

READINGS from **Mania Nudel Holocaust Learning Center**

Of the David Posnack Jewish Community Center

October 2021 / Tishrei-Cheshvan 5782



Dear Friends,

Welcome to October, all the 'fall' Jewish holidays have come to an end, and we won't see a break until Thanksgiving (Chanukah is right there).

I hope you are doing well and feeling good too. This month's reading focuses on the 80th anniversary of the Babi Yar (Ukraine) massacre of 33,000 Jews in one felled swoop!

This account was hidden by the soviets for decades until a Russian poet Yvgevny Yvtichenko wrote his classic poem about the event. Israeli President Isaac Herzog will take the first Israeli visit to the site of Babi Yar to represent Israel at the memorial service that will be held on October 6th on the outskirts of Kiev.

The MNHLC is progressing at an incredible pace at this time and we will be inviting select individuals for some "test-the-kinks" tours to help us ferret everything out before our grand opening in January. We are still looking for individuals who would like to take on the volunteer role of docent for the Mania Nudel Holocaust Learning Center. We are doing training in November and December – so please contact Lea Shani at the JCC to sign up.

Have a great October!

Generations of the Shoah International Newsletter - September 2021

<http://genshoah.org/newsletter-2021/gsi-newsletter-09-2021.pdf>

97-year-old Auschwitz survivor's TikTok goes viral World Israel News!

Click to watch this --> <https://worldisraelnews.com/watch-97-year-old-auschwitz-survivors-tiktok-goes-viral/>

The Nazi Olympics of 1936

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/the-nazi-olympics-berlin-1936>

Ukraine Marks **80th Anniversary** Of The Babi Yar

Massacre <https://thejewishvoice.com/2021/09/ukraine-marks-80th-anniversary-of-the-babi-yar-massacre/>

Prepared by Rabbi Dr. Leon & Toni Weissberg

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As we approach the 80th anniversary of Babi Yar, this is an incredibly important article and new and innovative research dealing with the early period of the Holocaust in Eastern Europe. This is very helpful on many levels to teachers teaching this material.

From the beginning of the article.

“Why is it so hard to communicate the experience of Jews in Soviet territories during the Holocaust? It’s because there are so few stories.

Countless films have been made to help us relate to the experience of Western European and Polish Jewry. The images of the Warsaw Ghetto and Auschwitz are burned into our minds. But I have yet to see a feature film treating the experience of a Jewish woman in the Janowska concentration camp in Lwów or a Jewish child trying to survive the extermination of Odessa’s Jewry at the hands of the Romanians.

In the run-up to the 80th anniversary of the Babi Yar massacre, we asked several young Russian-speaking North American Jews to interview Holocaust survivors from the Soviet Union.

The stories they brought back are unlike most of what American Jews’ collective memory of the Holocaust contains. Most take place in the summer and fall of 1941—the chaotic first months of the German-Soviet war and occupation, and the early stage of the Jewish genocide. The Holocaust at this point is far from the well-oiled machine we remember it as. At this point, the most high-tech solution to the “Jewish problem” is still Einsatzgruppen commander Friedrich Jeckeln’s “sardine method” of packing people as tightly as possible in the shooting pits before murdering them.

The absence of streamlined mass murder solutions, however, did not prevent the Germans, their allies, and local collaborators from murdering 2.7 million Jews in these territories. Fewer than 120,000 Jews are estimated to have survived the genocide here

With the exception of one, all of the people we interviewed experienced the Holocaust in Transnistria, an administrative entity established by the Romanians in southeastern Ukraine between the rivers Dniester and Southern Bug, with Odessa as its capital, and studded with ghettos and concentration camps.

Some 250,000 Jews were murdered here by starvation, brutal forced marches, disease, forced labor, and mass executions. And yet, this horrific place offered an ever-so-slightly higher chance of survival if one was, perhaps, a bit stronger and healthier, a bit more resourceful, and much, much luckier than most. By contrast, virtually no one survived mass shooting events such as Babi Yar in the German-occupied Soviet territories.

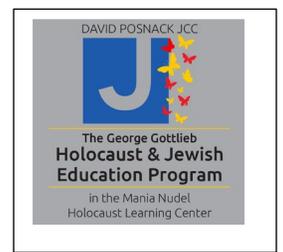
Some of our interlocutors were very young children during the war. Their Holocaust stories are the stories that their parents and grandparents told them. Others were old enough to not only remember but to help save the adults in their lives. All but one live in Israel today.

Check out this Instagram post regarding history that I

found: https://www.instagram.com/p/CUZp6iKqxBB/?utm_medium=share_sheet

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August 2021 / Av-Elul 5781

The MNHLC is beginning to take shape. It's so exciting as we watch the components come together in the physical space designated for our Holocaust Learning Center. We've been training prospective docents to be able to lead groups and individuals in developing and gaining insight into the Holocaust and what it represents as well as the lessons that we have gained as a result of studying it. We are reviewing the different topics that include narratives and images to be presented on the various screens in the MNHLC. The reflective garden looks very inviting and the Anne Frank Annex has it's book-shelf door in place. Watching these videos has become inspiring as we begin to anticipate visitations to the Center. We're so very excited. More great news to follow in the few months ahead.

Below are more readings about the Holocaust for your information. It is quite amazing that there is never a shortage of current up to date articles in newspapers, magazines, television, movies, lectures, ad infinitum. The attached is just a small sampling. Please take some time to read them.

