, depicts in amusing drawings by Fontini Moraki the story of Hans Krasa's children's opera *Brundibar*. The cultural center of the Jewish Council in Athens celebrated the publication on May 8th 2005 with participation of the children's choir, which performed *Brundibar* in Greek. There is also a CD of the performance.

CHILDREN'S DRAWINGS FROM THERESIENSTADT IN THAILAND

On May 15, 2005, an exhibition of children's drawings from ghetto Terezin opened in Bangkok. The Goethe-Institute cooperated in the organization. The ambassadors of the Czech Republic, of Germany and of Israel were present at the festive opening. Henri Wilde, born in

Czechoslovakia, who survived ghetto Terezin, today professor of Medicine in Chulalongkorn in Bangkok, gave a speech.

PHOTOGRAPHER IN GHETTO LODZ

An exhibition *Henryk Ross – Album lodzkeho ghetta* (album of ghetto Lodz) was shown from December 2004 to February 2005 in the Langhans-Gallery in Prague. Ross was one of the two official photographers who had the task to make propaganda photographs there, but they used the material to depict the terrible reality of the ghetto. When the ghetto was liquidated in August 1944, Ross buried the negatives – about 3000 could be saved. Ross died in 1991 in Israel. 5000 Jews from Prague were deported to ghetto Lodz in autumn of 1941, only 277 survived.

SAVED BY DRAWING

In the exhibition *Kuenstler in Auschwitz* (Artists in Auschwitz), opened in May 2005 in the Jewish Cultural Center in Berlin are drawings made by prisoners in Auschwitz. Among them are drawings by Dina Gottlieb, who was brought to the Auschwitz family camp from ghetto Theresienstadt. Dina was in the so-called September transport, which was almost totally liquidated. Her talent saved her from death – Dr. Mengele noticed her drawings on the walls of the children’s block and ordered portraits of Romas for his “research” work. The today 82 years-old Dina, lives in San Diego, California. In the State Museum in Auschwitz are about 1600 drawings, most of them made by Polish prisoners who worked in the museum – initiated by the camp’s commandant Rudolf Hoess.

THERESIENSTADT – REMEMBRANCE THROUGH MUSIC

On May 4, 2005, a concert honoring composers who perished in the Holocaust was played at the Performing Arts Center in Tel Aviv. It was played by the Haifa Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Israel Yanon and included the Etude for Orchestra by Pavel Haas and the Symphony in re major by Ullmann; both composers were prisoners in ghetto Theresienstadt and were killed in the fall of 1944 in Auschwitz.

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Her deep Christian beliefs and loathing of Anti-Semitism brought the pianist and painter Jacqueline Cole to the works of composers murdered in the Holocaust, mainly those from ghetto Terezin. As a child Jacqueline studied at the Yehudi Menuhin School in London. In 2002 Jacqueline Cole established in London the “Viktor Ullmann and Pavel Haas foundations” and one in Cieszyn (Poland), Ullmann’s birthplace. An article about Cole appeared in May 2005 in the publication AJR – Association of Jewish Refugees in England.

OUR ARCHIVES

THE ONLY ONE WHO STAYED ALIVE

Ruth Breda from Kerem Maharal gave Beit Theresienstadt the memoirs of her mother Stepanka Fischer about her life in the Holocaust. The memoirs resemble a phantastic thriller. Stepanka was born in 1902 and married in 1934 the Czech Gentile opera singer Geza Fischer. After the Gestapo arrested her husband, she was brought in March 1942 to ghetto Terezin and

from there after one month to Izbica, district Lublin in Poland. From 1000 prisoners of this transport only she survived – thanks to a young Polish architect. He met her while she was working for a Polish farmer, with the help of the Polish Resistance he got her forged identification papers – before the women and children of her transport were taken to be exterminated. He helped her to reach Warsaw; there she worked most of the time for a German court of law. Her position enabled her not only to get information to the Polish Resistance, but also to receive an invitation for her husband – as guest performer at the Warsaw opera. In January 1945, as the Red Army was near and all German women were sent from Warsaw to Germany, Stepanka had no choice and had to join them. But already in May 1945 she was a translator for the American headquarters of the district, where she was liberated; in June her husband found her and returned with her to Czechoslovakia.

