הארגון העולמי של יהודים
יוצאי זאקרפטיה - טרנסקרפטיה (ע"ר)

Bulletin number 137 - August 2025

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1. The book "I Chose Through Faith" by Esther Schlesinger (Uzhgorod) - in Hebrew

In April 2025, Moshe Zichtiger from Jerusalem contacted me and told me about his grandmother, Esther Schlesinger, who wrote a book about her family's history. Moshe gave permission to publish this book on our website carpati.org.il – Gallery – Books.
Grandma had two dreams: The first dream was to commemorate all of her family members on her tombstone. Indeed, we promised Grandma "living tombstones," and with God's help we also kept them - with the names of our children. But of course, Grandma's tombstone also has the names of all of her family members engraved on it. So, Grandma's grave is a Zion within Zion, no less than 15 people!



Grandma's second dream was to publish a book! In it, to tell everything that happened in the Holocaust, as follows: 'Remember what Amalek did to you...' And this dream, in God's name, is coming true and being realized in these pages."



2. Searching for roots from Dovhe / Dolha)

Our friend, Ahuva (Luba) Weinberger (Jakobovich) volunteers to assist those **who lack or have no information about their family roots, including previous generations** – from Dovhe / Dolha (531 - The number in parentheses is the number of Jews in the census conducted in 1941.
You can contact Ahuva (Luba) at 052-3385447.

3. From the press: Indig Eyal (Ganich, Bilke and Solotvino)

I told about Eyal in Bulletin 100 from Septemcer, 2022: He is a fourth-generation son, the grandson of Sarah (whose her father is from Ganich and her mother - from Solotvino) and Yitzhak (whose father is from Bilke and his mother - from Solotvino) Shimonovich, the son of Liat and Guy Indig, who have 3 children, and they live in Herzliya. Eyal is an outstanding gymnast in floor and apparatus gymnastics. **3 years ago, in July 2022, at Maccabiah, he won first place in the apparatus gymnastics competition**.

A Facebook post by the Israel Gymnastics Association from mid-July 2025 described Eyal's winning of the award as: "**Inspiring Gymnast in Boys' Artistic Gymnastics for 2025 - Eyal Indig**😁

The award is presented in the name of the late Boris Kanyev. Boris was one of the pillars of the gymnastics industry in Israel - a coach, an educator, and a person with all his heart and soul. As the coach of the youth team and someone who accompanied former Israeli champion, Ofir Netzer, to a record achievement at the 2013 European Championships, Boris was a partner in the great moments of the sport - but also, and perhaps especially, in the small moments of everyday life full of dedication, values, and true love for the profession. Even when he bravely faced cancer, he did not stop coming to the gym.

Boris' death, shortly after the 2018 European Championships, left a painful void in the gymnastics community Gymnastics.

It is a great honor to present an award in his name and to honor his memory.

We are pleased to present this year's award to Eyal Indig.

Eyal is a **senior gymnast on the Israeli senior national team – he is a symbol of strength, uncompromising determination, and the human ability to overcome, get up, and start over – over and over again**.

Eyal's journey in gymnastics began in an unexpected place: as a child diagnosed with low muscle tone, turning to physical activity was a medical solution – but it quickly became a calling. **From difficulty came a passion, and from a limitation – a mission was built**.

After two serious injuries – a torn cruciate ligament and a rare elbow injury – when doctors doubted whether he would be able to return, Eyal chose to believe. **He underwent rehabilitation, worked quietly and diligently, and proved that limits are only a starting point**".



Eyal chose to put the picture of the kidnapped, Alon Ohal, next to the podium

Grandmother Sarah Shimonovich adds: "This is the first time Eyal has competed after 2 very serious injuries in the last two years. He underwent surgery in Belgium and spent 8 months there for rehabilitation.

Eyal received 2 gold medals and an inspiration award for his will and perseverance".

Congratulations to Eyal for his athletic and personal abilities!

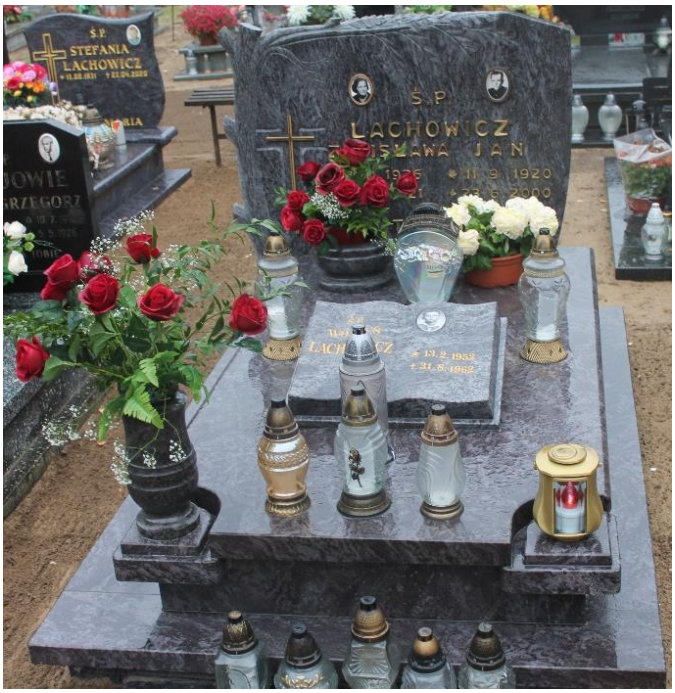
4. **Righteous Among the Nations:** Ignat **Josipovits,** Dora/Dvora, Handa Stark [nee Josipovits] and Shmuel: **Rokossowo [Rakasz]/ Seilesh - The rescue operation took place in Poland**

