

קול הניצולים

VOICE OF THE SURVIVORS

The Kol Israel Foundation & Second Generation Kol Israel

Spring Newsletter - March, 2007

Editorial Board: Maya Holtz Groys, Leo Silberman, Jacob
Hennenberg, Sylvia Malcmacher, Anne Lukas

2007 Calendar

Yom Hashoa V'hagvurah Commemoration
April 15, 2007 – 2:00p.m. –The Temple

Yom Hazikaron and Yom Haatzmaut
April 22, 2007 – 7:00p.m.

Kol Israel Sisterhood Spring Luncheon
May 8, 2007 – South Euclid Community Center

Kol Israel Foundation, SGKI, & Sisterhood 62nd Anniversary Celebration
August 26, 2007 – B'nai Jeshurun Congregation

For the dead and the living – We must remember

Kol Israel President

Leo Silberman

I would like to thank our members and friends whose donations to Kol Israel enable us to sustain many ongoing programs, including the Survivor Life Needs Initiative, the annual Yom Hashoah commemoration and the maintenance of the Holocaust Monument. We appreciate your generosity and continued support.

I had the pleasure of representing Kol Israel at the January meeting of the Maltz Museum board of directors, where we were introduced to the dynamic new executive director, Judi Feniger. I hope you all are taking advantage of this gem of an institution in our own backyard.

Mazel Tov to Dr. Zev Harel, on his forthcoming book marking the 60th birthday of the State of Israel. Some of our second and third generation members may not know that after Zev was liberated, he went on to Israel and fought in the War of Independence.

We know that spring cannot be far behind when our members start returning home from Florida. We welcome them and the warmer temperatures they bring. If you know of anyone who needs help, please leave a message for me at 216-381-4515, or Jacob Hennenberg at 216-464-5149. I hope to see all of you at the Yom Hashoah program on Sunday, April 15, 2007.

On behalf of the Kol Israel executive committee, I wish all of you a Happy Pesach.

Second Generation Kol Israel President

Anne Lukas

Annual Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches

I had the privilege of attending the 2007 Annual Scholars Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches held in Cleveland on March 11-13 and was deeply moved by H. Martin Rumscheidt, a well-respected Christian theologian, who was presenting his perspectives regarding the Nuremberg Trials. His sincere and apologetic presentation brought tears to my eyes. He spoke about his own horrific discovery, long after the War, that his father had been a Nazi, who worked for I.G. Farben. He learned, with terror, that during the War, his father had deliberately used Jews for cheap labor and intended to starve them to death.

The Rumscheidt family moved to Canada after the War. Dr. Rumscheidt chose to become a theologian, for the first time met and had conversations with Jewish people about the Shoah and began to question his father's role. He commented that a highlight of his life occurred after he spoke on this subject, a Holocaust survivor, with a tattoo on her arm, came up to him, hugged him and encouraged him to keep on speaking. (If you are interested in seeing the entire speech, he kindly made it available to me electronically, which I can forward to you at your request at alukas@ursuline.edu.) He concluded his speech with three important points about Christianity:

“(1) Theology has to abandon reading and interpreting the Bible without the direct participation of Jewish Scripture scholars and, I think equally essentially, of rabbis who teach and guide their congregations today in the way of Torah. The result of their absence over twenty centuries was that

Christian biblical scholarship and theology embraced religious and cultural anti-Jewishness.

“(2) Theology and the church in its preaching has to abandon the deceptive juxtaposition of Jewish faith and Christian faith, such as: letter vs. spirit, promise vs. fulfillment, law vs. gospel, old vs. new, tribal vs. universal. These are not only unbiblical and false but worse: malicious, in that they denigrate and quickly despise the faith of Jews.

“(3) Theology has to develop a positive conception of and disposition toward the Jewish NO! to Jesus of Nazareth as the promised Messiah. Unless theology can let go of spiritualizing Messiahship into the forgiveness of and atonement for our sinfulness and hence into our salvation for eternal life, it fails to grasp the Jewish faithfulness to a far more universal or cosmic messianic hope in and striving for the healing of heaven and earth, the *tikkun olam* of creation.