36 PORTRAITS OF MEMBERS OF THE LEADERSHIP

On Sunday, May 15, Miriam Friedmann Morris from the USA and Michael Honey from Rishon LeZion, who hosted Miriam during her stay in Israel, visited Beit Theresienstadt. Miriam's father is the painter David Friedmann, who – together with his wife Mathilde nee Fuchs and the daughter Mirjam Helene – was deported on October 16th 1941, from Prague to ghetto Lodz. Toward the end of August 1944 the family was brought to Auschwitz-Birkenau, only the father survived. Mirjam's mother Hildegard Taussig Friedmann was deported together with her father, Eng. Karl Taussig, in May 1944 to the Birkenau family camp and from there to the forced labor camp Christianstadt. Hildegard and David met after liberation and married in 1948, Mirjam was born in October 1950 in Petach Tikva.

In the years 1940 – 1941 David Friedmann made portraits of members of the Jewish leadership in Prague, 36 portraits, 14x9 cm. Some of them bear the signature of the subject on the back. The pictures were given to Beit Theresienstadt many years ago, we do not know by whom. Among the people depicted are Otto Zucker, Hanka Steiner, Franz Kahn, Trude Husserl, Harry Tressler and many others. Miriam Friedmann Morris is for many years now in an ongoing, painful dialog with her family's history. The research about her parents is based on documents she collected, on her mother's diary and the paintings made by her father.

Miriam got connected with the team of Beit Terezin's archives years ago while studying ghetto Terezin and trying to understand. Miriam Friedmann Morris gave Beit Theresienstadt copies of documents related to the history of her parents in the Holocaust and afterwards.

DOCUMENTATION OF A FAMILY

Computer technology and modern communications brought about a revolution of conservation and documentation in Beit Theresienstadt. Instead of photographing the heaps of material arriving, today we scan it directly into the computer and one CD replaces thousands of photographed pages of text and pictures. There are now many possibilities to sort the material and access to all documents connected to a certain subject is fast and simple. Databases and the Internet enable access to other archives and museums the world over to effectively search for relevant material. This way interesting and rich documentation units for every possible subject can be created. An example: a short time ago Yossi Urbach gave us material he had collected about his family's history. At first Beit Terezin helped him to translate correspondence of his grandmother with various relatives. Through our database he found details of members of his family and from this information he learned, what happened to his family during WWII in occupied territories, during liberation and on their way to Israel.

A WHOLE LIFE IN DOCUMENTS

The Herz family from Givat Hayim-Ihud gave our archives a collection of some 50 documents from the estate of their relative Erna Herz, born 1905. There are confirmations about her training as a professional seamstress, her marriage certificate dated 1938 when she married Karl Fuchs from Moravska Ostrava and dozens of documents made in preparation for their planned emigration at the time of the German occupation. But they were too late: Karl perished, Erna Fuchs was deported in September 1942 to ghetto Terezin, and from there she reached Switzerland with a transport in February 1945. Her cousin Leopold Levi (himself a former ghetto prisoner) related that Erna remarried, immigrated to the USA and died there in 1986. Leopold Levi also gave our archives copies of documents; among them a letter he sent from Buchenwald in December 1944.

FROM THE ESTATE OF WILLI GROAG

Gideon Groag from Katzir gave our archives originals and copies of documents from the estate of his father Willi, who died in 2001 in Kibbutz Maanit. The collection contains letters Willi received over the years, among them some from his former wards in ghetto Terezin. There is also a greeting card from the artist Friedl Dicker-Brandeis, which she gave Willi on August 8, 1942, in the ghetto, for his birthday. And also a letter she wrote to him two years later on the same date – shortly before her deportation to Auschwitz, where she perished.

ILLUSION

The chairman of the Association of Former Czechoslovaks in Israel, Mr. Nathan Steiner, gave us a folder from 1944 with requests by members of the Association at that time, who tried to find – with the help of the Jewish Agency – relatives and friends, who had been deported to ghetto Theresienstadt and Birkenau. In the folder there are also copies of postcards received from these places, with the usual text saying that the writers are all right, confirmations that parcels were received, questions about the possibilities of emigration from ghetto Terezin and also a message from September 1944, according to which the ghetto inmate Abraham Fixler got a certificate (enabling him to enter Palestine) – one month later he perished in Auschwitz.