One day in June 1941, a train carrying 300 Jews from Hungary to Kamieniec Podolski for slave labor stopped in Jagielnica (Czortków county, Ternopol district). Four of the Jewish prisoners in the transport were Dr. Ignatz Josipovits, his wife, and their two children. Josipovits, the only doctor in the wagon car, also treated the Ukrainian guards who escorted the transport.
Wojciech Lachowicz, a local Polish doctor, learned of this and, for humanitarian reasons, decided to come to the assistance of Josipovits even though he and the Jewish physician were total strangers. Lachowicz contacted the Ukrainian commander of the area and persuaded him to leave Josipovits in Jagielnica. With the consent of the German authorities and the transport commanders, Josipovits and his family were removed from the train, and given a permit to remain in Jagielnica. Unofficially, he was allowed to practice medicine for the sick villagers in and around Jagielnica, who had no doctor nearby. Dr. Lachowicz accommodated Dr. Josipovits and his family in his apartment, cared for them devotedly, and sustained their morale—for no remuneration whatsoever.
In the summer of 1942, Dr. Lachowicz obtained a permit allowing the Josipovitses to return to Hungary.
After the war, it was discovered that almost all the Jews in the Josipovitses' transport had perished.
In September 1943, Lachowicz was murdered by a band of Ukrainian nationalists.
On May 28, 1978, Yad Vashem recognized Dr. Wojciech Lachowicz as Righteous Among the Nations.



Wojciech Lachowicz

His grave

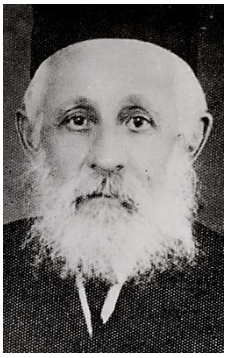


There is an entry on Wikipedia, in Polish, about this Righteous Among the Nations .On the following website I found more information about the rescuer. I will quote details that were not published on the Yad Vashem website:
https://sprawiedliwi.org.pl/en/stories-of-rescue/story-rescue-lachowicz-wojciech

Dr. Wojciech Lachowicz worked as a general practitioner and school doctor in Jagielnica and Czortków (now in Ukraine).
He was simultaneously the mayor of Czortków and later of Jagielnica.

From 1938 he was a senator for the fifth term as a representative of the National Unity Camp.
He was arrested after the Russian invasion, but he was released shortly after the requests of the local population.
'...Our Christian friend protected us as if he were his own child. We also had the opportunity to see that he felt deep sympathy for the Jews and did everything in his power to help them' - Josipovits reported. In the summer of 1942, Dr. Lachowicz obtained permission for the Josipovits family to return to Hungary, where they survived and awaited liberation. No one from the Hungarian transport to Kamieniec Podolski survived.
On September 1, 1943, Dr. Lakhovitz was taken from his home by a Ukrainian gang and murdered (according to another version, he was killed by Germans)..."

Information about the Josipovits family according to MyHeritage and witness pages: The family lived in Rakasz [now Rokosovo, Khust County]. Later the family moved to Seilesh.
Ignat was born in February 1893 and died in March 1992, in Los Angeles. He was a psychiatrist.
His parents, both born in 1873, were murdered in Auschwitz.



Ignat's father was Moritz, born in 1873;
his mother was Gizella (Golda) (née Klein);



his wife was Dora/Davora, née Fried, born in 1896; died – 1987;
they had two children: Shmuel and Handa Stark
Ignat Josipovits's siblings were:

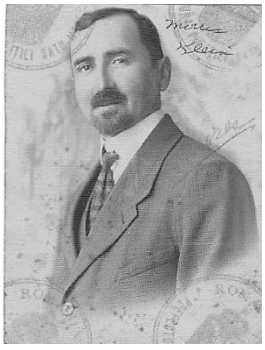


Yossi, born in 1900, murdered in Auschwitz, also with his son Nandor/Naftali;

Iren Sicherman, born 1906, murdered in 1941 when thrown into the Dniester River in Galicia, with her husband and 2 daughters;
Ilona/Hannah, born 1910/11, murdered in Auschwitz;
Rivka Marmelstein, born 1913, survived, lived in Kfar Saba; died 2005.
Nandor Josipovits; 3 more brothers/sisters unnamed [private].



Lenke Helen Herlinger, née Yosifovitz.
Dora's parents were Shmuel and Bella/Berta Fried; they died before the Holocaust.
Dora Josifovitz's brothers and sister were also born in Rokossovo.
David Klein, born in Rokossovo, murdered in Auschwitz;
Morris Klein Marushka Klein , lived between 1880-1965



The following website has more information about the family members – an interview with Suzy, Handa's daughter:
https://www.jewishfoodsociety.org/stories/the-resilience-and-recipes-of-holocaust-survivor-handa

"Handa was born in Sevluš — a village that Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Ukraine have all claimed - where her father, Yitzhak, was a beloved doctor, who treated people whether they could pay or not. And in the early morning, her brother would avoid his waiting room because "the town hookers would come [in] and he was worried they might recognize him," Susie laughs .