Why We Should Discuss Racism at Holocaust Museums – commentary on the exhibit at the Maitland Florida Holocaust Museum

<https://jewishjournal.com/commentary/325550/why-we-should-discuss-racism-at-holocaust-museums/>

Unmasking a Hidden Nazi: The SS General living unnoticed in Germany <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9JXm1tiORg>

The Pope's conductor Great YouTube Video - Who knew?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SNBcpKlQRi0&feature=youtu.be>

Renovators at a Jewish cemetery in a breakaway province of Moldova discovered amid overgrown vegetation a ritual burial preparation facility that was assumed to be destroyed from 1931. <https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/renovators-find-a-ritual-burial-facility-last-used-in-1931-at-a-neglected-jewish-cemetery-near-moldova>

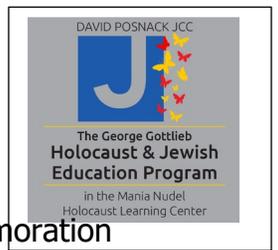
GSI – Generations of the Shoah International Monthly updates

<http://genshoah.org/newsletter-2021/gsi-newsletter-06-2021.pdf>

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WARSAW (JTA) — Several dozen nationalist protesters disrupted a commemoration ceremony for Jewish victims of a 1941 pogrom in Jedwabne, Poland, symbolizing the country's fraught debate over who should be blamed for World War II-era atrocities. <https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/polish-nationalists-disrupt-commemoration-for-jewish-pogrom-victims>

Bedzin: A Small Town Near Auschwitz <https://youtu.be/iHyRb3ctnx0>

The US Ramps Up Pressure On Poland Over Holocaust Restitution

<https://thejewishvoice.com/2021/07/us-ramps-up-pressure-on-poland-over-holocaust-restitution/>

Selling masks with swastikas at Ft. Lauderdale gas station.

<https://www.local10.com/news/local/2021/07/29/mask-with-nazi-symbols-sold-at-fort-lauderdale-gas-station/>

Did you know: Billionaire Investor **George Soros**, one of the richest men on Earth, is a Holocaust survivor.



September 2021 / Elul 5781-Tishri 5782

Shanah Tova U'Metuka – This month of September, this year, has all of our fall holidays. This is some busy “Jewish” month. Following are some readings for the month that I’ve collected for your edification. You might find one or two that resonate with you.

I would certainly love to hear from you regarding some of these articles and certainly if you come across any particular Holocaust-related articles, please don’t hesitate to forward it to me so that I can share with everyone for the following month.

As we get ready to close out 5781 and bring in 5782 there’s a short prayer that I would love to share with you:

*"May the old year with all its curses end, and a new year with all its **blessings** begin".*

Wishing you all a year with good health, good fortune and naches from your children and/or grandchildren.

Shanah Tova

*I would like to share with you a short fragment of my piano concert held on August 2, 2021, in the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum (“In Thy Gypsy Family Camp” - Zigeunerfamilienlager) where I performed my composition “Crying Heart” dedicated to the memory of the victims of the Holocaust. Yours sincerely **Miroslav Rác**.*

https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=203268325154061¬if_id=1628780988905077¬if_t=watch_follower_video&ref=notif

Polish parliament approves draconian Holocaust anti-restitution law | JPost

The new law would make it impossible for a court to invalidate a confiscation if 10 years have passed since that confiscation was carried out. Polish President Andrzej Duda now has 21 days to sign the legislation into law or veto it.

[**WJC President Ronald S. Lauder strongly condemns Polish draft law blocking restitution to Nazi victims**](#) [**Israel, US coordinating response to Polish anti-restitution law**](#)

Reparations Law

<https://unitedwithisrael.org/act-now-demand-polish-president-veto-immoral-holocaust-reparations-law/>



The Last Two Nazis on Trial Aug 8, 2021, | by Dr. Yvette Alt Miller

https://www.aish.com/ci/s/The-Last-Two-Nazis-on-Trial.html?s=ac&utm_source

Austrian man leaves 'large amount' to village that saved family from Nazis

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-55863061>

What Can Objects Reveal about Experiences of the Holocaust?

The Experiencing History platform showcases rich accounts of the Holocaust and World War II through selected primary sources supported by historical context.

CAMP PRISONER'S UNIFORM

Objects of Memory

Physical objects offer unique insights into Jews' struggles under Nazi persecution. They also help illuminate victims' memories of survival. This jacket is part of a new digital collection of primary sources spotlighting Holocaust artifacts, available this fall.



Eighty years ago: Hitler's first large-scale mass murder

<https://www.jns.org/opinion/eighty-years-ago-hitlers-first-large-scale-mass-murder/>

This past week on **22 August 2021**, Dani Dayan Appointed as Chairman of Yad Vashem.

<https://www.yadvashem.org/press-release/22-august-2021-09-00.html>



Polish doctor Eugene Lazowski saved 8,000 Jews during the Holocaust by injecting dead typhus cells into them, allowing them to test positive for typhus despite being healthy. Germans were afraid of the highly contagious disease and refused to deport them to concentration camps.



Dr Halina

Jankowska <https://www.mp.pl/auschwitz/journal/english/278016,dr-halina-jankowska>

– Auschwitz. August 6, 2021. Originally published as in Przegląd Lekarski – Oświęcim. 1967: 229–236.

We often commemorate the heroes of the last War, especially when we want to pay tribute to those who showed their complete dedication and laid down their lives. We remember Janusz Korczak,¹ who volunteered to accompany the Warsaw Ghetto orphans in his custody and went with them to the death camp, as well as Maksymilian Kolbe,² another volunteer who gave up his life in Auschwitz to save a fellow prisoner from punishment of death by starvation. However, so far the general public has not heard the story of Dr Halina Jankowska, who died with her patients under the rubble of the Hospital of St. John of God in Warsaw. Dr Jankowska deserves to be more widely known, especially as her life and work is an important contribution to the recent history of Polish psychiatry, for instance its condition under the German occupation of Poland.