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Kathrine -Grinnell from Portland, Oregon, gave our archives information about her relatives, the families Pollak, Nash, Nath and others – who hailed from the Czech Republic and Austria; some of them were in ghetto Theresienstadt and perished in the Holocaust.

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Prof. David Bloch (Tel Aviv university) gave us a videotape titled *Spaetes Portraet* (Late Portrait) about the famous conductor Karel Ancerl, a central figure of music life in ghetto Terezin and also an audiocassette *Suite fuers Leben* (Suite for Life) on the life of the composer Leo Haas, prisoner in ghetto Terezin, who perished in Auschwitz in the fall of 1944.

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Susan Goldstein – Snyder got for us from the archives of the Washington Holocaust Museum copies of the diary of Pavel Weiner, who belonged to the *Nesharim* group at home L-417 in Theresienstadt, one of his notebooks and a newspaper he edited in the ghetto. There are also copies of the diary of his mother Vally Weiner and essays by his brother Hanus.

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The quantity of material flowing into our archives in the six months between issues of our newsletter is too large – we cannot list here all of it. We apologize to those donors, whose names were not mentioned. In any case – the material is well conserved in our archives for future generations.

TRANSLATIONS

The translation of documents and publications in our archives from Czech and German into Hebrew and English goes on. All this work is done by our volunteers. Thanks to all of them.

Ephraim Freud from Ganey Omer translated from Czech to Hebrew issues nos. 1 – 20 of the children's newspaper *Rim-Rim-Rim*, put out by the boys of home *Nesharim* in ghetto Terezin.

Ruth Bobek from Nof Yam translated from Czech to Hebrew the children's newspaper *Nesher*, edited by Pavel Weiner from the *Nesher* group.

Dita Kraus, Netania, translated (Czech to English) 2 notebooks of the children's newspaper *Nesher* and poems by Hanus Weiner, which his brother Pavel Weiner, New York, gave us.

Miriam Gal from Tel Aviv translated from German to Hebrew the diary of Marta Glass from Hamburg, written there in the years 1943 – 1945.

Shimon Weissbecker from Haifa translated from German to Hebrew articles from the book *Frauen im Holocaust* (Women in the Holocaust) by Barbara Distel, published in 2001.

Alisa Shek translated so much (from Czech and German to English), that we can list here only a few items: material from the folder Emo Groag, a dissertation by Ota Klein from 1948 about the influence of concentration camps on the ethical character of youth, the diary of Misha Kraus written shortly after the end of WWII, the diary of Petr Ginz, the diary of Hilde Eichler, the book by Marta Glass *Jeder Tag in Theresienstadt ist ein Geschenk* (Every Day in Theresienstadt is a Present), the book by Federica Spitzer, Ruth Weisz and Wolfgang Benz *Theresienstadt: Aufzeichnungen* (Notes) and Ruth Bondy's paper on "Prominents" in Terezin.

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

SUITCASE AS A BRIDGE

Fumico Ishioka, a young Japanese woman who wants to promote peace and tolerance in the world, received in 2000 from the State Museum in Auschwitz for the Tokyo Holocaust Education Resource Center – which she had founded – a suitcase with the inscription: *Hana Brady, 15.5.1931 – Waise* (=orphan) Her desire to learn more about this girl, which was killed at age 13 in Auschwitz, brought her to the State Memorial in Terezin and there she found out that Hana's brother Georg had survived. The story of Hana and her suitcase, Fumico's search, the meeting with Hana's brother who lives in Toronto, the impact of the concrete object on children in Japan – all this is told in the book *Hana's suitcase* by Keren Levin, published by Second Story Press in Canada in 2002. The book is now in its 14th printing, it was translated into Czech and its Hebrew translation will come out shortly at Schocken publishers, Tel Aviv. The Gestapo arrested Hana's and Georg's parents in their hometown Nove Mesto (Moravia) even before the transports; the children were deported in May 1942 to ghetto Theresienstadt. George – or Jirka in Czech – was sent on September 28th 1944 to Auschwitz, 4 weeks later Hana followed there, alone. "Today the suitcase is a teacher for hundred thousands of children all over the world" says Ishioka.

