

Dapei Keshet

Beit Theresienstadt Theresienstadt Martyrs Remembrance Association

100 years since
the birth of
Gideon Klein
(1919-1945)

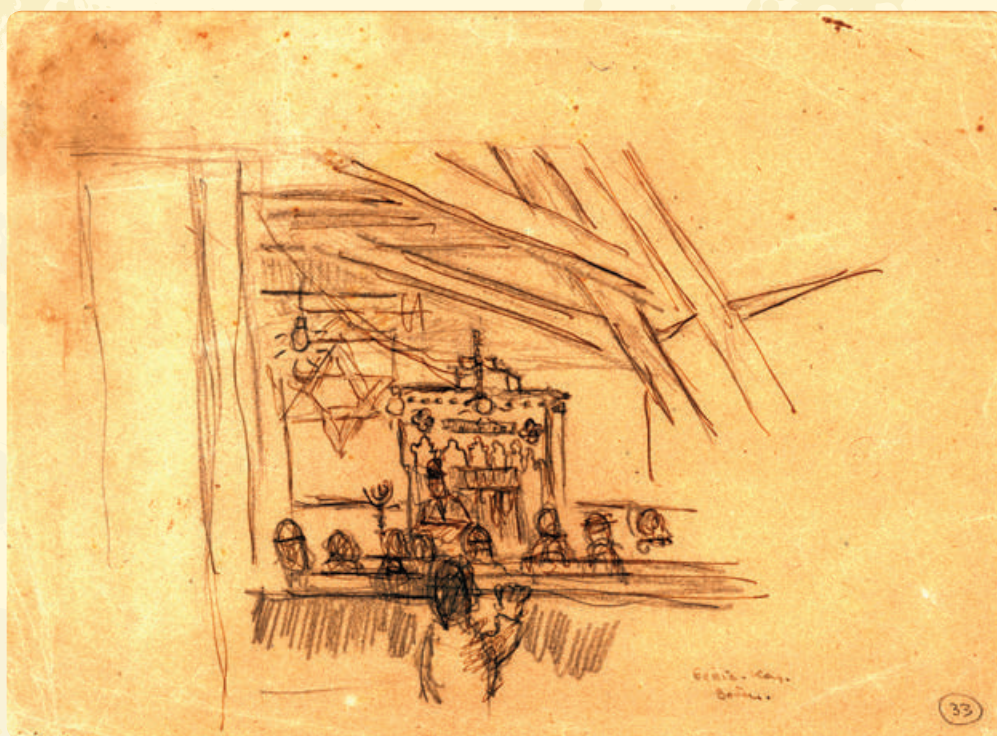


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SHANA TOVA A YEAR OF JOY AND HAPPINESS



FROM THE BEIT THERESIENSTADT TEAM

Prayer room in the attic, Emo Groag, 1942-1945

To all members and friends of Beit Theresienstadt



About three years ago I stayed at the home of PhDr. Darina Sedláčková on the banks of the Vltava in Prague. At the entrance to the building, I was extremely touched when I saw the Stolpersteine set in the sidewalk in memory of Gideon Klein. The lobby remained as

it had been in the 1940s, its beauty showing through the general neglect. Klein, who died a young man, was one of the most prominent musicians involved in the musical activities at the Theresienstadt Ghetto. The legacy he left despite his young age is amazing. Another surprising encounter occurred this year, when towards the week of master classes "History, Music, and Memory", we found out about an unknown song by Klein that happened to be associated with one of the participants. Since this year marks 100 years since his birth, we dedicated the master classes and the current issue of the Dapei Keshet in his memory.

This past summer was devoted to strengthening our ties with the United States. Together with Liora Livni Cohen, treasurer of Beit Theresienstadt, and Daniel Shek, member of the board, I travelled to Houston, Texas for the reopening of the Holocaust Museum. The new exhibition at the museum includes original items borrowed from the Beit Theresienstadt archives: a monopoly game from the ghetto, children's drawings, and the diary of Alisa Shek (Daniel's mother). The opening ceremony was touching, attended by some 600 people, friends and supporters of the museum. We were warmly welcomed and Daniel aroused much interest among the audience, who was keen to hear firsthand about Alisa and her diary. The next day, we took part in the ribbon cutting ceremony and affixing of the Mezuzah by Rabbi Yisrael Lau, who came from Israel specifically for this purpose.

