

READINGS from **Mania Nudel Holocaust Learning Center**

Of the David Posnack Jewish Community Center

February 2021 / Shevat-Adar 5781

This past month we commemorated the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, as declared by the United Nations to be on January 27th – the day the Soviets liberated Auschwitz. There were movies, lectures, webinars and a host of assorted activities throughout the world on that Wednesday trying to educate the “civilized” world as to the fact that we can never forget the most catastrophic event of the 21st century – The Holocaust, promulgated between November 1938 – January 1945 with the murder via execution of 11,000,000 civilians because of their religion, their political beliefs, their physical and mental deformities, their sexual orientation and at the whim of Nazi perpetrators.

Needless to say all of the Jewish communities throughout the world joined in with this UN Declaration. However, it is also important to remember that the Jewish communities have two other days a year wherein we remember the Holocaust: Kristallnacht & Yom HaShoah. Kristallnacht, Nov 9-10, 1938, speaks for itself as the commemoration of those two days wherein Jewish shops throughout Germany were vandalized, Jews were brutalized in the streets and the beginning of physical Jewish oppression began. Yom Hashoah takes on a different meaning.

After the state of Israel was established in May 1948, survivors throughout the land began commemorating their liberation from various camps – their rebirth, so to speak, by using the date of their liberation as the date for commemoration. The survivors of Majdanek observed June 14, the survivors of Bergen-Belsen observed April 15, Auschwitz survivors January 27, etc., etc. So throughout Israel almost every month had a commemoration of some sort among survivors of their own personal “Yom HaShoah.” In 1951 The Knesset decided to consolidate all of these commemorative dates into one specific date wherein the entire country would recognize the Holocaust/Shoah as a day of remembrance. But the Knesset members did not want to pick a date wherein others liberated the Jews, they wanted a date where the Jews stood up and fought back themselves. After a great deal of debate and discussion (imagine among Jews trying to pick the right date) it was decided that remembering the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising would be Yom HaShoah. Needless to say that event occurred on the 2nd day of Passover, which wasn’t going to work in Israel. However the uprising lasted 3 weeks and so the first available date after Passover during the three weeks became the 27th of Nisan and that became the Israeli & Jews all over the world, National day of Commemoration called **Yom Hazikaron laShoah ve-laG'vurah – Holocaust & Heroism Remembrance Day**. All the survivor groups throughout the land joined in and this date on the Hebrew calendar became the official date.... And that Ladies and Gentlemen, is the rest of the story.

Below find a series of articles and information that came out last month for you to peruse at your leisure if you’re interested in what’s happening world-wide with regard to the Holocaust. Some of the stories are amazing.

The more I read and learn about the Shoah, there is so much more to know. I was totally unaware of this situation of concentration camps in Scotland.

<https://www.aish.com/jw/s/Concentration-Camps-in-Scotland.html>

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/>

The Jews in Hitler's Military – New documentation that indicates how many hundreds of Jews were in Hitler's military as high ranking officers, approved by Hitler himself. [Thank you Donny for the article]

<https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1996-12-24-mn-12209-story.html>

Germany's Buchenwald Memorial Urges Visitors to Respect Graves

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/16/world/europe/buchenwald-camp-sledding.html?action=click&module=News&pgtype=Homepage>

Family History Today: Finding Your Eastern European Jewish Family on [JRI-Poland.org](https://www.jri-poland.org)

For 25 years, [JRI-Poland.org](https://www.jri-poland.org) has served as the preferred database for the historical Jewish records that survive in the archives of Poland. This vast collection of 6.2 million documents includes information about towns and

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families from Poland, Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania, Germany, and the former territories of Galicia and Prussia.

<https://jri-poland.org//>



The picture below are the grandchildren of these 4 Holocaust survivors, who are in the Israeli army.

The message is clear –

WE WON!



<https://www.facebook.com/JewishProjects/photos/a.1472404959695139/2957669454502008/?type=3>

Polish officer Witold Pilecki volunteered to be captured by the Nazis to be sent to Auschwitz to gather intel. He escaped after 2.5 years and was the first to inform the Allies of the atrocities. Many of his reports were labelled as exaggerations until the camps were liberated.

image



Thank you Donny Sztulwark for finding this on the internet

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GENERATIONS OF THE SHOAH INTERNATIONAL

The *GSI* newsletter for February 2021 is now available online at

<http://genshoah.org/newsletter-2021/gsi-newsletter-02-2021.pdf>

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