But that is not the end of the story. In 2004 a student in Brno (Moravia) found in a trashcan on the street a heap of children's books and documents and brought them home to his mother.

Among other writings there was Georg Brady's diary from ghetto Terezin and also 2 issues of the children's newspaper *Vpred* (Ahead), published by girls at the children's home L-410, where Hana had lived. It transpired that the papers were in the attic of Georg's and Hana's cousin, a half-Jew, who stayed in Brno during WWII; she had stored memorabilia and documents of the family. A worker found the papers while cleaning out the attic and threw them into the trashcan.

On June 12, 2005, the Isr. Daily *Haaretz* published a detailed story about the fate of the suitcase and the girl to whom it had belonged.

George Brady participated on May 28th in our annual meeting and on this occasion he gave us copies of the 2 issues of the girl's newspaper.

ABOUT GHETTO THERESIENSTADT AND OTHER THINGS

The yearbook 2004 of *Terezin Studies and Documents* edited by Jaroslava Milotova and Eva Lorencova, published by Sefer in Prague, contains i. a. an article about the youth newspaper *Klepy* (Gossip), which appeared in Budejovice before the start of the deportations (we reported on this in January 2005). Further there is a research work about the activities of Karel Herrmann in Terezin during the years 1941 – 1944 with a collection of documents and posters about his cultural events – these are an important source of information about life in the ghetto; they are stored at the State Memorial in Terezin.

The yearbook is not focused only on subjects directly connected to Theresienstadt; it also deals with related themes, e. g. the growing of plants from which rubber can be extracted at the agricultural farm Rajske, which belonged to the Auschwitz-Birkenau complex; with the return of women prisoners to Czechoslovakia in the years 1945 – 1948 and with education according to Himmler to a worldview, leading to extermination of Jews. There is also a report by Richard Korherr, the SS statistician and Himmler's confidant for the "final solution" of Europe's Jews. The report says that up to January 1, 1943, the number of Jews in Germany, Austria and the Protectorate decreased by 217.743 because of "evacuation" (the word "extermination" is not used). According to Korherr the number of Jews in Europe decreased since 1937 because of emigration, higher death rates than birth rates and "evacuation" by about 4 millions and since the Nazis takeover in 1933 the number was halved.

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER

On September 26, 1944, before the 46-years-old Hans Munk was deported from ghetto Terezin to Auschwitz, he gave his divorced wife and mother of his son 43 watercolor paintings and 2 notebooks with 77 poems. Only 60 years later, in 2004, they were published under the title *Theresienstadt in Bildern und Reimen* (Theresienstadt in Pictures and Verse) by Hartung-Gorre in Konstanz, Germany; accompanied by explanations written by his only son Peter, today Yehuda Manor. The former textile dealer Hans Munk, who was sent to Terezin in July 1943 where he served in the ghetto police, had no ambitions. He himself wrote: "I am no prophet and no poet", he only wanted to describe life in the ghetto in short rhymed stories, with a clear eyesight, often with bitter irony – especially when writing about the "protektsia", the robbing from the luggage of new arrivals, the hunger of old people. His paintings, too, are true descriptions of life in the ghetto – the police commander, burial, a soccer game.

Peter Munk saw his father for the last time at age 12, when he went with a children's transport in October 1939 to then Palestine. Visiting his mother – who had survived – in Prague in

1948, he volunteered for a pilot's course held in Czechoslovakia and so became one of the first fighter pilots of the Israeli Air Force.

UNFORGOTTEN RABBI

Early in 2005 G plus G publishers in Prague brought out the book *Rabin Feder* (Rabbi Feder) by Zuzana Peterova. The book is about Rabbi Richard Feder (1875 – 1970), who was Rabbi of the Jewish community in Kolin before WWII. After that he held this office in ghetto Terezin, where he was liberated. After the war he was Chief Rabbi of Prague and of Moravia. In addition to memoirs, written by Rabbi Feder himself – mainly about his childhood and youth as son of a poor family, living in a village – the book contains reminiscences of people who met him and whom he influenced and also a selection of letters by him. Thanks to his wisdom and humaneness Rabbi Feder is thought to be one of the most popular Rabbis in Bohemia and Moravia since the emancipation.