From Houston we continued to Memphis, to meet with non-profit organization established in memory of the children murdered in the Holocaust as well with the local Jewish community. Then we continued north to New York, where aside from meetings with institutions dealing with commemoration



of the Holocaust we also met two survivors of the Theresienstadt Ghetto – Inge Auerbacher and Ernest Seinfeld. Mr. Seinfeld lives in a small town in Connecticut, an enchanting place where deer roam the backyard. He invited Liora and myself to spend the night in his home and it was a wonderful opportunity for lengthy conversations and acquaintance with the well-endowed private archive he has

accumulated over many years. When we told Mr. Seinfeld about the current process of making the Beit Theresienstadt archives more accessible to the wide public and the costs involved, he immediately offered his help and promised a substantial donation, in addition to that of other sources. One of the touching items that Mr. Seinfeld deposited with us to take to Israel is a set of Tefillin, and its story is related in the current issue.

The visit with Inge Auerbacher was moving as well. Inge lives in the same apartment in Queens where she came with her parents when they immigrated to the US after the war. After retiring from her work as a chemist she devoted her life to commemorating the Holocaust. She wrote several books, of which one was adapted for the cinema by director Giora

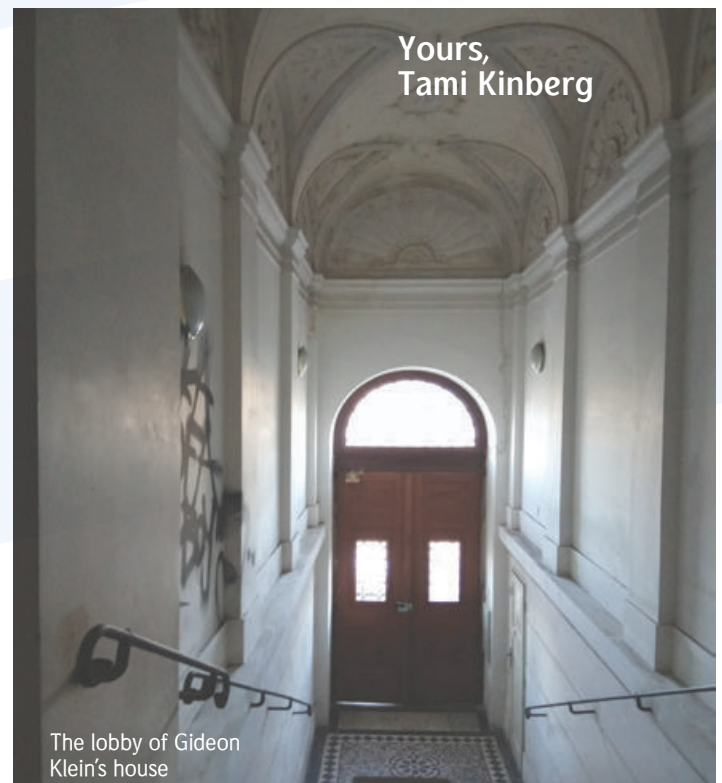
Gerzon, and she travels all over the world to tell her story. Her living room is full of souvenirs and certificates that she received in appreciation at the different places where she spoke.

In many locations in the United States there are museums related to the Holocaust and

the topic is meaningful and significant for many people. There is a considerable desire to learn about it, not only among Jews. At the Holocaust Museum in Houston, for instance, most of the staff is not Jewish and more than 90% of the visitors are not Jewish. This is true in other states as well. I see great significance in nurturing relations with the United States. I have no doubt that everyone will benefit from this.

In conclusion, I would like to offer my greetings for the new year, a year in which we will hopefully expand activities at Beit Theresienstadt and see the fruit of our labor.

Yours,
Tami Kinberg



The lobby of Gideon Klein's house

2019 Master Classes on History, Music, and Memory

The "History, Music, and Memory" master classes are a music project that commenced exactly 20 years ago. This project aims to commemorate, give place, and continue the music written and played at the Theresienstadt Ghetto. This year, a record number of musicians participated – 115 from Israel's entire social range, younger and older, including students from the Nechama Talpaz music studio that integrates young disabled musicians, female students from the Haredi Ron Shulamit conservatory of music in Jerusalem, choir singers, as well as students from abroad, such as a gifted 5-year-old pianist from Germany. First rate teachers instructed the musicians in violin, piano, cello, flute, clarinet, accordion, mandolin, and singing, under the musical management of maestro Eyal Shiloach. The lessons, rehearsals, and various concerts were held at the guesthouse in Moshav Nordiya and were open to the public. Prof. Haim Taub was the guest of honor, and participants in the master classes had the honor of receiving individual lessons with him.