.... Theology becomes reconciling when it moves forward against the original sin: anti-Judaism and its vicious cousin: anti-Semitism, the repentance for which is to fight that sin. Such repentant fight is to work for Jewish survival now. For Christians, messianic tikkun is the action that has grown out of the labors of mourning and remembering and has turned into the labor of mending the rent in the fabric of Jewish-Christian history.

The promise of Nuremberg is still that as the Holocaust and its perpetrators were before the bar of justice sixty years ago, the post-Holocaust world will take up the labor of reworking itself.” (H. Martin Rumscheidt, Halifax , NS and Dover , NH)

Genealogical Research

The Jewish Genealogical Society presented a program with Sallyann Amdur Sack, Ph.D., Editor, Avotaynu, the International Review of Jewish Genealogy on March 25 at Menorah Park . She explained the Project to Reconstitute the Destroyed Communities of Europe. They are in the process of identifying lost members of the pre-Holocaust Jewish community. If you wish further information, please contact <http://www.avotaynu.com>.

Thanks to CJGS and Helene Feinsilber, other websites of interest include: Cleveland Jewish Genealogical Society- <http://www.clevelandjgs.org> and Effective genealogical searches- <http://www.stevemorse.org>.

Letter from the Editor

Maya Holtz Groys

Friday is my favorite day, not only because it is the beginning of the weekend. Friday is my special day with my grandmother, my 'Bobby', Marion Miller. I arrive at 'Bobby's' house around noon with my daughters Aviva who is 4 and Sophie who is 2. They are both eager to knock on her door and argue over who is going to hand 'Bobby' the challah we brought her for Shabbat. As we walk in, the house smells of the delicious food she has prepared for us. After the hugs and kisses hello, Aviva and Sophie immediately sit in their usual seats at the kitchen table waiting for 'Bobby' to dote on them while they eat. The kids finish their meals and, with full bellies, they run into the family room to play with toys 'Bobby' has saved from my very own childhood at least 3 decades ago.

It is now time for 'Bobby' and I to sit, eat, relax, and speak about our weeks-who is back from Florida, how is my husband's new business, what did we discuss at the last Kol Israel meeting, the weather, etc. Many times the conversation drifts to stories of the past. With every week I am amazed at how much more there is to learn about my family's history. 'Bobby' explains what life was like before the War, when she and my Zeidi were dating and life was sweet. She remembers and uncovers details of the past that I never knew; unthinkable horrors from the concentration camps, tales of life after liberation and the struggle to survive in America. Her life story is amazing and I am in awe.

As my children run back to the kitchen and ask my grandmother for her famous chocolate chip 'Bobby cookies' that she takes so much pride in baking for them, I am brought back to reality. I begin to feel my head swell and my heart ache for it is my responsibility to remember and document as much about my grandparents lives as I can. Not only for my children, but for the entire world lest we ever forget.

April is the month that we commemorate Yom Hashoa and pay tribute to the memories of the families we lost in the Holocaust.

We must also commemorate the brave and courageous survivors who are so thankfully with us today. The time I have with my grandmother is precious and I am so thankful for each and every moment. We, as the 'generations after the Shoa', must ensure that her life and the lives and histories of all survivors remain within our souls. We will never let the world forget their history and the sacrifice Holocaust survivors made for the Jewish people.

Announcements

Refuah Shlema! Best Wishes for a speedy recovery:

Jacob Hennenberg
Evelyn Slomovitz
Steven Slomovitz
Aviva Kaufman

Helen Dub
Helene Najfach
Miriam Hauptman
Florence Alpert

Deepest Sympathy extended to the families of:

Jack Weiss
Sol Feuer

Congratulations and Best Wishes are extended to:

Jack Pahmer on his 85th birthday.
Shirley Cohn on her 60th birthday.
Helene Najfach on the bar mitzvah of her grandson.

