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# Holocaust Child Survivors of CT



## Viennese repair Holocaust survivor photos

German-Italian artist Luigi Toscano said Tuesday he was "especially touched" by the women who stitched back together the large photos on textile — exhibited along Vienna's Ringstrasse road, but slashed and daubed with swastikas in recent days.

Supporters on Monday said they would stage nightly vigils to protect the works until the exhibit ends next Friday.

The exhibition titled "Lest We Forget," which features 80 life-size photos, was opened in early May by Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen.

Heading to the vigil on Monday night, Vienna's mayor, Michael Ludwig, a Social Democrat (SPÖ), said the slashing of 10 photos on Sunday and seven previous photo defacements were "cowardly" acts that not only targeted Jews but also the "core values of our society."

## A Note of Thanks

Hello,  
My name is Cheyenne Paris. I wrote to your organization almost ten years ago in hopes of speaking with a survivor. Agnes Vertes answered my email and I met with Ms. Vertes and Judith Altman. I cannot begin to tell you the impact these meetings had on my life. Thank you so much for taking the time to speak with me and change my life.

I am studying conflict resolution and Judaic studies at Brandeis University. On Friday, I will be going to Poland to visit Auschwitz as part of a writing seminar called Together, Restoring their Names. I hope to produce work about my visit that will be published in local newspapers to continue to keep the story of the Holocaust alive. From our meetings I took away to "never forget", "never let those who lost their lives to senseless violence and ignorance to be forgotten" and "to be a good, giving, and caring person". I have never forgotten that. It has led me to do some great things for other people, like my work with victims of natural disasters, and led me to my current career path. Again, thank you so much for everything.

On Monday, sewing skills were offered by Muslim Youth Austria. The youth organization of the Catholic charity Caritas and an artists' collective said they would stand watch.

Women who came and "stitched the photos back together" had brought relief to what he previously thought had been an impossible situation, said Toscano, an artist-photographer based in Mannheim, Germany.

Toscano said he had contacted some of the survivors whose images were defaced and although shocked they had told him "now more than ever before these portraits need to be shown."

"This is right-wing radicalism," Toscano told the news agency AFP on Monday.

Vienna's Ringstrasse was used as a parade route by Hitler on March 15, 1938, during Nazi Germany's annexation of Austria.

Austria's President Alexander Van der Bellen said Monday the assaults had left him "deeply worried."

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, the project's patron, said the Vienna photo defacement amounted to an assault on Jewish life and artistic freedom — "an assault on us all."

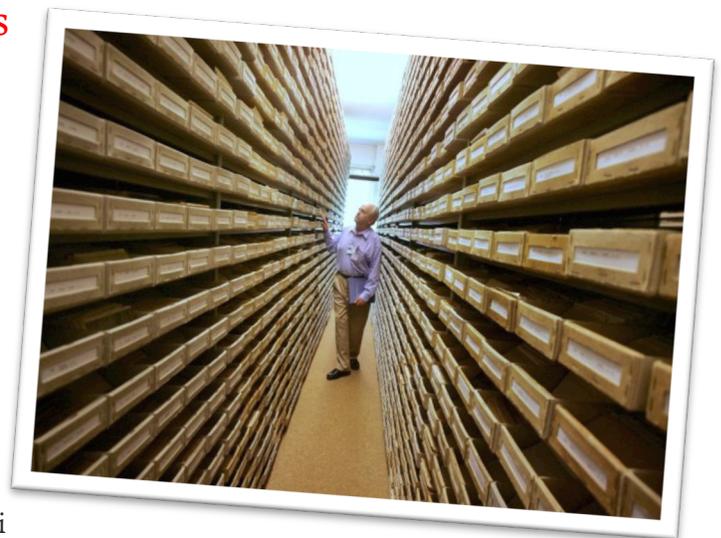
The United Nations Human Rights Office on Tuesday condemned the attacks and expressed concern "about the rise in anti-Semitic incidents taking place in a number of European countries and the United States."

Since 2015, Toscano has photographed almost 400 Holocaust survivors all over the world. Many looked directly into the camera, some serious, some smiling. Those displayed show survivors he photographed in Germany, the United States, Ukraine, Israel and Russia.