The week began with a guided tour of Beit Theresienstadt's exhibitions, to familiarize the participants with the story of the ghetto. For some it was their first time at Beit Theresienstadt. They heard explanations of the rich cultural life in the ghetto as well as the musical activity there and its meaning for the prisoners. Activities centering on children's drawings in the ghetto were offered to the younger participants.

During the week, the musical activity was enhanced by films, Dan Rappaport gave a lecture on the musicians from Theresienstadt, a drumming workshop was held, as well as a tractor ride at Kibbutz Givat Haim Ihud. One evening a jam session was held, where students of the Nechama Talpaz



studio, Orit Orbach, Eyal Shiloach, and Yuri Brenner played joyous klezmer music. The young violinists showed their talent on the violin and the choir girls joined in singing, as though they had been performing together forever instead of meeting only three days earlier.

The master classes marked 100 years since the birth of Gideon Klein. In a fantastic coincidence, one of the singers who participated in the seminar is associated with an unknown work by Klein. The work, a song that Klein wrote in the ghetto, remained in a hidden suitcase for years under the bed of Moritz and Hildegard Henschel. Moritz was among the leaders of the Jewish community in Berlin and in June 1942 he was deported to Theresienstadt with his wife Hildegard. They both survived and immigrated to Israel after the Holocaust. The suitcase that Moritz had kept under their bed was opened only years after his death, uncovering a treasure trove of documents – letters, songs, sketches, certificates, plays, opera, and others. In the ghetto Moritz had headed the leisure department that was in charge of cultural life and worked with the many artists

who operated there. Gideon Klein's song, concealed among the rest of the documents in the suitcase, was written in honor of Henschel's 65th birthday. Shiri Maor, whose uncle was Henschel's grandson, performed the song for the first time in Israel with Noga Yakobson. The two are students of Orit Shiloach. The arrangement for the song was composed by Dr. Yuri Brenner, who aside from teaching accompanied the master classes with his music and arrangements. He is a recipient of the Prime Minister's Prize for composers and has won many awards for his musical activity.





The festive final concert of the master classes was held at the Elma hall in Zichron Yaakov. This is one of the most modern halls with the best acoustics in Israel. We were honored by the presence of the Danish ambassador, the Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of the Czech Republic, and the Cultural Attaché of the Austrian Embassy. The Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of the Czech Republic, Mrs. Kateřina Moravcová, spoke of her family relationship to Gideon Klein. The concert opened with an impressive rendition of "Gloria" by Vivaldi with the entire orchestra and choir, followed by works by Prokofiev, Rachmaninoff, Bach, Beethoven, and others. At the end of the concert, the victory song from the

children's opera Brundibar was performed and the audience responded with excitement. This year the project was supported by Leiman Schluskel, four scholarships for needy musicians were donated by the Beit El community and by Mrs. Osnat Mendelovich. Mrs. Mendelovich's son, Oz of blessed memory, was a gifted violist who was killed in the Sajaiya battle during Operation "Zuk Eitan". Osnat brought her son's violin with her, on which Eyal Shiloach played the theme from Schindler's List.

Feedback on the master classes is being received on a constant basis. It appears to have been a meaningful experience for the participants. ■



2019 Ceremony for Holocaust and Bravery Memorial Day

On Holocaust and Bravery Memorial Day for 2019 (May 2, 2017), a ceremony was held at Beit Theresienstadt, attended by ghetto survivors, Czech ambassador to Israel Mr. Martin Stropnický, Austrian ambassador to Israel Mr. Martin Weiss, German ambassador to Israel Mrs. Susanne Wasum-Rainer, Slovakian consul in Israel Mr. Peter Holý, and Mrs. Kirstine Vangkilde Berner of the Danish embassy in Israel, as well as Dr. Galit Shaul, head of the Emek Hefer Regional Council, soldiers and officers from the combat fitness school (Bahad 8), firefighters from Israel's Coastal Region, members of the Beit El community, and many other guests. This year the ceremony was held under the title "80 years since establishment of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia".

The speakers at the ceremony were the Czech and German ambassadors and the Slovakian consul, Dr. Galit Shaul, head of the Emek Hefer Regional Council, Mr. Zvi Yavnieli, principal of the Beit El school, and Mrs. Tami Kinberg, CEO of Beit Theresienstadt. Lieutenant Colonel Amos Gofer, commander of Bahad 8, read the commander's address.

