



THE JERUSALEM FOUNDATION
مؤسسة صندوق القدس
הקרן לירושלים



Delegation of the European Union to the State of Israel
משלחת האיחוד האירופי למדינת ישראל | وفد الاتحاد الأوروبي إلى دولة إسرائيل

To mark Yom Ha'Shoah

Event with Holocaust Survivors
from the Café Europa Programme
in Jerusalem

25th April 2022





Programme:

- 11.00 a.m. Gathering & Refreshments, the Davidson Theatre,
the new home of the Train (Puppet) Theatre
- 11.30 a.m. Opening Remarks from H.E. Mr. Dimiter Tzantchev,
EU Ambassador to Israel
- 11.35 a.m. Opening Remarks from Mr. Shai Doron,
President of the Jerusalem Foundation
- 11.40 a.m. Video Presentation: Café Europa Programme for Holocaust
Survivors in Jerusalem
- 11.45 a.m. Voice from the Holocaust: The Story of Mr. Jose Levkovich
- 12.15 p.m. Conversation with Holocaust Survivors:
Life in Jerusalem & Israel Today
- 12.45 p.m. Closing & Refreshments





photo: Roi Ziv



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We deeply appreciate the Jerusalem Foundation's assistance to elderly and needy Jerusalemites from all kinds of backgrounds, but on this Yom HaShoah we would like to express our special admiration and gratitude for the important work you are doing improving the lives of Holocaust survivors in the framework of your Café Europa Programme.

Today we bow our heads to all Holocaust survivors who went through hell on earth and managed to build a new life in Jerusalem. You are an inspiration to all of us. On this occasion, the European Union Delegation to Israel pays tribute to the 6 million Jews who were brutally murdered by the Nazis and their local collaborators, and we renew our solemn pledge: Never Again.

H.E. Mr. Dimiter Tzantchev

EU Ambassador to Israel



photo: Sasson Tiram



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Distinguished guests,

About 10,000 Holocaust survivors live in Jerusalem and our shared moral obligation is to concern ourselves with the well being of those who experienced the horrors of the darkest days in human history. Sadly, the number of live witnesses is dwindling and, due to the coronavirus over the past two years, their number has dwindled even more.

The Café Europa programme, established by the Jerusalem Foundation over a decade ago and working in close partnership with the Jerusalem Municipality and community centres, provides a safe and supportive framework for survivors to enjoy weekly social activities. It is one of the Jerusalem Foundation's most moving endeavours, high on our list priorities in the sphere of communal strength for the coming years. Friends of the Jerusalem Foundation in Israel and around the world enable us to conduct this special programme, but much still remains to be done. It is our obligation to enable Holocaust survivors to live in dignity, to feel a sense of security and love in a world that gave them too few of these things when they were only children.

We are deeply grateful for your expression of support for the Café Europa programme and to the survivors who came to share their memories with us as we approach Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day.

Shai Doron

President, the Jerusalem Foundation



The Café Europa Programme for Jerusalem Holocaust Survivors

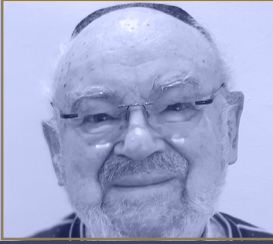
The Jerusalem Foundation strengthens the community support systems of Jerusalem, with a focus on the social and communal needs of the city's most vulnerable populations. The 10,000 Holocaust survivors living in Jerusalem represent one of the most vulnerable populations in the city, facing psychological, physical and financial challenges that require immediate and substantive solutions.

Our Café Europa network, in partnership with the Jerusalem Municipality's Elderly Welfare Department, local community centres and Misgav Lakashish, offers social and cultural opportunities for the city's Holocaust survivors.

Each neighbourhood branch offers its own menu of services including a meeting place where survivors can enjoy a social and cultural experience, a resource centre where trained professionals assist survivors in accessing and maximizing the rights and services to which the elderly sector and the survivor population in particular are entitled, special activities for veterans, intergeneration activities, lectures, concerts, trips, Yom HaShoah memorials, etc. and a mobile service of home visits by a social worker, therapist or trained multi-lingual volunteer for homebound survivors to enhance emotional, social, physical and cognitive well being.

Over 650 men and women participate in Café Europa activities each year in the programme's five branches dispersed among the city's areas to enable easy accessibility. During the past two years, the programme identified new needs and the project added additional volunteers and services.

"Café Europa is where I can socialise, hear a concert or just read and relax, in the one place where I feel surrounded by those who truly understand me." (a Café Europa participant at the Pisgat Ze'ev branch)



Mr. Jose Levkovich

Jose Levkovich was born in Poland in 1926. In 1939, when Jose was just 13 years old, he was separated from his father at a slave labour camp and the rest of his family was murdered on arrival to Belzec. Jose is the sole surviving member of his extended family of more than 250 people. Jose went on to survive seven of the most notorious Nazi death camps, including Auschwitz-Birkenau and Mauthausen. After six years, on 5 May 1945, 18-year-old Jose was liberated by the American army from Ebensee concentration camp.

After the war, Jose rescued 600 hidden Jewish children in communist Poland. He then turned his attention to finding and bringing Nazi war criminals to justice. Jose became a member of the police force, capturing war criminals and testifying at their war trials. Jose was responsible for the capture, and conviction at trial, of “the Butcher of Plaszow”, Amon Goeth, who had nearly killed him.