"We have to keep alive the discussion and analysis of the Holocaust," said Toscano.

## German Holocaust archive puts millions of documents online

BERLIN — The International Tracing Service in Germany has uploaded more than 13 million documents from Nazi concentration camps, including prisoner cards and death notices, to help Holocaust researchers and others investigate the fate of victims. Established by the Western Allies in the final days of World War II and initially run by the Red Cross, [the ITS](#) also announced Tuesday it was changing its name to Arolsen Archives – International Center on Nazi Persecution. The archive in Bad Arolsen says with help from Israel's Yad Vashem, documents with information on more than 2.2 million people are now available online. Work is still being done to improve searchability.



Archive director Floriane Azoulay says with survivors dying off, "it is so important that the original documents can speak to coming generations."

## Buried treasure poses Holocaust puzzle for Hungarian museum



A vast and unique trove of antique and Roman-era coins, unearthed in what was one of Hungary's wartime Jewish ghettos, is proving a conundrum for historians.

Thrilled with the chance discovery of the 2,800 gold and silver coins spanning decades and continents, researchers are in the dark about who collected and then hid them. That the coins were buried under a house whose one-time owner, the likely collector, is presumed to have been murdered in the Holocaust deepens the mystery.

They were likely hidden by a Jewish owner who was later deported to a Nazi German death camp in 1944, said Balint Havasi, director of Keszthely's Balatoni Museum where the items are currently exhibited.

"It's a priceless collection that can also help us learn about the Holocaust," Havasi told AFP.

In a letter to the museum, the building's current owners explained how they had been digging a hole in the cellar after pumping out groundwater when they came across the hoard.

"We slowly dug out five carefully sealed and buried glass jars," reads the letter

"When we opened one of them, we were greeted by an amazing sight, just like in a fairy tale: hundreds of coins, real treasure," it continued.

"We hope that it can return to its legal owners one day."

Engravings on jewelry also found in the jars suggest that the items may have belonged to the Pollak family, who were well-known Jewish traders in Keszthely before World War II.

The museum plans to digitize the collection and enlist archivists and historians to scour the Pollak family tree in search of descendants.

If no owner can be found, the collection will revert to ownership by the state.

"We also hope the exhibition will spread the word about the coins, and that a legal owner will turn up," Havasi said.

## Hitler had no Jewish ancestry

A recently published paper by Dr. Leonard Sax, an American psychologist, disproved the statement by Hans Frank, governor general of Poland during the Holocaust, that Hitler's paternal grandmother had been impregnated by the son of the Jewish Frankenberger family in Graz while she was employed there.

It is known that no Jews lived in Graz between the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century until 1850.

Hitler's father, Alois Hitler, was conceived in 1836. There is no evidence that Hitler's grandmother was in Graz, nor that a Jewish family by the name of Frankenberger lived there.

The non Jewish Frankenreiter family lived in Graz. However, in 1836 when Hitler's father was born, the son of the Frankenreiter family was only 10 years old.

## The Jewish Doctor who Helped Found Communist China's Medical System

Dr. Jacob Rosenfeld was a successful urologist in Vienna. In 1938 he was sent to Dachau for a year as a Jew and a social democrat. When he returned from his incarceration he found life in Vienna dangerous. He and his younger brother obtained Chinese visas and immigrated to Shanghai. There he opened a successful practice of urology, gynecology and obstetrics.

He joined the organization of social democrats and also met some important people from the Chinese army. The health commissioner of the Chinese Fourth Army recruited him. He found a way to get out of Shanghai and joined the revolutionary forces headed by Chiang Kaishek. As the field doctor of the army he became known as the "great doctor with the big nose." The New Fourth Army had a severe shortage of medical personnel. Rosenfeld created the Huazhog Medical School. Over time the school trained almost 10,000 doctors. After the war these formed the backbone of the medical establishment in China.

In 1949 he returned to Austria to find survivors of his family. His younger sister and his older brother were the only ones still alive. Rosenfeld did not like the atmosphere in Austria and wanted to return to China, but the Chinese embassy did not provide him a visa. In 1951 he immigrated to Israel. His younger brother joined him there.

