Organizational News

We held our yearly picnic on Sunday, July 25th again at Viki Blank’s house. Even though Mother Nature did not cooperate and the rain forced us to crowd together on the porch, everybody had a great time. The food planned by Eliane and catered by Herman was delicious and plentiful. Rayhan Pasternak’s music created a happy atmosphere and we all had a good time. Our thanks for Viki’s generosity and Eliane’s good work.

“Defiance”

On Sunday, November 15th our meeting was held at the Westport Public Library. This event was open to the general public and people came from as far away as Hartford. We screened a selection of the film “Defiance” which is based on Nechama Tec’s book of the same title. Nechama was there to talk about her book and Roland Tec, co-producer of “Defiance” spoke about the procedure of creating a movie based on a book the art of adapting the story to the screen while keeping the essence of the story. Many questions followed from the audience. The meeting was a great success with 250 people attending.

Membership News

Mazal Tov to Viki Blank who received an award from the Connecticut Medical Association for her long term excellent service as a physician in the area.

Congratulations to our member, Judith Goldstein, whose art work “Joys and Sorrows” was exhibited in the New Rochelle Library November 6-30th. On Sunday, November 22nd at 3:00p.m. her musical compositions were performed by the Westchester Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Barry Hoffman at the Ossie Davis Theater.

We wish a refuah shlema to our dear Regine Kallish who went through a very serious operation this September. May her wonderful spirited attitude help her in her recovery.

A refuah shlema to Judith Adler, wife of Steve Adler, who is recovering from brain surgery in Seattle, WA.

Save the Date!

Sunday, December 13
Chanukkah Party

Friday, January 1
New Year’s Day Party
In Memoriam

We mourn the passing of one of our long time members, **Jules Wallerstein**. Jules had a long battle with cancer which ended on Saturday, October 19th on the first day of Rosh Hashana. He was a survivor from Furth, Germany who was a passenger on the ill fated St. Louis, but was lucky enough to come with his family to the US in 1941. He then joined the army and served as an interpreter in Germany. For many years he spoke about his Holocaust experiences to groups of children and adults. May Jules' memory be for a blessing.

Our member **Giorgina Miriam de Leon Vitale** died on Saturday, August 29, 2009. She was born in Torino, Italy and survived the German occupation of Italy in hiding with her family. She came to the United States in 1949 as a new bride. She was a teacher in Stamford and was also a frequent speaker to children about the Holocaust.

---

The Conference of the World Federation of Jewish Child Holocaust Survivors

This year the conference was held at the Newton, MA Marriott from October 30th to November 2nd. Your president had attended the board meeting on Friday and voted in your name for the officers of the WFJCHS as well as new executive committee members. It was decided that next year we will meet in Chicago. There were 400 of us in attendance and our group was well represented. The HCSC contingent included: Judy Altmann, Viki Blank, Eliane Matalon, Marian Nachman, Agnes Vertes, Henry Grossman and Zofia Shulman. It was wonderful to meet friends from all over the country. We all had a great time. The last night most of us danced to the wonderful music. Monday morning we ended with Zofia leading the singing and we all looked forward to seeing each other in Chicago next year.

---

**Righteous Gentile Bela Kiraly dies at 92**

Bela Kiraly, a Hungarian soldier who saved hundreds of Jewish lives during the Holocaust, has died in his sleep. He was 92. Kiraly served on the Eastern front in the murderous 1943-44 campaign of the 2nd Hungarian Army that deployed tens of thousands of Hungarian slave laborers in inhuman, dangerous and humiliating circumstances. Most eventually perished. Refusing orders and risking his own life, Kiraly issued regulation winter uniforms to a 400-member Jewish labor battalion under his command, and provided them with decent food and medical treatment. He was bestowed the title Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem in 1993. After the war, Kiraly was sentenced to death on trumped-up charges by the Communists, but he survived to serve as commander-in-chief of the ill-fated 1956 revolution against Soviet rule. He eventually pursued an academic career in the United States and returned to Hungary after the implosion of communism 20 years ago to serve as a parliamentary deputy.
Eliana’s Corner

From a ground floor facility located on a busy commercial thoroughfare in the predominantly Hassidic neighborhood of Brooklyn’s Borough Park, one has a front row view of some of the uglier snapshots of Jewish life in America.