MEMORIAL TABLETS

Esther Golan from Jerusalem, born Ursula Dobkovsky from Glogau, Germany, published a brochure titled *Zeugenschaft – Briefe aus Berlin 1939 – 1942* (Testimony – Letters from Berlin 1939 – 1942). The booklet is dedicated to her parents Arno and Else Dobkovsky, who succeeded to send their 3 children in good time to safety – but they themselves did not make it. In her letters the mother describes the desperate efforts to find a place they could escape to, after their request to emigrate to Palestine was turned down because of the “high” age of the father, who was 52. The parents were deported in the fall of 1942 from Berlin to ghetto Terezin, the father died there after surgery; the mother was sent in May 1944 to Auschwitz.

REMEMBERING GRANDFATHER

Rabbi Simon Cohen from Frankfurt – his Congregation and his Life During the Holocaust (Hebrew) is the title of a book written by Shlomo Deshen, professor of Anthropology at Tel Aviv University in memory of his grandfather. R. Cohen (1865 – 1942) belonged to the orthodox separatist congregation of Frankfurt/M, which strove to unite strict compliance with religious law with a generally accepted way of life, so as to be integrated in the surrounding German society. His wife died, the son and two daughters left Germany in time, the deeply believing Rabbi Simon was deported on September 15, 1942, to ghetto Theresienstadt. He died a few weeks later, as relatives in Theresienstadt informed the family in neutral Sweden.

FOOTBALL IN TEREZIN

On April 16, 2005, the Internet site sport5.co.il published an article about football in ghetto Terezin, with photographs. The article mentions Jirka Taussig, the fabulous goalkeeper of one of the groups of the ghetto league, who after the war became goalkeeper of the Czechoslovak national team. Peter Erben from Ashkalon, who supplied most of the data for the article, remembers the extraordinary experience of football games in the ghetto, in spite of the difficult conditions. The games took place in the courtyard of the Dresden barracks, in the first year these were cup matches, in 1943 there was already a league with 12 teams, each of which had – because of the restricted area – only 7 players. In the fall of 1944 most of the

football players were sent to Auschwitz, like all other young men from the ghetto. According to Peter only six of the footballers of those days are still alive.

LIFE OF A PIANIST

Under the title *Music Saved my Life* the “Sunday Times” of London published on May 1, 2005, the life story of the pianist Alice Sommer-Herz, who is 101 years old. Alice Sommer-Herz played piano concerts in the ghetto, her little son Rafael sang there in the children’s opera *Brundibar*. When her husband Leopold Sommer, also a talented musician, was deported in the fall of 1944 “to the East”, he made her promise him never to volunteer for a transport and so Alice did not follow him – contrary to hundreds of other women who followed their men. Rafael Sommer, a well-known cellist, died in 2001 in London, aged 69. Alice Sommer-Herz now studies at university “for the third age” – philosophy and history, and she continues playing the piano!

ORDEAL

The publication of the Isr. Association of former Czechoslovaks “Hazman Hazeh” (This Time) brought in its issue no. 76 (December – February 2005) the story of the ordeal of the ship *Frosula*, on which were 658 Jews. On April 30, 1939, they left occupied Prague to reach “illegally” what was then called Palestine. The travel agency *Cerna Ruze* (Black Rose) organized the paid-for journey. Judith Reifen-Ronen, who researched the story, writes that the sea voyage took 4 months – instead of the planned 6 days. The British did not let the *Frosula* approach Palestine’s shores and the ship sailed under extremely difficult conditions, with hunger and insufficient drinking water, in stifling heat from one Mediterranean port to the other – but was not allowed to moor. In the end the emigrants were transferred (by order of the illegal immigration organization) from their vessel to the *Tiger Hill*, which already carried refugees from Europe. On September 1, 1939, the *Tiger Hill* ran aground on a cliff near Tel Aviv port, the passengers of *Frosula* were taken to Sarafend internment camp but released after 10 days. 65 years later a meeting of about 30 of these immigrants was held in Tel Aviv. They related the story of their difficult voyage, which saved their lives.