Note:

If you have any announcements that should be published in this newsletter, please feel free to contact Sylvia Malcmacher (216) 381-1726 or Maya Holtz Groys (216) 926-4088 as soon as possible. Thank you very much.

Updates and Activities

Sisterhood

The Sisterhood will hold our annual Spring luncheon on May 8th at the South Euclid Community Center. A formal announcement will be sent by mail. We are working hard to make it a beautiful and enjoyable afternoon. We have many beautiful 'Mazal Tov', 'Get Well', and 'In Memory Of' cards to send to loved ones. Please call Ileen Green to take care of your requests at 216-381-9742. The Sisterhood is selling trees for Israel for any occasion at \$10.00 per tree. To purchase a tree please contact Sylvia Malcmacher at 216-381-1726. The Sisterhood would like to especially thank Dina Ofman for making telephone calls when needed. We wish everyone a happy and healthy Passover.

Third Generation

Third Generation Kol Israel is growing in strength and numbers! Our latest meeting showed an outpouring of support and interest not only from grandchildren of survivors, but also from young Jewish community members. We will be working closely with 2nd Generation Kol Israel on planning fundraising activities, outreach and events. ***If you know anyone who may be interested in joining the 3rd generation Kol Israel, please call Maya Holtz Groys at 216-926-4088.*** Thank you.

Kol Israel Website

Matthew Kugelman, 3rd generation survivor, has launched a website for Kol Israel and 2nd Generation. It is located at www.kolisraelfoundation.com. The website is a work in progress and will include a variety of information about the organization including its history, mission, events, programming, and membership. Pictures from various events will also be included. If you do not wish to have your picture included in the website, please contact Maya Holtz Groys at 216-926-4088. Many thanks to Matthew, son of Rachel Grunspan Kugelman and grandson of (the late) Moshe and Rywka Grunspan, for his time and devotion to this project.

Tikkun Olam Volunteers – TOV

Enhancing the Quality of Life for Holocaust Survivors

A committee comprised of representatives from the Kol Israel Foundation, Jewish Family Services Association and the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland has created a new volunteer program that will enhance the quality of life for Holocaust survivors in our community who need assistance with certain aspects of day to day life. **TOV - Tikkun Olam Volunteers**, will provide companionship and friendly visits to survivors as well as drivers to accompany survivors on outings such as medical appointments, shopping trips, and beauty shop appointments. For more information, or to participate as a volunteer in the **TOV** program, please contact Marilyn Jacobs at the Jewish Community Federation at 216.566.9200, ext. 264. Thank you.

Jewish Family Service Association

The Jewish Family Service Holocaust Survivor Program continues to serve survivors and has social workers available to help. They can assist with a variety of services such as transportation and home care. For more information please call 216-378-3476. There is no fee involved for calling. Thank you.

Save the Date!

Kol Israel Foundation –The Sisterhood and Second Generation Kol Israel

Annual Dinner Dance

62nd Anniversary: Liberation and New Lives
Honoring

✧ Leo Silberman ✧

For his Leadership, Commitments and Dedication to
Holocaust Education, Commemoration and
Remembrance

Sunday, August 26, 2007 at 5:30 P.M.

B'nai Jeshurun Congregation

27501 Fairmount Blvd. Pepper Pike, OH. 44124

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at: 5:30 P.M.

Program, Dinner, Dancing at: 6:30 P.M.

Catering by Davis Caterers, Cost: \$50 per Person

For more information, please call:

Evelyn Slomovitz @ 216-292-7621

Simon Fixler @ 440-473-5373

Avi Goldman @ 216-382-4412

Personal Ads and Advertisements for a special program book
are available at the following rates:

Quarter page: \$50

Third page: \$ 75

Half page: \$100

Full page: \$180

Please make checks payable to: Kol Israel Foundation
P.O. Box 21146, Cleveland, Ohio 44121

Contributions

The Kol Israel Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following donations:

In Memory of Goldie Pearl

Bruce Bialer
Rina Frankel
Susan Hennenberg
Jamie Lebovitz
Judy Rosenberg
Leo Silberman