Handa's mother, Dvorah, spoke seven languages and between the two world wars, she lived in the United States where she worked for Henry Ford. In a Shoah Foundation recording, Handa describes a good life before the war, attending school with her girlfriends and living with her family .

In the early 1940s, their lives changed with a knock on the door. Soldiers told them they had two hours to pack. "The part of this story that I remember the most," Susie explains, is the fact that "My mother wasn't afraid. She was with her parents and her friends. For her it was an adventure." They were packed into a cattle car, but they opened the doors and saw rolling forests and villages go by.

When they stopped by the border between Poland and Hungry, Yitzhak heard a local doctor was looking for help, but he said he couldn't stay - someone needed to look after the group he was with. Just as the transport was about to leave, a policeman arrived and said "Where's that doctor? We need him." The family stayed in the town, living with a righteous gentile. Later, they learned that the transport was sent to Kamenets-Podolsk, the site of the first mass murder of Jews by the Nazis .

After a year, her family returned to their village, but they were deported again and taken to Auschwitz. Susie says her mother and grandmother could smell the gas chambers. Dvorah was first sent to that line, but when there was some commotion, she was able to grab on to Handa .

"They stayed together, but they weren't liberated from Auschwitz - this is where the Henry Ford story comes in," Susie says. When a German industrialist arrived looking for laborers for a missile factory, Dvorah spoke up and told the man about her experience. She and Handa were taken to the factory, where they worked and lived until they were liberated by Soviet forces .

When the family reunited, they left together for France, where Dvorah and Yitzchak ran an orphanage for child survivors. While Handa was there, she briefly met a man nicknamed "Babush" - but she didn't think much of it, Susie says. His family immigrated to Chile and hers to New York .

One day, Handa received a letter from him, asking how she was doing. She wrote back: "I'm fine, but why are you writing to me?" Susie explains. He asked if she would marry him. Her mother didn't like her boyfriend at the time and when Handa shared the news of the letter, her mother said "you're engaged ".

"My mom and dad wrote letters to each other and right before Passover they put my mom on the boat by herself" to Chile to get married, Susie shares. Despite barely knowing one another before getting engaged, "they had an amazing amazing amazing marriage — they were so in love," she adds .

They later settled in Los Angeles, where Susie and her siblings, Rosie and Allan, grew up and were part of a large community of survivors. "My father was the kind of person that people followed to LA - he would set them up in business," Susie says. Her mom was a good cook, and Susie remembers her tall nut tortes, roast chicken, sweet egg noodles, with ground walnuts, and even a soup she made from flour and water, which Susie says is "a meal for someone who has to make a meal of nothing".

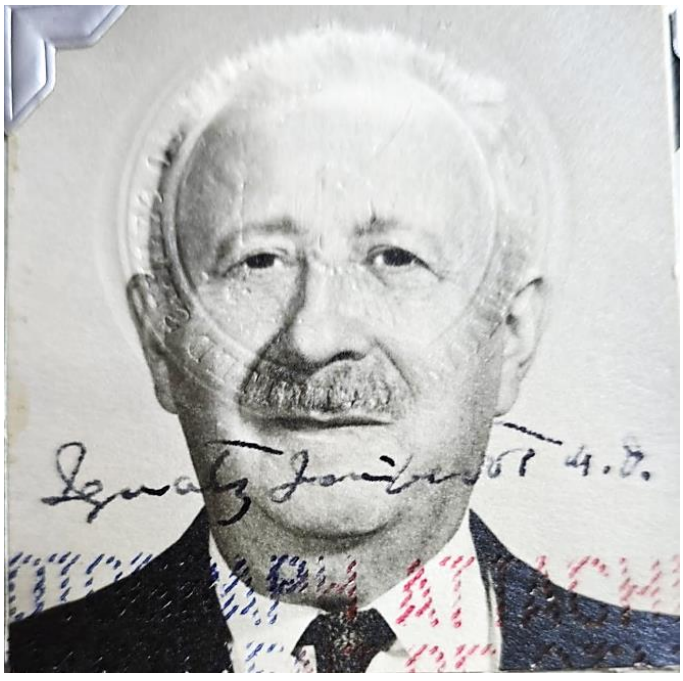
One recipe she remembers fondly is what the family calls "bubbie chicken," or fried chicken wings. On Friday afternoons during the summer, Handa would make it for Susie's kids and their cousins. "After they got out of the pool, before showers, they would have their bubbie chicken," she says. It would help tide them over until Shabbat dinner .

It's been years since those summer afternoons and both of her parents have passed away, but Susie remains committed to sharing their story. "Their history and their life experiences are part of the history of the Jewish people," she says .