The ceremony was accompanied by two songs performed by singer Einat Azulay, as well as the Song of Ascension, performed by the students' choir from the Beit El school. Six survivors who had been children in the ghetto, lit the six torches: Esther Bagienski, Gershon Miller, Devorah Ben Yehuda, Michal Bar, Dr. Michael Viener, and Talma Segal. ■



2019 Annual Conference



As in previous years, the annual conference and general Assembly of the Theresienstadt Martyrs Remembrance Association was held in May. The conference took place on May 17 at Beit Theresienstadt, attended by the Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of the Czech Republic, Mrs. Kateřina Moravcová.

After the members' meeting and the general gathering, film director Dan Wolman spoke about Max Vider, whose

drawings were shown at an exhibition in the conference. Author, illustrator, and cartoonist Michel Kichka shared with us his experiences as second generation to the Holocaust, following his book: "Second generation: The things I didn't tell my father".

Pavel Koren and Yulit Shemesh were in charge of the musical chapter, and they entertained the participants and conducted a sing-along. ■



Houston–Memphis–New York, a US journey / Daniel Shek, Deputy Chairman

What is the link between Elvis Presley and the story of the Theresienstadt Ghetto? It seems that they come together in the city of Memphis, Tennessee, which worships the local hero Elvis but is also the hometown of a non-profit organization called the Unknown Child Foundation. The organization was founded by a pair of believing Christians and its goal is to commemorate the million and a half children who were killed in the Holocaust. What began as a small personal project grew to become a joint organization of local Christians and Jews, with the long-term goal of establishing an elaborate commemorative site in the region for visitors from all over the US, similar to the hundreds of thousands who come to see Graceland, Elvis Presley's estate.

We – Tami Kinberg, Liora Livni Cohen, and myself – met with the founders, Diane and Ken McNeil, during our US tour this past June, aimed at forming ties with museums and academic institutions engaged in investigation and commemoration of the Holocaust, examining options for exhibition collaborations, marketing educational kits developed by Beit Theresienstadt, and fundraising. Our meetings in Memphis were particularly



Daniel Shek looking at his mother's diary

heart warming and they will undoubtedly result in a close relationship that will ensure a major focus on the story of the ghetto within the organization's development programs. We also visited Houston, Texas, where the magnificent Holocaust Museum was reopened after extensive renovations. Beit Theresienstadt was asked to lend several exhibits for one of the museum's exhibitions,

including several pages from the diary written by my mother, Alisa Ehrmann Shek. The museum's opening event provided an opportunity to talk to the museum's management, curators, and main donors. In addition, several possibilities for collaboration were raised and we hope that they will be followed through. In the New York area, meetings were held with the Museum of Jewish Heritage, various foundations and research institutions, particularly in the field of education, and interesting and diverse ideas for future collaborations were raised.

Such trips are very significant because it is extremely important that institutions dealing with the Holocaust help each other out and join forces in order to handle the growing challenges involved in Holocaust remembrance. In this context, it is important that Beit Theresienstadt be on the map. We discovered many significant people who did not know about the museum's existence and were very impressed by our activities.



Unknown Child Foundation members

We are now expecting a series of visits by those we met along the way, and we hope that some of the ideas discussed will evolve into joint projects. There are many other institutions in the US and Israel that are worthy of additional meetings and I hope that this will indeed come about in the future. ■



At Stockton University, Left to right: Gail Rosenthal, Tami Kinberg, Michael Hayse, Liora Livni Cohen, Mary Johnson

Visits at Beit Terezin

Visit of teachers from Berlin

In late June and mid-July two special visits were held at Beit Theresienstadt, thanks to the ongoing collaboration between Beit Theresienstadt and the Wannsee Conference House. In the first, a group of teachers and workers from memorial sites in Berlin visited Beit Theresienstadt. The group was comprised of teachers from various schools in Berlin as well as workers in the educational departments of various memorial sites in Berlin and the vicinity such as Kiga, the memorial site



at the former concentration camp of Sachsenhausen, and others. The second visit took place in mid-July, when Beit Theresienstadt hosted a group of workers from different government offices in Berlin.

In both cases, the groups were given a guided tour of the museum's exhibitions. The visitors were told the story of the Theresienstadt Ghetto and about the extensive and varied activities that take place at Beit Theresienstadt annually. After the museum tour, the groups visited Kibbutz Givat Haim Ihud, learning about the history of the kibbutz and its establishment as well as the changes that have occurred in the kibbutz over the years. ■

Visit by the director general of the Holocaust Education Center, Japan

In late May, director general of the Holocaust Education Center in Japan, Mr. Makoto Otsuka, visited Beit Theresienstadt. As part of the visit, Mr. Otsuka met with Vera Meisels, survivor of the Theresienstadt Ghetto.