In Memory of Susan Dicker

Marshall Jacobson
Diane F. Blitzer

In Memory of Helen Stone

Faye Finer
Maxine Margolis

***In Honor of the Marriage of
Mike and Ruth Frum***

Rina Frankel
Zev Harel
Leo & Paula Silberman
M Steinberg
Steven Wexberg

In Memory of Mark Fiala

Warren Wolfson

For Survivors in Need

Matthew Frankel
Brad Lewis

***In Honor of 62nd Anniversary
Of Liberation and New Lives***

Mike Frum
Arnold Friedman
Zev Harel
William Kagan
Anne Lukas
Leo & Paula Silberman
Marvin Sicherman

In Honor of Dr Zev Harel

Jewish War Veterans

***In Honor of Jack Pahmer's
85th birthday***

Mike & Ruth Frum

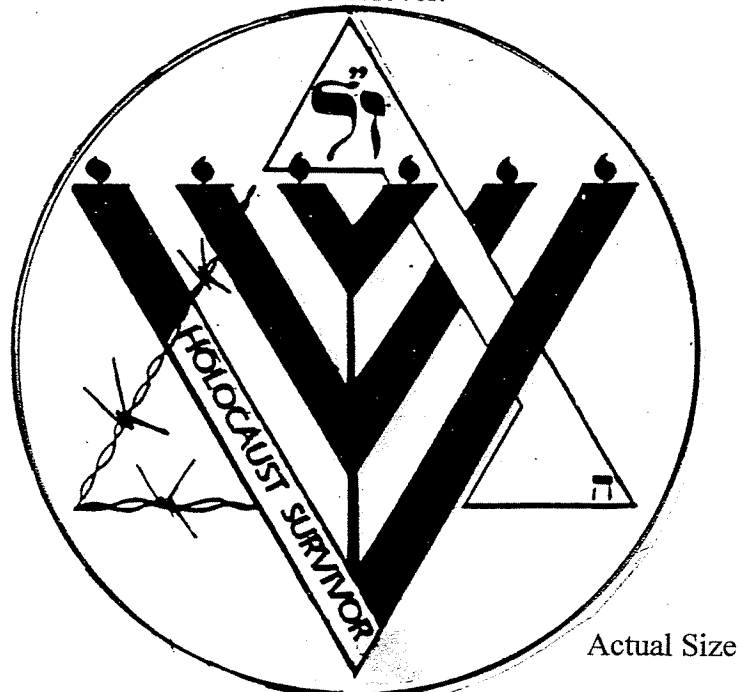
***In Honor of the 60th Anniversary
Of the State of Israel***

Sam Frankel
Robert Goldberg
Zev Harel

Jack Herskovitz
Nathan Oscar
Leo & Paula Silberman

Holocaust Survivors' Medallion

The Holocaust survivors' *matzevah* marker medallion is made of solid bronze metal to last forever.



The design of the medallion, made by Jacob Hennenberg, is a stylized *Magen David* layered with meaning. On top, the two hebrew letters *Zayon* and *Lamed* stand tall and bold together to denote the hebrew words *zichronoh livracha*, of blessed memory. The six flames represent the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, while the menorah on which the flames burn is made up of a small, medium, and large V to represent our small and large victories over the murderers. We have persisted. We have built families and rebuilt Jewish communities around the world. The bottom left point on The Star depicts the barbed wire that kept us in the concentrations camps and inscribed next to it are the words, "HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR."

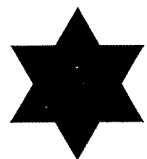
The 3 1/2" circular medallion is available for purchase from the Kol Israel Foundation for only \$36.00 to commemorate your loved one's survival. Please contact Memorial Chairman Simon Fixler (440) 473-5373 or K.I.F. Historian Jacob Hennenberg (216) 464-5149. Families and friends of survivors: it is our duty to provide this medallion to be placed on the *matzevah* of all survivors.