Rosenfeld is still revered by the Chinese people. The Chinese ambassador to Israel lays flowers on his grave on the anniversary of his death every year. The ambassador says: "He was a great doctor who saved many Chinese lives and a fearless soldier fighting against fascism."

## A Tale of Two Chaims, by Rabbi Levi Welton

Recently, my wife Chavi and I decided to visit my folks in Sacramento, California. We picked a random *Shabbat* to spend with them and, while there, we went to the local Chabad for services. A family from out of town was also there that *Shabbat* celebrating their daughter's bat mitzvah. At some point, I asked the father where they were from and he told me he was from Mexico City and had converted to Judaism many years ago. "So why'd you pick Chaim as your Hebrew name?" He told me that back when he was just starting his spiritual journey he had once spent a Friday night *Shabbat* service at a synagogue in Westchester. He remembered one of his rabbis telling him that "A Holocaust survivor who doesn't believe in God is a normal person. A Holocaust survivor who does is an angel." During that Friday night service, they were dancing around welcoming the "*Shabbat Queen*" when he looked down at the arm of the person he was holding hands with and saw numbers. He felt overwhelmed that he was dancing with an angel and asked the man his name. The old man smiled and said "Chaim." At that moment, this man from Mexico City decided that when it came time to pick his Hebrew name, he would name himself after the angel he was lucky to dance with. Years passed and he never saw the man again.

I stopped smiling and asked the man, "Is his name Chaim Grossman?"

His mouth dropped open, "How do you know that?"

I told him I'm the rabbi of a synagogue in Westchester. One of my congregants survived Buchenwald, went on to become a pilot in the Israeli Defense Forces, and then immigrated to America. His name is Chaim.

This father began to cry. He hadn't even known Chaim Grossman was still alive. I leaned in close to him and told him that Chaim Grossman was very much alive and that I would be seeing him the following *Shabbat*.

The next *Shabbat*, I asked Chaim Grossman to sit in the center of the synagogue as I began my sermon. I told him that 3,000 miles away there lived a man that carried his name and who was raising his family to follow in the ways of Hashem.

"What is the mathematical probability that on the exact *Shabbat*, the *only Shabbat* in the entire year that we would fly out to California, it would be the same *Shabbat* of his daughter's bat mitzvah? What are the chances that after four hours of partying, we would have that conversation about the origin of his name?"

And then I pulled out the photo, printed and framed, and looked Chaim in the eye. As he raised his numbered arm to receive the photo everyone began to cry. You see, Chaim had never been blessed with any children. And yet now he had a proud Jew halfway around the world who was carrying his name and who would pass it on to his children's children.

I will never forget the moment when Chaim stood up and blessed God.

I will never forget the deafening applause that followed.

And I will never forget the image of this holy Holocaust survivor hobbling out of the synagogue holding tightly onto the framed photo of a miracle.

As my father, Rabbi Benzion Welton, taught me, "Coincidence is God's way of remaining anonymous." I had thought I was going to California on vacation but I was really being sent to bear witness to a profound lesson about "Chaim" which means "life."

## Membership News

- Agnes Vertes made a documentary about Judith's Altman's holocaust experience called "Judith You Will Live", which received a Telly Award
- Kelly Berger's mother, Heidi Berger, has created a guide for history teachers on how to teach about the Holocaust in Quebec, Canada
- So far this year, Judy Altman has spoken at 52 schools and reached 11, 532 students. Also, Judy was interviewed on the radio on Midlife Matters, which won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in a northeast regional competition
- Helen Chodroff has organized training sessions for second-generations to speak about their parents' experiences at schools. So far we had two sessions. Agnes held the introductory meeting and Judith Altmann joined her in the second session. We had very good attendance with fifteen 2G's were present. If you are interested in joining the group please call Helen at 203-222-2209
- Marian Nachman moved to Seattle this summer and Annette Bohrer replaced her on our board
- Ginette Kellner is another new member of our board

## Organizational News

- On Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup> we had a wonderful concert with Jewish music together with the second-generation group at Temple Beth El in Norwalk. The concert featured Rabbi Greg Wall on saxophone, David Morgan on piano and Christina Crowder on the accordion.
- On May 5 we travelled to the Playhouse on the Park in West Hartford to see My Name Is Asher Lev. The play gave a peek into the lives of orthodox Jews. Afterwards we enjoyed a unique meal at Zayton Bistro that served us well-spiced Mediterranean food.
- On July 21 we had a delicious buffet meal at Positano's in Westport next to the playhouse and although the weather was extremely hot and humid we all had a good time. Afterwards we went next door to the Westport Country Playhouse to see Hershey Felder playing Irving Berlin. He was phenomenal and everybody was raving about the wonderful performance.