The Holocaust Education Center was established in the city of Fukuyama, Japan, in 1995. It is the first educational institution to be founded in Japan on this topic and is dedicated to the million and a half Jewish children killed in the Holocaust. ■



Visit by archivists from Emek Hefer

Last June, archivists from Emek Hefer settlements visited Beit Theresienstadt. The visitors saw the exhibitions and met with the archive manager, Dr. Tereza Maizels, who reviewed the historical developments that preceded the establishment of the Beit Theresienstadt archives. She spoke of the complexities involved in collecting, documenting, and preserving the materials, and permitted them a unique viewing of original exhibits from the archives. ■



Maayan Shachar Roundtables

As part of their preparation for the journey to Poland, students of the Maayan Shachar educational complex participated in a moving roundtable encounter on June 11 at Ein Hahoreish, attended by the students and Holocaust survivors from Emek Hefer. The encounter was held at the initiative of Yona Targovnik, head of the Seniors Department at the Emek Hefer Regional Council, in cooperation with the Maayan Shachar high school and Beit Theresienstadt. ■



Summary day of the Prison Service's journey to Poland

This is the third year that the Prison Service has chosen to hold the summary of its delegation to Poland at Beit Theresienstadt. This year some 80 Prison Service employees, who had participated in the delegation to Poland, came to Beit Theresienstadt and heard the story of the Theresienstadt Ghetto and its part in Israel's Holocaust heritage. ■



"Major general day" IDF Operations Division

In May, a study day was held for senior officers from the IDF Operations Division, attended by some 60 officers and NCOs. The participants took part in a guided tour of the exhibitions, heard a lecture on the Theresienstadt League – sports, racism, and the human spirit, and met with a survivor of the Theresienstadt ghetto, Mordechai (Maxi) Livni, who shared the story of his life. ■



Visit of students from Dalyat al-Karmel



As part of the lengthy collaboration between Beit Theresienstadt and the various schools in Dalyat al-Karmel and Osiya, 6th grade students from the al-Ashrak school visited Beit Theresienstadt this past March. In addition to guidance in the museum's exhibitions, the students met with artist Bothaina Halabi, who spoke of her personal connection to Beit Theresienstadt and the Holocaust and her many resultant paintings. ■

In the coming school year we will continue endeavoring to expand this collaboration and to strengthen our ties with the Druze sector in Dalyat al-Karmel and other towns, as part of the "Dialogue between neighbors" project aimed at strengthening ties between the Druze and Jewish sectors and shaping the image of Israel's society as democratic and tolerant. ■

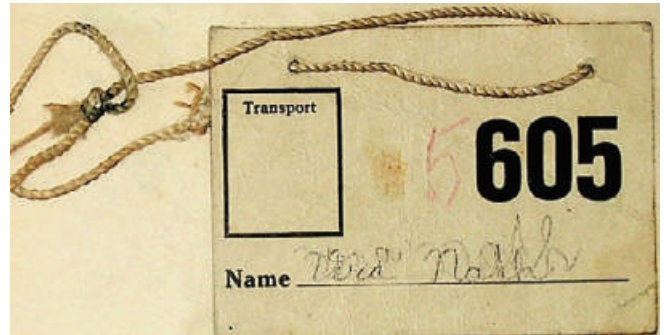


When the war was over, it was over for me / Dr. Tereza Maizels

To prevent Hitler from ultimately winning, Vera Nath erased almost all her memories of the Theresienstadt Ghetto. At the end of the war, when Vera was liberated from the Theresienstadt Ghetto, she gathered all the documents belonging to her mother and father and to herself, pasted them in a book, and added her explanations and drawings. She gave the rare book, which also includes slips for food, clothes, coal for the rooms, permits for leaving the ghetto and entering the quarantine station, a savings book, ghetto money, a slip for food from the schleuse, and confirmation of registration with the police after liberation, etc., to the Beit Theresienstadt archives.

Her story, preserved in the book, begins even before deportation to the ghetto. It was then that Vera felt she had become a number: "And here! I found out once again that I am only a number 328DH and nothing more. This is my new certificate showing that my name no longer exists." In July 1943 Vera was deported to the Theresienstadt Ghetto. In the ghetto she participated in studies and took part in "Supporting Hand" activities. Of this she wrote: "But there were also old people here who could not manage even the most simple things. For them, the youth support was established. We beat their mattresses, cleaned for them, and when the transport left we helped them."

Vera received a summons to join a transport eastwards but luckily she was not deported on this transport: "On September 8th I was added to a transport and I was given the number 5605, i.e., 'reserve'. At the schleuse, I was given a lower number (...) It was only by luck (...) that I was not deported."