I found our friend, Gabi Mermelstein, from Kfar Saba, the son of Rivka, Ignat's sister. Gabi informed me that the Josipovits family had 10 children.
Gabi also told me that the two daughters of Handa, Ignat's daughter 2 granddaughters, had immigrated to Israel. From granddaughter Suzy, I received more exciting information – and many moving family photos – and for that, thanks!
Ignat and his family returned to Seilesh after about a year. Their son, Shmuel (Tatsi), missed home very much and what's more: there was a rumor that the boys would be taken from Jagielnica. Shmuel was drafted into the labor companies and worked on the army's horse farm. There he was beaten and treated badly by the Hungarian commanders. Luckily for him, there was an officer, whose horse was uncontrollable – only Shmuel knew how to take care of it. He asked the officer to sleep with the horse in the stable and thus took care of the horse – and, above all, himself. When the officer was forced to move, Shmuel managed to escape and join the partisans.
After the war, Shmuel came to Detroit, USA. He changed his name to Sam Young.
Handa Stark, daughter of Ignat and Dvorah, was born in 1924.
Ignat's sister, Lenke, came to Brazil between the two world wars, with her husband, to study medicine, with a scholarship, which required work as a doctor in a local town.
Another sister named Morgit, who did not marry, was sent to her. Two more sisters were Regi and Rebecca (Rebbi), who lived in Israel.
Suzy Cernevitz and Rosie Silverstein, daughters of the daughter, Handa Stark, immigrated to Israel.



Dr. Ignat Josipovits, died at the age of 99





1937: Handa, daughter of Ignat and Deborah



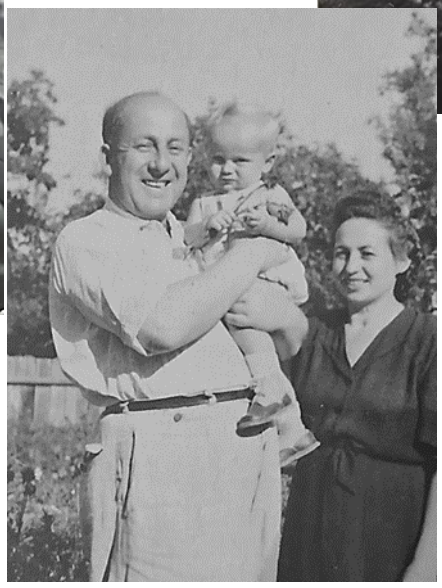
Shmuel, son of Ignat and Deborah, with his wife, Piri (nee Rosenberg), born in Silesia and active in the underground in Budapest [together with her brother Tolik]



Handa with the orphaned children



Dvorah Josipovits with the children at the orphanage in France



Rivka Mermelshteinn, Ignat's suster, with her husband and son



Sandra and Bundy Hollo, daughter of Ignat's sister, Reggie



Ignat's sister, Morgit

Sztrulowics / Rapaport - Raf Gyula/Gedalyahu – Mizhhirya / Volove [Ökörmező]

The rescue operation of the Righteous Among the Nations took place in the Czech Republic

Josef and Anna Karásek were farmers in the small agricultural village of Křečov in the Kralovice District, about 35 km north of Plzeň. One of their parents lived with them and took care of their young boys, six-year-old Miloslav and four-year-old Waclav. At the very end of WWII, the family hid and took care of two teenage Jewish camp inmates who had escaped from a death march. Gyula Sztrulowics, b.1931, from Ökörmező near Hust in Carpathian Ruthenia (today Mizhirya, Ukraine) and Adolf (Bummi) Szapincán, b.1930, from Máramarossziget (today Sighetu Marmaţiei, Romania), had been deported in May 1944 to Auschwitz-Birkenau and after a few weeks were sent to the Buchenwald concentration camp. In mid-December 1944, they were transferred to Berga, a sub-camp of Buchenwald, on the banks of the Elster River. In April 1945, inmates of Berga were evacuated on what quickly became a death march. The sick, nearly starved prisoners were forced to walk miles each day away from the quickly advancing Allied armies. In late April 1945, Gyula and Adolf, in very miserable condition, escaped near the Karásek farm and hid in their barn. The next day, Anna discovered them and began to take care of them providing food and clothing. This was a very dangerous situation because there were dozens of German civilians escaped from Upper Silesia who had found refuge near their village. During their stay, Gyula and Adolf helped the Karáseks by taking their cattle out to graze in the near valley. The Karáseks hid them for 22 days until the liberation of the Czech Lands in May 1945. After the liberation, the boys left their rescuers and Adolf's whereabouts were lost. Gyula joined a group from the Bnei Akiva youth movement in Budapest that left for Mandatory Palestine. Once in Israel, he changed his name to Gedalyahu Raf and renewed contact with the Karásek family. On November 21, 2004, Yad Vashem recognized Josef and Anna Karásek as Righteous Among the Nations.



Josef and Anna Karasek

Karásek Josef (1902 - 1982)
Karásková Anna (1906 - 1989)

Gedaliyahu's parents were: Aryeh **Rapaport-Sztrulowics** and Rivka-Rosa, née Farkash. They had 5 children, 2 sons and 3 daughters.
Apparently, Sztrulowics was the grandmother's last name [on the father's side].
The order of births was: Dov, Sima, Rachel, Gedaliya and Gita.
Dov, born in 1924, lived in Ramata'him, had 2 daughters, Orit and Merav; died in 1998. Rachel Tzadok, born in 1929, was imprisoned in Stutthof; lived in Holon, had 2 sons, Ido and Ziv; died in January 2021.

2 sisters did not survive: Gita - murdered in Auschwitz;
Sima-Sari, born in 1926, died of illness and starvation in Stutthof.
Gedaliyahu died in 2008 and was buried in Moshav Ilaniya, which he was one of the founders of and where his family lived.
The grandfather and grandmother hid in the forest, but after two days the grandmother returned to the village – and was taken to Auschwitz; the grandfather survived...