You can see horrific scenes - people picking-up food from dumpsters, people piking-up bread from the ground that was meant for the birds, but what might come as a big surprise is how many Jews are among the struggling. According to the 2001 Jewish Population Survey (the latest complete numbers available) approximately 7% of the American Jewish community lives below federal poverty lines - a family of 4 making $22,050 or less while more than 14% hovers precipitously close.

This translates into more than 700,000 Jews, including 190,000 who are children.

The unemployment caused by the economic downturn has pushed many families to and over the financial brink who never expected to find themselves in this position.

If anyone would like to join me in giving a couple of hours per month to help some of these people by visiting them and bringing to them your time and maybe some fresh baked cookies, it would be a gesture of kindness for people who are desolate.

They are our people.

Why Numbers Matter in Understanding the Shoah

Recently I read an article by Dr. Alex Grobman in the newspaper Together that so completely expresses my opinion that I wanted to pass a condensed version of it onto our readership.

One of the most common errors in describing the magnitude of the Shoah is the number of people who died. The figures which range from 50 million to 11 million reflects the misunderstanding of this genocide. The 11 million figure is especially misleading because it equates the annihilation of the Jews with others who were also murdered by the Nazis.

When we refer to the Holocaust, we mean the systematic bureaucratically administered destruction by the Nazis and their collaborators of six million Jews during the Second World War. The Nazi state orchestrated the murder of every person who had at least three Jewish grandparents.

Millions of civilians and soldiers were killed as a consequence of war. Communists, political and religious leaders were eliminated because they were viewed as a potential threat to the Nazis. When the Nazis murdered 10,000 Polish intelligentsia, in 1939-1940, and Polish Catholic priests in western Poland, for example, they were trying to prevent these groups from becoming a political and spiritual force that could unite the country against them. When they murdered more than two and a half million Soviet prisoners of war, they were killing a military force that had fought against them. European Jews, however, were the only people marked for complete destruction. Nazi propaganda spread the belief that Jews were a satanic force that controlled the East and the West and posed a physical threat to the German nation. The only way to stop this alleged Jewish conspiracy from gaining control of the world would be to destroy every Jewish man, woman and child. Himmler believed this race must be wiped off the face of the earth. Children had to be destroyed in order to prevent them from revenge on the children and grandchildren of the Nazis.

The Nazis also murdered approximately 300,000 Sinti and thousands of Jehovah’s Witnesses, homosexuals, disabled, communists, trade unionists and political and religious dissidents. None of these groups were the primary targets of Nazis. Nazis did not export the euthanasia program of the disabled to other countries they occupied, nor the persecution of the homosexuals or Jehovah’s Witnesses. The Nazis also did not single out every communist, trade unionist or dissident, only those they perceived as a threat to the Reich. The Jews alone were the primary target of the Nazis.

When we use 11 million or any other number than the Six Million to describe the Shoah, we are distorting the historical record. We trivialize the importance of this unprecedented event in modern history, minimize the experiences of all those who suffered and prevent a legitimate understanding of its causes and its universal implications for Western society.
**Restitution News**

**Ghetto Pension Fund**

On June 2 and 3, 2009, the Federal Social Court in Germany issued very favorable decisions regarding what constitutes “voluntary work” and “remuneration” as those terms pertain to the rules used to determine ghetto pensions eligibility. As a result, many more survivors (but certainly not all) will now be eligible for ghetto pensions. For those whose ghetto pension applications were denied, we have learned that the Deutsche Rentenversicherung Nord (the German Social Security Authority) will automatically review all rejected applications, with the oldest survivors’ applications being reviewed first. It is expected that the review process will be completed within one year. Because the process will be initiated by the Deutsche Rentenversicherung Nord itself, no motion or petition is required by survivors. This is the latest information that we have, and we will keep you apprised of any changes.