On October 22, 1944, Vera received another summons for transport, alone, without her family. Vera writes: "At Theresienstadt there was no one left to send. So they added me to the transport. Father went to the Jewish leadership asking not to send his daughter alone, so the whole family waited for a transport together. Then the German commander of the camp saw him and said that he can't manage without him. Father asked what about the family, and he said that they could all stay. So we stayed and were not deported."

Vera Nath, now Kreiner, was born on March 25, 1930. On July 8, 1943, she was deported to the Theresienstadt Ghetto from Prague with her parents and her sister Hannah. After reaching the ghetto she was placed in Heim L410, room 28. After the ghetto was liberated she reached Přemysl Pitter's rehabilitation center in Štířín and from there arrived in Prague.

On October 28 she immigrated to Israel and her parents arrived several months later. Of the entire extensive family the only ones to survive were two cousins who managed to flee Europe in time and her mother's brother, who had immigrated to Palestine as well. ■



Story of the Tefillin / Matan Statler

My grandfather, Herman (Haim) Statler, was born in 1920 in the town of Bielsko, Poland, near the German border. His family moved to the town of Sosnowicz in western Poland. My grandfather Herman grew up in a religious Zionist home and was a member and counselor in the Bnei Akiva youth movement. In addition, he learned to be a watchmaker, a profession that had been in the family for several generations.



Herman Statler with grandson Matan

When World War II broke out, Jews were harassed and taken to do forced labor. My grandfather and his family were deported to the ghetto in 1942. From the ghetto they were sent to various camps. Thanks to his profession as a watchmaker my grandfather managed to survive. In the selections my grandfather was chosen to remain among the living, because the Germans needed him to fix their watches.



Matan Statler with son Tomer

Throughout the war period, Herman insisted on putting on Tefillin. He hid them during the selections and did not let them out of his sight for as long as he could. One day, when he was a prisoner in Auschwitz, Herman did not find the Tefillin under his bunk. He searched for them but found only the defaced head Tefillin in the waste area of the camp. From Auschwitz, Herman, his brother Yona, and his father Mendel were taken to the Dachau concentration camp in Germany. In the last months of the war, my grandfather's father and brother died and he remained alone. In great faith and although suffering extreme hunger, he gave up his soup ration for several days to bring together a quorum of men in order to recite the mourner's kaddish.

In 2010, while visiting in Israel, Ernest Seinfeld arrived and related that he had been with grandfather Herman at Dachau. Mr. Seinfeld said that he and Herman had become friends and had worked side by side at the camp (Herman as a watchmaker and Mr. Seinfeld as report writer in Administrative office of the Camp). On April 26, 1945, grandfather Herman followed the Germans' orders to go to the southern gate, for what subsequently became a death march. Mr. Seinfeld found a hiding place in the camp, where he remained until it was liberated. Mr. Seinfeld and grandfather Herman were

separated, not before grandfather took a watch out of the pile of watches he was forced to fix for the Germans and gave it to Seinfeld as a souvenir.

When Mr. Seinfeld visited Israel he gave my family the watch that my grandfather had given him in Dachau. My grandfather died in 1996 and did not live to see this.

Mr. Seinfeld further related that during their entire time at Dachau they continued to put on Tefillin thanks to grandfather Herman. My

grandfather appears to have obtained another pair of Tefillin, which he put on with Mr. Seinfeld. After the war, Mr. Seinfeld retained the Tefillin. Three years ago, Mr. Seinfeld promised that he would hand them over when time comes.

Several months ago, when Beit Theresienstadt's CEO, Tami Kinberg, visited Mr. Seinfeld in the US, he decided to give her the Tefillin. Upon Tami's return to Israel I met her and she gave me my grandfather's Tefillin.

In 10 months my son, Tomer Statler, the great-grandson of Herman Statler, will be celebrating his Bar Mitzvah. Tomer never met grandfather Herman, but he was the first to hold the Tefillin that were last used in April 1945. My family and I are extremely grateful to Mr. Seinfeld for his generous and moving gesture. ■



Ernest Seinfeld



Liora Livni Cohen, Tami Kinberg and Tomer Statler

Memories in a plastic basket – in memory of my mother, Tamar “Shnupka” Herman, nee Tauss / Eileen Lahat-Herman

“Memories in a plastic basket” is the name of the book I wrote after my mother passed away. It describes the journey to my parents’ home.