RESEARCH

Domov a Exil (Home and Exile) titled Eva Hanakova her dissertation at the philosophy department of Olomouc University. The subject: the wanderings of the Jews of Uhersky Brod in Moravia during the 20th century. In 1930 the Jewish community of this town numbered 500 persons, most of them businessmen and shop-owners.

In the first wave, in the thirties, Jews left the town for what was then called Palestine, then came another emigration wave during the German occupation and in January 1943 the deportation to ghetto Terezin and from there to extermination camps. After WWII a small group of survivors renewed the congregation’s life, but after a further emigration wave in the wake of the Communist takeover the Jewish community did not exist anymore. The paper follows the fate of the former citizens of Uhersky Brod, now dispersed all over the world.

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A paper by Yifat Ashkenazi, who studies arts and crafts at Bar Ilan University, deals with the theme *Hunger, Transports and Belief in the Drawings of Leo Haas*.

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The story of Dr. Karl Fleischmann, physician, painter and poet, who headed the Department for Nursing Care in ghetto Theresienstadt, is the subject of a paper by Limor Tamir and Avner Hostovsky, tutored by Dr. Daniel Nadav at Tel Aviv University.

OUR ECONOMIC SITUATION

THE FINANCIAL SITUATION / LIORA COHEN, TREASURER

Since more than two years ago I joined (after much thought) the team of Beit Terezin. The aim was then, to direct financial matters of Beit Terezin – during the time of Anita Tarsi's sabbatical. What I had in mind was very different from reality. I thought that I would come to Beit Terezin once a week, follow-up a few reports and papers and, generally, would do something different than in my normal occupation. This last point was the only correct one. Reality at Beit Terezin, which did not change during the last two years, is one of continuous economic difficulties and an ongoing struggle to survive.

We invest most of our work in the mobilization of monies – and the sources are drying up. There are annual discussions with the Isr. Ministry of Education about monies we are entitled to – as an institution dealing with Holocaust education. But things are not that easy. Every year the struggle starts anew.

Everybody praises the wonderful work done in Beit Theresienstadt, appreciates the special values, the educational profit – but when talking about budgets it is as if nothing was said before. The monies for 2004 we got only in May 2005 and for the current year this stony path has only just begun.

Organisations allocating significant sums e. g. the **Claims Conference** (See page 6), which supports many projects in Beit Theresienstadt, **Maror** – another supporting fund, various departments of the Isr. Ministry of Education, the Inheritance Fund and the Jewish Agency – they all demand that our Association pay part of the outlay of a project, 50% in the case of Claims Conference and Maror, 70% - 80% in other cases.

We are in the midst of large projects – renovation of part of the building and erecting a new classroom, actualization of the Historic Museum, replacement of our software and catalogization of the archives. The Claims Conference already confirmed these projects, but despite our continuous efforts we are very hard put to mobilize the missing sums.

On this occasion I want to ask our members to help, each according to his possibilities. Be it through a larger or smaller donation, an idea or practical help approaching potential donors.

Evidently in the case of Beit Terezin the quotation “If I do not help myself, who will” is even more valid than generally. Only when our wider family becomes aware that this is our task, also from the economic side of it, will we be able to fulfill the obligations we took upon ourselves in both “Founder's Declarations” – that of the first and that of the following generations.

FINANCING PROJECTS BY OUR MEMBERS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

MICHAEL AND THELMA GRUENBAUM, BOSTON

Fundraising is not an easy task for most of us. In fact, it is not something most of us enjoy doing. If done anonymously, it is not much of a problem – all it requires is “elbow grease”. But if it means approaching our friends and acquaintances it becomes quite touchy: as long as

money doesn't enter into the equation, friendships have a much better chance of surviving many other causes which lead to possible friction in relationships.

Here is what we did recently in Boston: we made a list of two dozen of our Jewish friends and acquaintances who either had an interest in Israel and/or Holocaust-related matters or who are wealthy individuals known for making monetary contributions to Jewish causes. We provided the addresses of these individuals to Anita Tarsi and suggested that she send a fundraising letter to each of them without mentioning our name. Anita prepared a draft of the letter and e-mailed it to us for our review. We suggested a few changes and reviewed the draft before the letter was finalized and mailed out of Beit Terezin. Anita first sent these people a copy of the most recent Beit Terezin newsletter and a week later she followed that up by sending them the fundraising letter.