**From Yad Vashem**

On August 27, 2009 the German newspaper Bild presented the original architectural plans of the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for safekeeping at Yad Vashem. The collection of 29 documents will be displayed at Yad Vashem in January 2010, marking 65 years since the liberation of Auschwitz. Dated between 1941 and 1943, the architectural plans show details for expanding the camp, including the addition of a crematorium and a gas chamber. They have been authenticated by experts from Germany’s Federal Archives. Discovered last year in Berlin, and acquired by Bild, the sketches include plans for a purification building, which was never built, with a gas chamber; Crematorium II + III from November 1941; a plan for a building to contain corpses; a sketch of the now-iconic entry way to the Birkenau death camp; a sketch for plans, which were partially completed, to expand Auschwitz I; an initial plan for Birkenau from October 1941; and a plan for a huge headquarters building, that was never carried out. Some of the documents bear notes in the margins, or signatures by senior Nazis, including Himmler. Copies of some of these documents exist in other archives, and were previously known, but as a whole these are significant historical records.

“There are those who deny that the Holocaust happened,” Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said as he accepted the documents as a gift to Israel’s Holocaust memorial, where they will go on display next year. “Let them come to Jerusalem and look at these plans, these plans for the factory of death.”

One of the largest of the blueprints featured multicolored sketches, with barracks and even latrines drawn in detail. Other, smaller, sheets showed architectural designs of individual buildings, drawn from various angles.

---

**‘Inglourious Basterds’ and the Problem of Revenge**

“Inglourious Basterds,” is the newest blood-soaked Quentin Tarantino movie about a fictitious group of Jewish-American soldiers sent to France to kill as many Nazis as possible during World War II. The film’s central premise is revenge fantasy—one in which Jews, both American and European, wreak the vengeance upon Nazis. They are killed, scalped, burned and disfigured. And, to a certain extent, the participants revel in the violence of it all. One character, not-so-affectionately nicknamed “The Bear Jew,” beats Nazis to death with a baseball bat. The film does not pretend to be history and certainly does not make any attempt to be in sync with Jewish teachings. But it raises questions about the propriety of acts of retribution under Jewish law.

There is a not uncommon belief that the Torah sanctions revenge. But the precept of “an eye for an eye” is usually cited incorrectly, according to Rabbi Joel Roth, a professor at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. It is actually meant to refer to monetary compensation rather than bloodletting. And Leviticus 19:18 says, “Thou shalt not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people.”

Rabbi Roth notes that Jews are prohibited from taking “the law into your own hands as a matter of legal punishment.” The scaffolding of legality—a fair trial and

continued on back page...
Why Remember the Holocaust

It is clear why we note the beginning of World War II. We won. The forces of good beat the Axis of Evil, and the “best generation” came home victorious. Less obvious is why it’s important to mark the anniversary of the Holocaust. Why continue to look back at one of humankind’s bleakest moments? There were no winners and far too few heroes. Isn’t it enough that some of us have read Anne Frank’s diary or seen Schindler’s List? I think not. In the course of writing and teaching about the Holocaust, I have discovered that the Holocaust is rich in lessons to sustain our humanity.

The Holocaust is a cautionary tale about leaders and cowards, heroes and victims. In examining it, we delve into the darkest parts of ourselves and reflect upon how we might have acted, what we could have done, had we been present. Would we have taken a job in the Nazi Party if we were unemployed? Would we have followed orders at work in order to get promoted? Would we have risked our own lives, or those of family members, in order to hide or protect others? Would we have spoken up in the face of injustice? The Holocaust provides an opportunity for each of us to consider how we would or should act the next time we see others robbed of their fundamental rights.