Jose later lived in Brazil, Argentina and Colombia, where he met his wife, Perla. They made Canada their home, bringing up their three children, grandchildren and greatgrandchildren. Jose moved to Israel later in life and devotes his time to educating youth in Israel and around the world about the Holocaust. He has a love for God, Jewish learning, the Jewish people and wider humanity.



Mr. Walter Bingham

It was on 25 July 1939, when WWII was known to be imminent, that Walter's mother took him to the railway station to board the international train to Hook of Holland for the overnight boat across the English Channel to Harwich. He was then a 15-year-old child on the renowned Kindertransport. Walter's father had already been deported to Poland on 28 October 1938. This action eventually led to Kristallnacht, which Walter witnessed. Walter and his mother continued by train to London, and had survived the war, as unfortunately, 99.9% of the 'Kinder' from his Kindertransport, never saw their parents again.

The day after Walter's 20th birthday, he joined the British Army and landed in Normandy to take part in the operation that helped enable the Allied victory on the Western Front. Under heavy fighting in France, Belgium and Holland, he drove an ambulance, evacuating the wounded. Being a German speaker, he was finally transferred to counter-intelligence and sent to London for training. On VE day, 8 May 1945, Walter took up post in Hamburg, Germany, where he was given the opportunity to interview the Nazi Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop, who was captured in that city. Following the Nuremberg Nazi war crimes trials, he was the first to mount the gallows. After four years, Walter was released from the army and lived in London until emigrating to Israel on 1 August 2004. Ever since, he has lived in Jerusalem and continues in his profession as a journalist and broadcaster.



Dr. Pessy Krauss

Born in Germany in 1937, Pessy escaped Kristallnacht by hiding in a neighbour's cupboard with her parents as the Nazis ransacked their house. The next day, the family fled to Belgium and later on to Dunkirk, France. As the British troops retreated from Dunkirk, no one was willing to take the family on the fleeing boats. Pessy's mother took a gun off a British army commander and threatened to murder her own family and then commit suicide in front of him if they weren't put on a boat. Pessy remembers being thrown into the small fishing boat and arriving hours later in Dover, England, where they were registered as illegal aliens. Pessy and her mother were sent to an internment camp on the Isle of Man in the Irish Sea, her father thrown into Holloway Prison. After a six-month internment, witnesses vouched for the family and they were released.

Having nowhere to live and nowhere to go, the family knocked on doors in London, asking for accommodation. "No Jews here" and a closed door were the only responses until a family eventually gave them accommodation in their attic. In 1941, Pessy's father established a fur business, trading with America. In 1948, at the moment Pessy heard about the declaration of the State of Israel, she decided that she would eventually move there. Pessy and her husband, Neville, had 3 children and decided to join their son when he moved to Israel at age 16. Dr. Krauss is a psychotherapist and an organisational management consultant. She has three children and many grandchildren and great grandchildren. Today she enjoys writing and poetry.



Ms. Nechama Margolin

Nechama was born in Holland in April, 1941. When the war broke out in Holland, the family was hidden by different gentile families and at age 1½, Nechama was taken in by a young couple, friends of her parents. Nechama went through many miracles living with the young couple, who risked their lives for her many times, and was well looked after until age 4½ at the end of the war.

The entire family was saved and left Holland in 1951 for Dublin, Ireland. Nechama became a Hebrew teacher in Dublin and later in London where she met her husband. The couple settled in Bnei Brak, Israel for three years and returned to London where they were blessed with two children. In 1988, they moved to Jerusalem. Their daughter, Rochel, lives in Baltimore, Maryland, and their son, Yedidya, lives in Jerusalem, both married with children and grandchildren. Nechama's husband heads a small kollel and they are proud great-grandparents.



Ms. Rena Quint

Rena grew up in Brooklyn, New York, never telling her classmates that she had spent her first years in a Nazi ghetto, forced labour, concentration camps and that she'd lost all members of her family. Today, she is the premier English speaker at the Yad Vashem Holocaust remembrance centre in Jerusalem, addressing thousands of people from around the world each year. She survived as a child alone in Nazi-occupied Poland because of a series of women who mothered her until they, too, died.

Rena emerged from the Holocaust with her belief in God and love intact. She has received numerous awards and is often interviewed by the media in Israel the United States, England, Germany and South Africa. She and her husband Emanuel Quint, a lawyer and Jewish scholar, have four children and dozens of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Rena is the archetypical example of the power of feeling you are a survivor rather than a victim.



About the Jerusalem Foundation

For the past 55 years, the Jerusalem Foundation has brought together friends from around the world to invest in projects throughout the city. Through over 4,000 initiatives, both capital and long-running programmes, the Foundation has touched the lives of many of Jerusalem's 957,000 residents (10% of Israel's population), in all spheres of life and in all the city's communities.

Today, the Foundation's original mandate is more relevant than ever. The Foundation has created a model for cross-cultural and cross-communal engagement among all the city's sectors. Looking ahead, we have developed a plan to ensure a better future for the city in 2030 and beyond. As the leading institution in grant making for the cultural and communal sectors, our initiatives and projects promote Communal Strength, Creative Culture and Future Leadership in Jerusalem.



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photo: Yaell Ilan

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