Gedaliyahu Raff (left) with the son of the rescuers, Anna and Yosef Karásek, at a ceremony held at Yad Vashem

Gedaliyahu and his wife had two sons: Aryeh and Zeev. Aryeh told me that his father had been searching for Adolf all his life, with whom he had been saved. About two weeks after Gedaliyahu's death, a letter arrived, documenting the location of Adolf... He lived in Arizona and told nothing about his past; the son of the rescuers sent his wife information. Adolf and his wife visited Israel in the 1960s, but Gedaliyahu, of course, did not know about it.


Rachel Tzadok (nee Farkash Rappaport), Gedaliyahu's sister



Gedaliyahu tomb stone



From the right, in front: Gedaliah and Gitu; behind: Sima, Dov, parents Aryeh and Rivka, Rachel.
The parents and the sisters Sima and Gitu were murdered.

I received this moving photo from Adoh, Rachel's son, depicting the family in 1944.
The story of the photo is very special: Jewish soldiers from other places lived in the family home. When the family was taken away, many photos remained in the house, because brother Dov had a camera and took a lot of photos. Dov was recruited into the labor companies. A week before the deportation to the ghetto, he visited the home and took care of the family photo. When the family was taken from their home, the soldiers collected the photos. After the war, by chance, Rachel met one of them on the train - and from him she received the family photo.
Rachel said that her father was a tanner. They had a two-story house, the first in Woloba, with a youth movement activity on the second floor.
The father's family was from Koshelovo and the mother's family from Krajnykovo, both in the Khost region. In 1941 they were saved from actual deportation to Transnistria with the help of the mother's tricks.
In 1944 the family was sent to the Sokyrnytsya ghetto. Dov escaped from the labor detachments and joined the partisans.
When his sister Sima [born 1926] was on her deathbed in Stutthof, she said "I will never reach the age of 18..."
Link to Gedalyahu's life story on You Tube:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2XRSbvV6b4&list=PL6MeUZ9M2SMyZsaNoo-UKezuJWuReyqYW&index=3

Rachel's testimony in the Spielberg Project, from the Yad Vashem website:
https://collections.yadvashem.org/he/documents/8424116

Link to Yad Vashem website: https://collections.yadvashem.org/en/righteous/4440519

Greenwald - Bromberg Karla and Erika (Cohen) - **Uzhgorod**
The story of the rescue of the mother and daughter took place in Trnava, Slovakia.

Elemer Nemec [1890-1958], a gynecologist, was the director of a hospital in Užhorod, in Carpathian Ruthenia. When this area was annexed to Hungary, he moved to Trnava, in Slovakia, where he was appointed director of the gynecology department in the local hospital.
Karla Gruenwald (later Bromberg) also lived in Užhorod. Her husband was conscripted to a military labor-service battalion in 1942, and she, as a Slovakian citizen, fled across the border with her young daughter Erika (later Cohen) to Slovakia. They spent the period until the autumn of 1944 wandering from place to place. When they found themselves with no roof over their head and with no money, Karla remembered Dr. Nemec, who had delivered Erika. She appeared at his office at the hospital in Trnava and told him briefly that she had nowhere to hide. Dr. Nemec immediately responded with an offer of shelter. Dr. Nemec hospitalized Karla in his department and, with the help of his wife, Agáta, they placed Erika with a Christian family. When the hospital was evacuated of citizen-patients and converted to a military hospital, the Nemec couple found employment for Karla with a Christian family as a cook. This work allowed Karla to have Erika join her. However, after being denounced, the two were apprehended. Mother and daughter both stuck by their story that they were Aryan and, in the interrogation, they claimed that Dr. Nemec could attest to it. Dr. Nemec testified that he had known them for many years, and that they were pious Christians. This testimony prevented their deportation. After the liberation in early April 1945, Karla and Erika could not return to their home as the roads were still blocked, and they remained for a few weeks with the Nemeces.
When the war was over, Karla's husband's fate was discovered: toward the end of the war, he escaped from the labor unit and he was caught and executed on March 10, 1945, while trying to cross the border to Slovakia.
Dr. Nemec was also involved with helping other Jews during the war. When the deportations in 1942 started, Ester Fleischhackerová, the mother of 14-year-old Eva, found out that she was pregnant. The fear of bringing a child into the world during the war motivated Ester to consult with Dr. Nemec. He convinced her that it would be difficult for them to survive the war with a baby. An abortion was performed with no charge at Dr. Nemec's private house with the help of Agáta. When Ester returned home, she had a high temperature. Dr. Nemec took it upon himself to visit her daily, bring her medication that was hard to obtain, and to assist in her recovery.
Dr. Nemec had many other patients like Ester. Marko Lorber from the village of Lenartov, near Bardejov [Slovakia] also received help from the Nemec couple. Towards the end of the war, he was hiding in the area around Hlohovec and he ran out of money. In his distress, Marko remembered Dr. Nemec, who was born in the adjacent village and who had a reputation as a good man. Marko sent a letter to Dr. Nemec, via the farmer's daughter, and asked for financial aid. The money that was sent to him was attached to a letter from the Nemec couple telling him not to hesitate to turn to them again if the sum of money was not sufficient. The war persisted and indeed the funds were not sufficient and Marko did need more financial aid. The additional money the Nemec couple gave him was enough for him to survive until the liberation. After the war, Dr. Nemec suffered under the communist regime. He died before his wartime deeds were recognized and acknowledged. The survivors maintained a close relationship with Agáta and her children. On July 13, 1994, Yad Vashem recognized Elemer Nemec and Agáta Nemecová as Righteous Among the Nations.
The ceremony was held at Yad Vashem on 9.12.1998