The medallion will only be available for a limited time - please do not miss this opportunity to remember, commemorate, and honor.

Jacob Hennenberg

Additional donations are always appreciated.
Kol Israel Foundation P.O. box 21146, S. Euclid, Ohio 44121

Cleveland Commemoration of the Holocaust & Heroism



Honoring Righteous
Persons, Communities and Nations



Sunday
April 15, 2007
2:00 p.m.

The Temple-Tifereth Israel
University Circle at Silver Park
1855 Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

**ADMISSION IS FREE
AND OPEN TO THE
COMMUNITY
(FREE PARKING)**

*Program coordinated by the Mandel Jewish
Community Center, Kol Israel Foundation and
Second Generation Kol Israel, with support from
the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland.*

*Co-sponsored by area agencies, organizations,
congregations, and individuals.*

JOURNEY OF A "MATZEVA"

After liberation from the K.Z. Camp Waldenburg in 1945, I went back to my hometown of Oswiecim to see if any of my family had survived the war. Upon arriving, I discovered that my only sister Karola left for West Germany. My mother died in 1937. So I went to the Jewish cemetery in Oswiecim to say "Kadish." To my dismay, when I arrived there, the cemetery was empty of all tombstones and in the middle was a dug reservoir holding water. I asked some people; what happened here? They told me that the Nazis took out all the tomb stones across to "Buna" or Monowice, or it was called Auschwitz III, and put them under a steel building.

I went there and I was told they were under the building. I stood there and said "Kadish" for all of them. Not until 1979 did I return with my cousin Zita to Oswiecim. In the morning we went to the cemetery and did not expect to find anything. As we entered the cemetery, we faced an unusual sight, something similar to a moon scape. All through the place, lying like dominos, the grave markers filled the entire cemetery. Again, I asked around about what had transpired here. The story went like this.

When the Russians came, they dismantled the steel building and took it to Russia and the city picked up the markers on trucks and brought them back to the cemetery, slid the markers off the trucks and there they laid. Needless to say, we were distraught. To the left of the entrance stood a large tree, the only thing what was left standing. I went to the tree and started to recite the "Kadish" while gazing at the tree, sometimes in the middle of the prayer. Loud rock music started playing on the other side of the wall. I turned my head to the right in disgust. My mood certainly was not to hear rock music.

As I turned my head to the right, I noticed a reflecting object in the distance. I finished the prayer and said to my cousin, "I noticed something glittering in the distance; what could it be?" There was no path. In order to get there, you had to climb over the markers. I removed my shoes so as not to trample on the stones and went there. To my amazement, the item that glittered was a black granite marker laying face up on the ground. I looked at it with fearful amazement. It was my grandfather, Henoeh Hennenberg's, stone put up in 1938 which I remembered very well.

I called my cousin to come over. It was even very difficult for her in her high heeled shoes. I took a picture of the marker as I found it. Later, I sent the driver to get a bucket of water and I washed the grave marker as best I could. I stuck a stick on the head of the stone so as not to lose its location. We went to the mayor of the city to get a permit to take the stone with us to America so that it could stand it up with dignity. We could not get a permit because the law forbade us from taking anything out of the country that was before the war. It was considered an antique.

However, he gave us an address to a Warsaw office that was in charge of such matters. Coming back to Cleveland, I had given the film to develop and print. When I picked up the photos, I could not believe my eyes. The glittering object that I saw at the cemetery in Oswiecim was the sun shinning on that stone in the moment. That brought me to the discovery of my grandfather's stone.

In December, the stone arrived in New York via a Polish vessel named "Lachowicz." The weight of the stone is one ton. The stone is now standing in the Jewish cemetery in Clifton, New Jersey by the name of King Salomon. The day we dedicated the stone the Rabbi said, "I will not make any speeches. I will just translate what is written on the stone." When the stone was originally dedicated, the lettering on the stone was arranged in a particular way. My grandfather's name was Henoeh Henich, the letters Henich vertically and from each letter, a verse praised him for his accomplishments during his lifetime.