We also took advantage of this year's Yom Hashoah observances and the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the end of WWII in Europe and the liberation of Terezin, this last May; during the commemoration of this year's Yom Hashoah which drew almost 1000 people to Faneuil Hall in Boston, the birthplace of America, we were able to distribute several hundred copies of our fundraising letter as part of information, distributed by the Red Cross of Massachusetts. The Red Cross has a department called "Project Search" which for many decades has tried to find and unite relatives all over the world who survived the Holocaust. Ms Regina Szwadzka, the director of this department, is truly an angel who always looks for ways to help people throughout the world. She is a very good friend of Beit Terezin and not only reproduced our fundraising letter, but also volunteered to distribute it which she did with her usual enthusiasm and at no cost to us or to Beit Terezin.

Of course, in theory to collect \$ 200.000 for Beit Terezin would require only 20.000 people donating \$ 10 each or 10.000 people donating \$ 20 each. However, if a few wealthy "angels" donated much larger amounts, that would provide a very good base and ease the task of collecting the remainder of needed funds with smaller donations. All of the funds would be used to help Beit Terezin build a new classroom, a new library and make other major improvements to help keep the spirit of Terezin alive for future generations. Everyone can help with this worthwhile project and we hope that each one of the readers of the newsletter will roll up their sleeves and help with this most important fundraising effort.

Michael and Thelma Gruenbaum

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The premiere of the film *The Olympic Doll* made possible by Ms Ruth Federmann and the director of the Tel Aviv Dan hotel was the first attempt of this kind, to mobilize financial support for Beit Terezin.

*

Morris Greenfield from Tel Aviv, Hana Greenfield's husband, is ready to help to procure monies needed for the building of a classroom and a library.

*

The team of Beit Theresienstadt could assist at events, with ideas and with formulations of requests to potential donors – those of our members, who would be ready to be active in this field, please contact Beit Terezin. We hope – by pulling all together - to improve the financial situation of Beit Theresienstadt.

LETTERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Since March 2005 the Archive of Documents of the Wiener Library in London is accessible through the Internet, including an exact description of the abt. 700 collections. Among other items there are personal documents, letters and diaries written by Jews in Nazi Germany, by members of the Kindertransports, documents from the trials against war criminals in Nuremberg and elsewhere, letters written by camp prisoners and archives of historians. The address of the site: www.wienerlibrary.co.uk

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ABYSS

I would like to tell you about a special experience I had in Berlin – once the center of “The Emporium of Evil” and today the thriving capital of Germany, maybe of all of Europe.

At the Jewish Museum I met a group of schoolchildren and talked with them. The organizers asked me if I would be ready – separately of course – to meet a group of 17-years old students from the same school, who do not hide that they belong to the extreme Right, e. g. Neo-Nazis. I was ready. The physical proximity to the boys sitting opposite me – adorned with tattoos and heavy iron jewelry, with cold eyes and looking around them without interest or feeling – did not paralyze me. On the contrary, it inspired me. In spite of their irritating behavior I started to talk, in a way which surprised them. I turned the tables on them and asked, what was behind their ideas? What do they want to give the world, should they be in charge? The surprise of my questions silenced them and made them listen; alas, I did not get any answers.

I reminded them that the Nazi ideology brought unspeakable misery on the whole world and destruction for Germany – and specifically for the Jewish nation. ”I took them” to Auschwitz and told them what I never tell other children – the fire and the blood which I withhold from other listeners. After I ended they stayed silent for a long time. Did I cause them to think?

Eva Erben, Ashkelon

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Frank Bright (formerly Franz Brichta) from Ipswich in England reacts to an article in our newsletter from January 2005 (the following is shortened):

“The obituary for Werner Neufliess was especially interesting for me since I learned with him in Prague – where I had come from Berlin in 1938 and studied at the Jewish school. The Nazis closed the school in 1942 and the pupils had to find work. I was then 13½ years old and found work at the new Jewish cemetery in Olsany. Werner was the chief gardener there and from him I learned how to prune the trees beside the main road, to grow tomatoes from seed, to take care of the lawn ... In the spring we made an unused piece of land into a vegetable garden where we planted onions, leeks, carrots, pumpkins, tomatoes and other vegetables. These we then sent in food parcels to Theresienstadt. I am grateful to Werner Neufliess for my gardening expertise, which often helped me”.