Nemec Elemer & Nemcová Agáta

Karla filled out a testimony sheet in Netanya, March 1999, about her husband: Mikulas, born 1912 from Michalovce, Slovakia, exporter, Permanent residence: Uzhorod, murdered on 10.3.1945 in Galanta.
Karla (Karola) died on 16.9.2003 and is buried in Netanya. Her father's name: Wilhelm.
Karla filled out a testimony sheet about her family, the Hershkowitz family, who were murdered in Auschwitz. Her father was born in 1886. Her mother's name was Lina, born in 1890.
Her brothers and sisters, who perished were: Mor, born in 1920;
A married sister named Cili Fishbein, born in 1913;
A married sister named Aurelia Klein, born in 1910.
The brother, Hershkowitz Lajos, born in 1918 – survived.
Karla was remarried to Bromberger Ephraim.

I was able to locate Erica Cohen, who lives in Herzliya, and from her I received a lot of information. Erica was born in 1938. Her father, Miklos, was murdered in Galanta, along with three other Jews. Several years ago, Erica erected a tombstone in his memory at the presumed place where he was buried.
She married Amir Cohen, a second generation, in Israel, and had a publishing and advertising company and worked until mid-2023.
Erica said that her mother, Karla (born in 1916), whose name "at home" was Shari, worked as a head surgical nurse in a clinic in Netanya and was highly respected. She swore Erica never to set foot on the cursed land of Uzhgorod again. Karla remarried after her daughter's marriage, but her second husband did not last long and she remained a widow for many years.
She gave the following details about her rescuers: Agatha, was the daughter of a priest. She was widowed and was left with her son, Mitya Kutka, later a professor of medicine in Houston.
She remarried to Nemec Elemer and they had two daughters: Natika Jakubova, a doctor, living in Bratislava, and Martha, a pharmacist, living in Germany.



Recognition ceremony at Yad Vashem, 9.12.1998
Right: Unknown, Karla Grünwald-Bromberger,
Dr. Natalia Jakubova (Natika),
Prof. Kutka and
Erika Grünwald-Cohen



Right: Unknown woman, Karla Greenwald-Bromberger and Prof. Kutka, Agatha's son

Right: Dr. Natalia Jakubova (Natika), the unknown woman, Karola Greenwald-Bromberg and Erika Greenwald Cohen



I found the information about the passing of Prof. Kutka, who was an international expert in the field of radiology: Nicholas Kutka, M.D., passed away on Wednesday, January 19, 2005 in Houston. Dr. Kutka was a veteran of the Michael DeBakey Hospital staff in Houston for over 20 years. He is survived by his wife Veronica; sons Gregory and Andrew Kutka; and sister Natalia Jakubik [Natika]. He was born in December 1926.

Link to the "Yad Vashem" website: https://collections.yadvashem.org/en/righteous/4038258



5. Israelis Born in Carpatorus: Ackerman-Oron Moshe (Beregszász)

On the website "Israelis Born in Czechoslovakia" I found the name of Moshe Oron, born in Beregszász, who was an IDF officer with the rank of lieutenant colonel, who served in the Navy. During his service on all types of Navy vessels, he was commander of the tactical training facility and the naval control unit. He participated in wars and in his last position was **commander of the Red Sea arena.**
I will upload the summary of the documentation about him from the entry on his name on Wikipedia:
"Father David Ackerman was a sailor in the British merchant navy. He did vocational training in diamond polishing and chose to live in Antwerp, where he met Shoshana, from the Rosenberg family, and in 1935 they married. Moshe is the second son of the Ackerman family. He was born on May 15, 1939 in the city of Beregszasz, when his mother, in her ninth month of pregnancy, traveled to visit her parents. After three months, the mother and baby returned to Belgium. At the beginning of World War II, the family moved to Brussels, where French was spoken, which was more convenient for Jews. At home, they spoke Hungarian.
Each member of the family lived through the years of the World War separately. The father was hidden with the help of an underground group fighting the Germans. The eldest brother Michael was hidden with a Belgian family. Sister Batya, two years younger than Moshe, was hidden with another family. From the age of two to six, Moshe was hidden in a monastery, where an orphanage for children of Belgian origin was located, run by nuns.
Following the denunciation, the Germans captured Shoshana Ackerman and, with beatings, demanded to know where her husband and children were. Shoshana did not know, because it was the underground's policy not to give information so that it would not be discovered under torture. Shoshana escaped from the Germans (or attempted suicide) and jumped from the second floor. She landed on the sidewalk, broke an arm, a leg, and her spine, but survived. She was taken to a hospital with the intention of recovering and being taken to a concentration camp. Brussels was liberated and Shoshana Ackerman remained alive, physically and mentally broken.
The Ackerman family survived the Holocaust, but most of the family members of the father and mother were destroyed in the Holocaust. Father David Ackerman received Moshe from the nuns, brought him to a house he did not remember, met a woman he did not know, and had already forgotten the Hungarian language she spoke. He knew his brother Michael and was happy. After the war, the Ackerman family lived in Anderlecht, a suburb of Brussels. A daughter, Salva, was born, a younger sister to Michael, Moshe and Batya.
Michael and Moshe studied together in the same class at a French-speaking school. They celebrated their bar mitzvah together. The economic level was relatively good. The family's children did not receive a Jewish or Zionist education, but only lived the culture of Western Europe.
After the establishment of the State of Israel, Shoshana Ackerman began to press for aliyah to Israel. David Ackerman initially refused, claiming that they had rebuilt their lives and were doing well in Belgium. Shoshana did not give up. David sold the house and its contents, bought half a kilo of gold and packed many items, including bicycles for the entire family. Ackerman mistakenly returned the citizenship certificates to the Belgian border police. In doing so, the family lost their status and as if they had voluntarily renounced their Belgian citizenship.
...After about two weeks at a holiday camp near Marseille, they sailed on the "Kedma". On May 19, 1949, at the age of 11, Oron arrived with his family at the Haifa port and from there to Shaar