“Shnupka” was born in Brno, the Czech Republic, in May 1927. At the age of 14 and a half she was deported to the Theresienstadt Ghetto with her family, where she was sent to grow plants in the vegetable garden. Her parents died in Auschwitz and her only sister in Bergen Belsen. In May 1945, after the ghetto was liberated, my mother returned to Prague, from where she immigrated to Israel in Aliya Bet. In Israel, she worked as a pediatric nurse at Kibbutz Dorot and later in Beit Dagan, and she lived in Rishon LeZion until the day she died. I am her only daughter. We had the privilege of enjoying her also as a wonderful grandmother to my daughters, her two granddaughters.

Beit Theresienstadt in Givat Haim Ihud was her second home.

In my earliest memories, mother told me about her family, the house, and Theresienstadt. The pictures, flavors, memories, and longing were absorbed in my blood. One of the highlights was a trip initiated by Beit Theresienstadt to mark the 40th anniversary of the ghetto’s liberation, in May 1985. A small delegation of the first and second generations left for Czechoslovakia,



Pavel Salus, second on the left, in a summer camp, 1940

which was at the time under communist rule. When we arrived at Theresienstadt, she and I stood in the girls’ room L-410, we stood happily.

I knew that mother had written a diary in the ghetto and I asked her to translate it from the Czech. The diary was written in the form of letters to a friend she had loved in



Tauss’s
transport
number



Tamar Herman with her daughter Eileen Photo: Dorit Vidar

the ghetto, Pavel Salus, who was deported “eastwards” from the ghetto and never returned. In a straightforward writing style, full of sadness and pain but also hope, mother described for three months her separation from her loved ones and how she pulled herself together.

On September 28, 1944, the day Pavel was deported to the East, mother began the diary.

The name of the diary:
“Here too we may dream and love”,
by Zuza Tauss (later Tamar Herman) AE-517

“This afternoon you left.

After we said goodbye I was very sad. Suddenly I felt myself crying. I ran to see you getting on the train. I stood by one of the bars at the ground floor window and looked for you, certain that you would pass by me. I am very shaken. I want to go out to you. To break the bars. I see you get on the train car. Somehow you are holding on!

You stand tall, despite the heavy pack on your back, and you smile at me. I am crying again. Now the cars are locked. I stand thinking. How many cars like that have I seen! But this time instead of animals they contain people. Many people. Perhaps more than fifty. The train started moving. I wanted to shout. To stop it with my hands. I look at you one last time. You smile and are gone. You are sad too. You don’t want me to cry, but it doesn’t work. I return home, take out your pictures and look at them. Soon I’ll go to the house where you lived to collect the belongings you left behind. I’ll peek into the room. I’ll peek into the attic – maybe I will still find you?! I arrange your belongings in a suitcase and put the books and notebooks in a case to take with me. I take my time with each object. Everything reminds me of you so much. I’ve decided to install a small shelf above my bed for your picture and the pioneer doll you made for me. But what good will that do? They’re not you!



The Taus family, 1939

I'm sure we'll see each other again soon!"

On November 11, 1944, after a horrifying description of desperate attempts to leave on a transport with her family and taking leave of them, mother tries to hold on to hope and not let the shock, sorrow, and pain take over.

"Today, seven weeks after that fateful Saturday, the matter is gradually losing its concreteness and even becoming a little vague among the daily doings. I build myself a wall against unnecessary sentiments and against surrendering. I want to be strong and realistic and to control my energy. I'm sure that it won't last long. I have to hold on even now that I am on my own. I want to show you that I'm not concerned of anything and that no one will destroy me, my nerves, and my health. You must find me as you knew me, only more mature and older and balanced. I have decided to try and take care of myself and particularly my lungs, as you can't immigrate to Eretz Israel with tuberculosis. Of course, this does not keep me from training at work, becoming immunized in the rain. Afterwards I feel very proud of myself. My self-confidence is picking up again. I missed it. I do a lot of thinking.

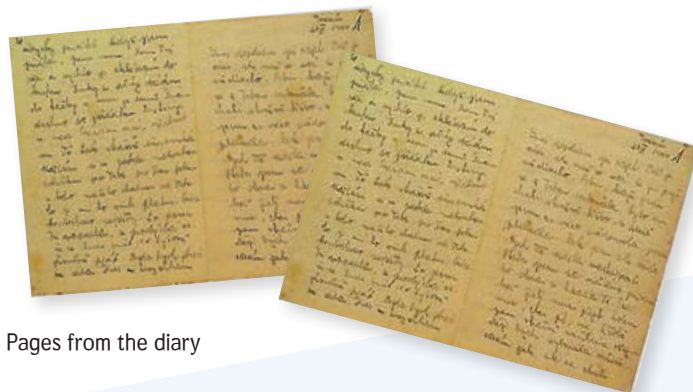
I arrange my house nicely and try to reject all thoughts of my family and of you, whom I miss so much. This hope strengthens me and gives me some gratification."