The Holocaust is also an enlightening tale about political systems and a horror story about the abuses of power. Adolf Hitler took office in a democracy which, at its core, was similar to the one in which we feel so safe today. In the blink of an eye, he converted his government into a totalitarian regime, in which all oaths were pledged to him. Overnight, Hitler began eviscerating the rights of the communists, the homosexuals, the disabled, the gypsies, the Catholics, and of course, the Jews. What does this tell us about the ability of a democracy to protect the rights of vulnerable minorities? Lest we forget that our own democracy, not so long ago, tolerated slavery. It also endorsed euthanasia for the disabled and forbade women from voting. Those educated in the abuses of power that took place leading up to and during the Holocaust will be better equipped to vigilantly protect the democratic values we so treasure today in our own country.

In our country, education is cherished. It is viewed as a ticket to success and key to a civilized, informed society. Authors, politicians, and educators espouse the importance of American youth studying hard, in part to compete with industrious students around the world. Yet at the same time, we must keep in mind that the Hall of Shame from the Holocaust was filled with doctors, engineers, and lawyers. Without judgment and compassion, without an awareness of the dangers of following orders without reflection, we are just one election, evil leader, or disastrous economic cycle away from another Weimar Republic of the early 1930’s. We must teach our children to be thoughtful, proactive citizens. In learning about the Holocaust, students can see where a past generation failed and what role they will play in the tragedies of their own generation.

The Holocaust occurred not so long ago and in a land not so far away. As the 70-year anniversary approaches, we are in a race against time. When young people today hear a Holocaust survivor speak, they are bearing witness to that which their own children are never likely to experience the same way. And as the voices of the Holocaust survivors quiet, those of the ones who insist that the Holocaust never happened will grow louder and, perhaps, more persuasive. To continue to mark its existence, to study its implications, is to honor its victims and better protect humankind in the future.

---

Bad Arolsen Archives

Information about Holocaust victims is now available through the ITS on the internet. The internet address is: www.its-arolsen.org.

Got to: Tracing Request and then to: Application Form. Fill out as much information as you can about the person you are searching for.
conviction—is paramount under Jewish law. Eichmann was the one person to ever receive a death sentence in an Israeli court, and not without much hand-wringing from Jews world-wide. But the Eichmann trial was after the fact. “Inglourious Basterds” takes place during the war. Rabbi Roth notes: “There is a principle in Jewish law that if someone is coming to kill you, you should kill them first. That’s not revenge—that’s self-defense.” And, as Mr. Tarantino himself said: “If you’re dealing with people like the Nazis . . . well, you either eat the wolf or the wolf eats you.” But none of that excuses the pleasure that the film’s characters seem to take in bloodletting. Historian and former United States Holocaust Museum Director Michael Berenbaum concludes that the issue is:

“How do you combat evil without being reduced to that level?”

However, when I saw “Inglorious Basterds” I did not feel sorry for the Nazis in the least and was thinking how great it would have been if this really happened. I could not help thinking what a different life I would have had.
A news agency is an organization that gathers news reports and sells them to subscribing news organizations, such as newspapers, magazines and radio and television broadcasters. A news agency may also be referred to as a wire service, newswire, or news service. Although there are many news agencies around the world, four global news agencies, Agence France-Presse (AFP), Associated Press (AP), Reuters and United Press International (UPI) have offices in most countries of the world, cover all areas of Reuters.com brings you the latest news from around the world, covering breaking news in markets, business, politics, entertainment, technology, video and pictures. China’s latest weapon against Taiwan: the sand dredger. Chinese dredging ships are swarming Taiwan’s Matsu Islands, forcing the local coast guard to run round-the-clock patrols. Organizational news. About Rightel. Invitation for applications. The deputy of Social Security organization was informed about the latest status of the joint plans and projects of this organization and Rightel, by attending in Rightel Telecommunications Services 2019/09/25. At the joint meeting of Social Security Organization, Shasta and Rightel board mentioned. World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Addresses of Other International Organizations. List From the Union of International Associations. Alphabetic List of International Organizations from Northwestern University. Top of Page. Home >> Government Publications >> International Organizations. Find. in. News & Current Periodical Pages Researchers Web Pages All Library of Congress Pages. The Library of Congress >> Researchers April 13, 2018. Legal | External Link Disclaimer.