Aliyah, an immigrant camp in southern Haifa. After about two weeks, they were transferred to the "Agrobank" transit camp [now Givat Olga], where they were housed in a huge Indian tent, where the temperatures in the summer were unbearable. After about a year, the tents were replaced with huts that were more protected from the effects of the weather.
The father found work as an agricultural laborer in the Hadera orchards. And the mother worked as a cleaner in a Hadera grocery store. Moshe and Michael were sent to a youth village in Nitzanim with the aim of learning French culture, but this turned out to be an illusion. The parents were given a house in Kiryat Yam. Michael found his way to them and the mother came and took Moshe from Nitzanim to their home in Kiryat Yam.
...At the age of 16, Oron completed his elementary school studies, but did not attend high school. Oron began working as an electrician's assistant and learned the basics of the profession.
...During compulsory service, inspired by his father, a sailor, Moshe volunteered for the semi-annual course, at the Navy's Naval Academy. He went on to successfully complete a course for naval radar operators, as an outstanding trainee.
...In his civilian life and in the reserves, Oron found work as a clerk at Bank Leumi in Haifa. He integrated well at the bank, and even excelled by teaching himself how to operate automatic and computerized machines.



Colonel Moshe Oron at the Haifa Achi Bridge (Saar 2) on the way from Cherbourg to Israel [Citation: Lior Margolin, Tel Aviv]



Chief of Staff, Rafael Eitan, confers the rank of Colonel on Moshe Oron, Deputy Commander of Haifa Base, accompanied by his daughter Rona Oron.
[Citation: Yellow Dot]

The website documenting children in the Holocaust also features Moshe Oron's story: https://www.children-holocaust2.co.il/



6. Ours: Berner – Shalem Rachel (Matijovo)

Rachel Berner-Shalem is **a senior director of the Health System Human Resources Planning Division at the Ministry of Health**. In her role, she is responsible for long-term strategic planning of the health system's human resources, and works to improve efficiency in the public service and increase equality in the provision of health services.
In addition, Rachel Berner-Shalem was previously responsible for other areas, including:

- National planning and streamlining national health infrastructures.
- Planning reforms in the field of health economics.
- Research and policy in the field of poverty prevention in the employment service.

I will return to Rachel's impressive activities, but let's start with her basic biography.
I became aware of Rachel's name through the recommendation of Prof. Yitzhal Berner, whom I documented in Bulletin 105 in February 2023. Yitzhal and Rachel's father have a family connection. This is how Yitzhal explained it to me: "My grandfather, Avraham Berner, who died in 1926, is the younger brother of the late Yosef Berner, who had 11 children, and is Ernst's great-grandfather. Daniel, one of Yosef's sons, is Ernst's grandfather. ...I am Ernst's second cousin, even though he is two years older than me.
I made the connection with Ernst and his family by chance. I made a home visit [as a doctor] to a woman in Rehovot and in the stairwell I saw that there was a family, named Brenner, and the "B" was dotted with an axis, meaning BERNER. I asked the woman I visited about the family and she told me that they were a couple of young and lovely engineers, who came from Russia, and were active in the house committee. I left her my business card and asked her to give it to them and for them to call, if they wanted. **The next day Ernst called and since then we have been in family contact**".
Rachel's parents are Regina, born in Lviv, and Ernest-Daniel, born in Matijovo [in Hungarian Mátyfalva, Vinogradov District; in the 1941 census, the village had 64 Jews]. The parents immigrated to Israel in 1978, with their eldest son, Julian, who currently lives in Tivon. Rachel was born in 1982, in Ashkelon, and grew up in Rehovot. She completed her high school studies at "De Shalit" High School and did her military service in the Operations Division of the Navy.
When I asked about the origin of the name Rachel, it turned out that her original name, as expected, is Rakhel, but Rachel was the nickname of her friends, which she adopted over the years.
She studied her first and second degrees in economics at the University of Jerusalem, completing her second degree with honors, and with a warm recommendation for doctoral studies.
Then (2009), Rachel decided to specialize in London in a field called Happiness Economy*: a field of research that attempts to promote the quality of life in a country, or society, by combining techniques from the fields of economics and psychology. The goal of Happiness Economy is to determine what causes happiness, joy, and life satisfaction among people.
*Happiness Economy is a stream of behavioral economics, that measures happiness and finds correlations between it and other "machines" in our lives: health, parenting, retirement, meaning, leisure, our money.