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I request information from all who knew the Goldwerth family: Marcus, Marianne, Arthur and Erna, who were deported in 1942 from Vienna to ghetto Theresienstadt. Erna and her brother died there, the parents Marcus and Marianne survived and returned to Vienna. I am specifically interested in addresses of still living members of the family. Answers please to:

**Ira Wolinsky, 6230 Yarwell Drive, Houston, TX 77096 USA, phone *1-713-9959207,
e-mail: IWolinsky@houston.rr.com**

*

Paul **Fialla** is looking for his relatives – Peter Fialla, born 1930 and Renate, born 1932. Both came in February 1945 from ghetto Theresienstadt to Switzerland. Should somebody know his or her address, please contact Beit Theresienstadt.

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Viola, born 1931 and Edith **Dikk**, born 1933, whose parents attempted in 1939 to illegally reach what was then called Palestine to prepare the immigration of their children, were deported in October 1942 from Prague to ghetto Terezin and then in October 1944 from there to Auschwitz. Their further fate is not known. In 1960 the Dikk family – now Kabiri – got a message from the Czechoslovak Red Cross that in its card index appears a girl named Edith Bikov – that was the mother's name before her marriage. No more information came forth. All who knew the sisters Dikk or know anything about their fate, is requested to contact the Kabiri family in Afula, Israel, phones: *972-4-6523667 or *972-57-7907447.

*

Anne Georgette is preparing a French documentary film about Minna Paechter's cookbook, written in the ghetto and its fate after the war. In this context she would like to know if any of our members knew Minna Paechter or maybe Arthur Buchsbaum, born 1889, who survived Terezin and sent the cookbook to Minna's daughter Annie Stern. In the meantime Annie immigrated to the USA and the book also went through a number of stations. Perhaps one of our readers knows, who took Minna Paechter's cookbook from Israel to Annie Stern in the USA? Please contact: georgette.anne@free.fr

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We, students of the School for International and Public Relations in Prague, participate in the interdisciplinary program *Loterie zivota* (Lottery of Life), together with 160.000 Czech students. The program includes also the screening of the film *Sila lidskosti – Loterie zivota* (Power of Humaneness – Lottery of Life) about Sir Nicholas Winton who, in 1939, at the last moment, brought 669 Jewish children from Czechoslovakia to England and so saved their lives. In the framework of this program we are looking for “Winton's children”, now dispersed all over the world. Up till now 229 were found, the remainder not yet. If any of you readers himself is one of the “children” or knows of one, please contact:

Skola mezinarodnich a verejnych vztahu Praha, Michelska 12, 14000 Praha 4, Czech Republic, phone: *420-2-41482428, e-mail: wintonovistudenti@smvvp Praha.cz

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We received the following letter:

.... The moment has come to thank Beit Terezin and its team for all the wonderful work you have done to translate and to bring to the public the Rim-Rim-Rim issues of our Nesharim group.

There are many organizations that memorialize the Holocaust but there is only one Beit Terezin that concentrates on the fate of the 12.000 children of whom only less than 200 returned Of all the diabolical acts and atrocities, the killing of innocent children is the most horrible.

You have done so much to make their fate so distinct: your archives and research, your teachers, group encounters, Israeli and foreign visitors opened to the entire world views of what had transpired behind the Terezin walls.

Your organization deserves all the support, not only by membership fees but also by contributions in memoriam of those who did not return.

We wish you continued success.

Thank you again,

Sincerely Ilsa and Francis (Franta) Maier

* * *

MEMBERSHIP DUES

As explained elsewhere in the newsletter, Beit Theresienstadt struggles with difficult financial problems – caused partly by the general situation and partly because of diminished allocation of public monies. To enable Beit Theresienstadt to function, to develop and to continue its important activities, we request our members to transmit their annual membership fees as soon as possible. Additional donations would be very welcome!

	<u>Israel</u>		<u>Abroad</u>	
Singles	NIS	120.-	US \$	60.-
Couples	NIS	180.-	US \$	90.-

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, Israel

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