The fact that the sun shone on the stone at that particular moment when I gazed in that direction that showed me the way to the stone in a maze of a thousand stones was a coincidence? Maybe? And maybe not.

Jacob Hennenberg

HOPE IN THE DARKNESS

For many of us, it is painful to remember the mass murders organized by the Nazis, however, there were individual acts of kindness to Jews in occupied Europe, and these can be likened to a beacon that casts its light upon the storm tossed waters, in these acts lies the hope for the future. Such a story is that of Aaron Glicksman of the Bensburg Ghetto.

Aaron Glicksman at the age of 21 years, was working as an electrician in the Bensburg Ghetto. While Aaron was connecting wires in a main fuse box, an S. A. guard pulled a switch which caused an explosion in the fuse box. A metal fragment entered Aaron's eye. This occurred on May 25, 1941. The nearest town that surgery could be performed was in Katowitz, which was off limits to Jews. In despair, Aaron and his mother boarded a streetcar and proceeded to the police checkpoint. They were wearing armbands bearing the Star of David, which identified them as Jews. When they arrived at the police checkpoint, the guards were astonished to see Jews at the station. The guards' first impulse was to shoot them for their travel without permission, but after Mrs. Glicksman pleaded with them, the guards said they would help. They told them to return within four hours because of the changing of the guard. Aaron and his mother knew the approximate location of the hospital in Katowitz and when they arrived at the vicinity of the hospital, they asked a man for directions. He in turn asked them what business they had there. The man was the chief surgeon of the hospital and escorted them into the hospital where he ordered an immediate operation. It was not until 2 A.M. that Aaron was released from the hospital, many hours passed the time he was warned to return to the checkpoint. Since there was no transportation at that hour, Aaron and his mother walked to the checkpoint. The guards who had first let them pass were awaiting them. They had stayed on duty, in spite of the regular guard change to wait for the Glicksmans. They then ordered a special streetcar to return the Glicksmans to Bensburg.

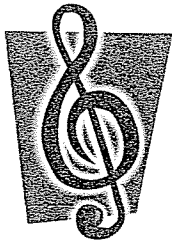
JACOB HENNENBERG

„כָּל הַמְקִיִּים נֹפֵשׁ אֶחָת מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל

בְּאֵילוֹ קִיִּים עוֹלָם מְלֵא”

International Association of Yiddish Clubs

אלוועלטלעכער פארבאנד פון יידיש-קלובן

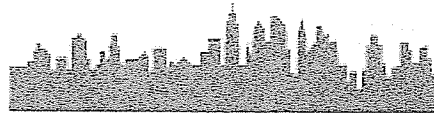


11th Annual Conference

“A Flourish of Yiddish Culture”

August 3-6, 2007

Marriot Cleveland East Hotel



- ✧ Leading Yiddish Authorities
- ✧ Explore Yiddish Culture
- ✧ Workshops in Yiddish & English
- ✧ Free Yiddish Concert in the Park
- ✧ Fluency in Yiddish NOT required
- ✧ Outstanding Entertainers
- ✧ Reuben & Dorothy Silver
- ✧ Yiddishe Cup Klezmer Band
- ✧ Cantor Kathryn Wolfe Sebo
- ✧ Yiddish Swingtette

Register in Advance for Full Conference or Daily Attendance

Kosher Meals Available

Registration: Pauline Leber (216) 831-4177 paulsam@adelphia.net

Information: Harold Ticktin (216) 752-1881 avvocato@peoplepc.com

Conference Website: www.derbay.org/cleveland



**Cleveland Commemoration of the
Holocaust & Heroism**

**Honoring Righteous Persons,
Communities and Nations**

Sunday, April 15, 2007, 2:00 p.m.

The Temple-Tifereth Israel (University Circle)

Transportation to this event is available.

**Please call Jewish Family Services at
216-378-3555 for more information.**

**KOL ISRAEL FOUNDATION
P.O. Box # 21146
Cleveland, Ohio 44121**

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