From an article in Globes, dated January 18, 2025: "In the 1970s, American economist, Richard Easterlin, discovered something revolutionary. He examined the data on economic growth in the United States from the end of World War II to 1970 - a period of impressive growth after World War II - and realized that despite the increase in gross national product (GNP), the reported level of happiness of Americans had hardly changed".
Rachel researched this topic for about two years (2009-2011), together with Professor Richard Layard, a labor economist, who was also a Lord in the British House of Lords. He founded a research institute called CEP - Center of Economic Performance: an international organization that focuses on sustainable economic policy, mainly in the areas of fiscal, monetary and trade policy. The organization's goals: promoting economic policy aimed at sustainable growth and social welfare, while considering environmental consequences.
Areas of activity: Research, policy analysis, and promoting dialogue between experts, decision-makers and citizens.
Place of activity: The organization is based in Switzerland and operates internationally.
During her work at the organization, Rachel realized that her path was policymaking, not just research, and therefore she decided to integrate into public service work immediately upon returning to Israel.
Her first son was born in London and then they returned to Israel._In a 2016 article

in TheMarker, by Tali Heruti-Sober, Rachel is included as **one of the 40 most promising young people selected by the magazine**.
From the article: "The Employment Service is lamenting the imminent departure of Rachel Berner-Shalem, to her new position as Deputy VP for Strategic and Economic Planning at the Ministry of Health. Berner-Shalem, who served for the past five years as Senior Director of Research and Policy, **led a revolution, in which every program prepared at the Employment Service during her time, was accompanied by joint research with researchers from Tel Aviv University**. The studies examined the effectiveness of the programs for the job-seeking public and the state, as well as the return on investment of public money. **Under her leadership, the Employment Service became the first (and currently, the only) government body whose programs include accompanying research**.
The department created a set of reports that allows every manager in Israel to know exactly where each participant is in the process, and if any bottlenecks have arisen, in order to get the most out of each program. As a senior manager in the Employment Service's strategy team, Berner-Shalem **led the concept that new programs should be developed that are clear and accessible to the public.** 'We will not build a program that encourages employment among a disadvantaged population, when eligibility is conditional on filling out 20 pages of legal forms,' she says. **'If you can't explain the program in half a page with pictures, we haven't done a good enough job'.**
In 2015-2016, Berner-Shalem was **a fellow in the "Maoz" program for training a management reserve in the civil service and the public sector**.
She holds a bachelor's and master's degree from the Hebrew University in economics, **both with Dean's honors,** and in 2012 she began her doctoral studies with **a presidential scholarship**, which was suspended when she joined the Employment Service.
Previously, she was **Independent economic consultant to the government and public bodies**. Among her clients were the Public Committee for the Promotion of Occupational Safety and Health in Israel, the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Industry, the Green Movement, and the Life and Environment Organization".

Berner-Shalem led several initiatives and projects, including the establishment of a comprehensive body for medical manpower planning, with the aim of dealing with the shortage of doctors and using simulators to predict future manpower needs.
She also led the "Stars" program together with the JDC Tevat Physician Programs Headquarters [Employment Momentum], which deals with developing leadership and excellence in medicine in the periphery."

- In an article in Ynet from May 20, 2025, by Or Hadar, she refers to the reform in the training of doctors in Israel:

"If we did nothing, we would see a steady decline in the rate of doctors per 1,000 people starting in 2026. Thanks to our work now, it is going to be a difficult two or three years, but I believe that from 2028 we will see a nice growth in the number of doctors," says Rachel Berner-Shalem, Senior Director of the Health System's Human Resources Planning Division.
Rachel Berner-Shalem explains that the reason why many students initially turned to medical schools abroad was due to the lack of national management of the faculties, that were established in Israel over the years. 'A situation was created, in which the deans did not look at the national need, because no one had brought it up to them, and each one set goals for themselves.' According to her, the deans of the faculties wanted to compare themselves to Harvard University. 'Harvard is a boutique university, they accept the best, teach individually, with small groups, so there was competition to be more boutique. You can't blame them because they, really, wanted to be at the top, but at some point, this is what started to happen - very high admission requirements, small training groups. Overseas students are not a bad thing, but we felt that there was some kind of flaw in it,' adds Berner-Shalem. 'Also, against the backdrop of anti-Semitism, that has only increased, and also the fact that some of them are not returning to Israel. Beyond that, as a mother, I see no reason why I should send my child abroad for six years, so that he can come back here and become a doctor, when there is national training. Why don't we train here?' According to her, this concept was not met with much attention at first. 'It was only after we came and showed that there was a national problem of a shortage of doctors that they started to change the training, and the deans of the faculties and the Medical Council were very much involved in the process. Like any change process, it is a long process'".
Link to the full article: https://www.ynet.co.il/health/article/bjnnzdu11ge#google_vignette

From Rachel's Facebook about her impressive professional pursuits:

- Former Senior Policy Manager, Research and Budget at the Israeli Employment Service
- Former Head Consultant at ShalemConsulting.com Shalem Consulting.
- Research at the Centre of Economic Performance @ London School of Economics
- Former Research Assistant and Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics at the Hebrew University
- Former Research Assistant at the Bank of Israel

And more from her Facebook: "
Woke up in the morning to be a public servant.
Woke up at night with the children.
True love: efficiency.
Allergy: interest groups".
Rachel lives in Jerusalem and has 4 children, two boys and two girls.

Congratulations, Rachel, for your impressive and valuable contribution to improving life in Israel.



Wrote the leaflet: Ruthi Fixler.
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Thanks to Gita Berkowitz for helping with the English translation