The roots of her special personality and strength of mind are accurately described here. She is 17 and a half years old, seven weeks after separating from Pavel and



from her family. She did not know that she would never see them again.

Mother passed away in January 2013, a short time after her 85th birthday. Full of longing and wishing to document and relate her story, I investigated and explored documents and photographs, books and archives from the Czech Republic. All these resulted in my book. Mother's diary is brought there in its entirety, as well as photographs, stories, and documents, and also a fascinating interview that David Grossman held in 1989 with my mother, Willy Groag, Ruth Bondy, and Harry Karni, on life and education in Theresienstadt. I called my book "Memories in a plastic basket". Why? Because mother



Pages from the diary

would bring us all the Czech foods that she made and that we liked so much in a red plastic basket. Soups and potato latkes and kneidlach and schnitzel and knedlíky, and nokedli, and buchtyčky, and palačinky. ■

One hundred years since the birth of Gideon Klein – composer and pianist (1919–1945)

Dr. Margalit Shlain

Gideon Klein was born on December 6, 1919, in Přerov, Moravia, to a family with strong Jewish roots and progressive views. His outstanding musical skills were already evident as a child. He learned to play the piano at age 6, and by age 12 he was studying piano with Prof. Růžena Kurzová and music and liberal arts at the Jirásek Gymnasium. In 1938 he enrolled at the Master School in Prague to study piano and composition with Prof. Vilém Kurz, and at the same time studied musicology and philosophy at the Charles University in Prague and completed his studies for a Master's degree in one year.

The German occupation in 1939 put an end to his formal studies but he continued to study composition privately with Prof. Alois Hába. Despite the risks, Klein performed and played the piano at small theatres throughout Prague and at the homes of his friends in the Jewish community, under the pseudonym Karel Vránek. As a musical talent and thanks to his outstanding skills he wrote fully developed music in 1939 and 1940: pieces for soprano and piano, an octet for wind instruments, and extensive pieces for string instruments that were



Klein with his fiancée
Courtesy of Ms. Moravcová



only found in 1990 in a locked suitcase he had left with the Herzogs in Prague.

In December 1941 Gideon Klein was deported to the Theresienstadt ghetto.

He was active in the musical cultural life in the camp, performing as solo pianist and in chamber ensembles as well as accompanying singers and in performances such as the opera "The Bartered Bride" by Smetana and Verdi's requiem, winning much acclaim and praise for his virtuoso music from Viktor Ullmann, the most senior composer in the ghetto.

At Theresienstadt Klein wrote many musical arrangements: for choirs, music for the theatre, a song cycle for alt and piano. He also set Peter Kien's poetic cycle, "Plague-stricken city", to music, and more. At the same time, he wrote and adapted vocal chamber music. Klein's final piece of work, a string trio, was completed in October 1944, nine days before he was sent to Auschwitz.

From there he was deported to Fürstengrube, a coal mining labor camp near Katowicz in Poland, from where he seems to have embarked on the death march on which he died on January 27, 1945.

Before they were deported, Klein and composer Hans Krása arranged for the rescue of the music

they had written in the ghetto, which they handed over to Irma Semecká, Klein's girlfriend who survived at Theresienstadt, for safekeeping. After the war the works were given to Eliska, Gideon's sister, who survived the camps.

The works of Gideon Klein, the gifted pianist and composer who died when he was merely 25, have been performed in Israel and around the world for many years. ■

The task of commemorating the Holocaust is now passing from the first to the following generations. We are charged with continuing to bear the torch of memory. We invite you to join the association and to realize the vision of the founders.

"...We sought to build a house where life would go on, where young people would study and read, within which people would sit and talk to each other..."



Membership Dues for 2019: 70\$ single, 100\$ couples

Membership dues and donations may be remitted:

- By personal check made out to "Beit Theresienstadt", by credit card and Paypal Bank
- By transfer to the account of the association: Bank Leumi 10, Hadera branch 953, Account no. 74803/11

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- Our members in the USA may use the P.E.F. that transfer money to Beit Theresienstadt without commission – such donations are tax-free. Send your check made out to P.E.F. with explicit order to transfer the money to Beit Theresienstadt – its number at the P.E.F. is 2210.

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