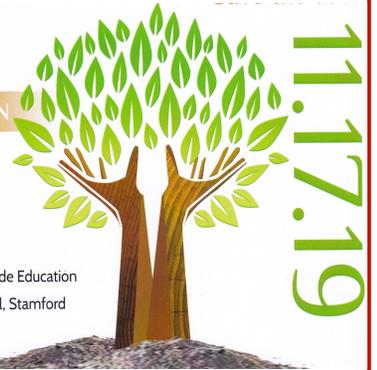
- On September 22, we had a program that we will never forget. 42 of us traveled by bus to the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Manhattan to visit the exhibit “Auschwitz. Not long ago. Not far away.” It was an incredible experience even though we could have used more time to see everything. Survivors did not have to pay for admission.
- On Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, at Temple Beth El in Stamford, Agnes and Judy will be honoured by the Jewish Historical Society for their work as speakers about the Holocaust in schools, temples, churches and other organizations.



HERITAGE AWARD CELEBRATION

honoring  
**Judith Altmann**  
 and  
**Agnes Vertes**

in recognition for their work in Holocaust and Genocide Education  
 Sunday, November 17, 2019 1:00 pm, Temple Beth El, Stamford  
 For more information, visit [www.jhscfct.org](http://www.jhscfct.org)



We mourn the passing of

- Renee Glassner, one of the original members.
- Steve Adler, who was a long time member of our group until he moved to Seattle. He was the executive vice president of the World Federation of Jewish Child Holocaust Survivors and Descendants.
- Regine Arouete, cousin of Viki Blank died peacefully on July 17 at the Jewish home in Bridgeport. She was 94 years old.

Apple cake for the New Year



- 3 eggs
- 1 ¼ cups sugar
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 cup canola oil
- 2 cups apples (about 3 apples), pared and thinly sliced
- Confectioner’s sugar

Preheat oven to 350F.  
 In a large bowl, beat eggs. Gradually add sugar, beating until fluffy. Add flour, baking powder, cinnamon and salt. Mix well. Stir in vanilla and oil. Fold in sliced apples. Pour into a greased 9 x13 inch pan. Bake for 35-40 minutes. Sprinkle with confectioner’s sugar before serving.

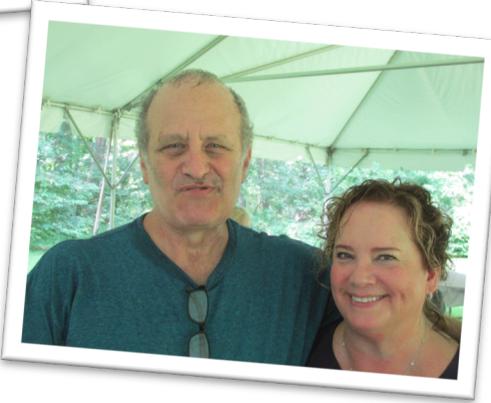
**SHANAH TOVAH, WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR! 5780**

# Summer Picnic 2019

- On Sunday August 18 we held our yearly picnic at Lou Reens house in Wilton. Although most of the year Lou lives in Florida he spends some time in the summer in Wilton and as always he was very generous in letting us use his backyard. The day was hot and humid, but we were under a big tent having delicious food and enjoying each other's company. As usual we had a great time.



**Thank you Lou!**



If anyone needs anything you may call Agnes Vertes in confidence 203-226-3092



**Agnes Vertes, *President***  
**Judith Altmann, *Vice President***  
**Annette Bohrer, *Secretary***  
**Nicholas Friedman, *Treasurer***