

New Cracow Friendship Society, Inc.

3905 Arthur Avenue North, Seaford, N.Y. 11783

CRACOW

FRIENDSHIP

A NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY



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The Power of Our Stories
Join us for a virtual panel discussion

Thursday, October 29 | 6:30 PM ET – 7:45 PM ET | [Register](#)
[Suggested donation \\$18](#) Proceeds will go to WEDU Holocaust Education

"Telling stories is one of the most powerful means that leaders have to influence, teach, and inspire. What makes storytelling so effective for learning? For starters, storytelling forges connections among people, and between people and ideas. Stories convey the culture, history, and values that unite people" – Dec 20, 2017 Harvard Business Review

New Cracow Friendship Society (NCFS) invites you to a live panel to explore the complexities and devastating impact of antisemitism and racism. We will do this through storytelling - our panelists will share their experiences living in the USA. We will have the opportunity to see the world through their lens to help us better understand bigotry in its different forms and the impact it has. There will be time at the end of the session to submit questions.

NCFS is a non-profit organization founded by Holocaust survivors.



Moderator: Yair Rosenberg
Yair is an American journalist and senior writer at Tablet magazine. He is a regular speaker and commentator on anti-Semitism in the modern era, with a focus on combatting abuse on online platforms.



Panelist: Leora Klein
Leora Klein is a founding and current board member of 3GNY. She also ran their WEDU (We Educate) Holocaust speaker education program for five years.



Panelist: Leotis Sanders
Leo is the Chief Civil Rights and Diversity Officer for New Jersey Transit, a major public agency.

[Register Now](#)

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.newcracowfriendshipsoc.org

תחי מדינת ישראל ועם ישראל

LONG LIVE THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE

**NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER**

President Simone Hilfstein Scheumann

Editor Bernice Slutzman

www.newcracowfriendshipsoc.org

Email: ncfs@newcracowfriendshipsoc.org

EDITORIAL

It is our hope that all could observe the recent holiday period safely with family and friends. Although most of us could not physically get together with our loved ones, the modern technology afforded us by Zoom allowed some of us to “see each other and participate” in the holidays.

The one event we could hold safely in person was our annual Yizkor at Beth Moses Cemetery which was held on September 13, 2020. Considering the times in which we are living, the event was well attended. Further information can be found in the pages of this issue.

What we have seen in these past months has defied anything we could have imagined. Never before in our nation’s 244 year history have we suffered so. In the past we turned to our leadership for competent guidance but sadly that has been severely lacking. Information that has been disseminated has often been contradictory from one week to the next. It is highly unfortunate that information is released before full knowledge is obtained. Perhaps it is the rush to placate the people that the leaders put forth that which has not been thoroughly tested. Even highly respected, key word “respected”, doctors have shifted in their directives as to how to stem the advance of this pandemic. Rather than realize that as each day goes by, new information based on science colors directives issued, naysayers turn to those who have no training and accept what they put forth. Our nation used to be looked at as the leader in medical advances and technology. We are still at the forefront, but not in advances, but in per capita deaths as compared to the rest of the world. What has happened to us?

A few years ago this editorial pointed at the rise of anti-Semitism and hate crimes in this nation. Many have said that the current administration is not responsible for anti-Semitism and hate against minorities. Actually, they are correct. The administration has not created these ills, but it has made it acceptable. Only recently, Facebook took action against Holocaust deniers on its forum. The following was a post from Mark Zuckerberg

Today we're updating our hate speech policy to ban Holocaust denial.

We've long taken down posts that praise hate crimes or mass murder, including the Holocaust. But with rising anti-Semitism, we're expanding our policy to prohibit any content that denies or distorts the Holocaust as well. If people search for the Holocaust on Facebook, we'll start directing you to authoritative sources to get

accurate information.

I've struggled with the tension between standing for free expression and the harm caused by minimizing or denying the horror of the Holocaust. My own thinking has evolved as I've seen data showing an increase in anti-Semitic violence, as have our wider policies on hate speech. Drawing the right lines between what is and isn't acceptable speech isn't straightforward, but with the current state of the world, I believe this is the right balance.

Just last year, a high school principal in Boca Raton, Florida was fired for stating in a email to a parent, ”Not everyone believes the Holocaust happened...I can't say the Holocaust is a factual, historical event, because I am not in a position to do so as a district employee.” [Never mind that as an educator, he had no business denying facts. How would he react that as a black man he was told that slavery in the United States was not factual?]

We would not be mentioning this now except that he was recently rehired and given his back pay. He will not, however, be on a school campus. One of the reasons given was that the school district in question didn't want to go through the expense of court appeals. This is wrong on so many levels, the least of which is that he is supposed to be an educator and is unaware of what one can call recent history. This is the climate in which we are now living.

The Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Your society is still actively planning events. You can read about up coming events on our website www.newcracowfriendshipsoc.org calendar page. A virtual panel discussion is scheduled for October 29,2020. Check our site online to register for this event. Those that have provided us with up to date emails should have already received all the information. I wish to acknowledge the social action committee especially Bonnie Kantor and Anna Gallegos for their hard work.

The newsletter will reach you after many solemn and joyous holidays. I hope that you and your families are doing well. My deepest condolences goes out to those who have lost a loved one in the past months. May their memory be a blessing. Confidentially, let us know if you or someone you know needs assistance during these difficult times.

Stay well and keep in touch.

As a reminder keep your membership current and send us your email address and mobile number.

Fondly,
Simone Hilfstein Scheumann

VOLUNTEER WANTED - NEEDED

We are seeking a volunteer to take over the Phone Tree.

Please contact Simone Hilfstein Scheumann if you are interested for the details.

There is not too much work required.

LISTING OF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS LISTING OF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Cemetery	Bernice Slutzman brei513@aol.com Leon Hilfstein Leonh74d@gmail.com
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MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Dear Members,

Another year is gone and what a year it was! Here's hoping that 5781 and 2021 will bring to our planet, and to you and your family... health and healing, joy and prosperity, goodness and abundance, peace and security.

We're looking forward to an exciting new year in our Society as our Board is hard at work continuing (as

did our forebears) to focus our efforts in meaningful ways and directions.

Regarding Membership, as the year draws to a close, we will soon be mailing out renewal forms for 2021 membership dues. Please remit your single (\$25) or family (\$40) dues in the enveloped enclosed. Please be sure to maintain your active member status by remitting any unpaid dues. Also, please fill in **all** the requested information on the card. Let us know by noting if there are any changes. It is essential for us to update all our membership records from the most current renewal cards. Please include the name of your spouse if you are a family member. Include your anniversary dates so we may congratulate you in our Newsletter. In the past, some members have occasionally left out information (addresses, phone #, email address) therefore making communication difficult if changes have occurred.

If any 2G or 3G offspring would like to become a member, she/he must apply for her/himself. The application can be downloaded from our website mentioned below. There is a one time only \$50 initiation fee in addition to the modest yearly dues. A voluntary contribution is always appreciated. No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

If for any reason you choose not to be on our Phone Tree, please indicate that on the card but still do include your home and telephone numbers and your e-mail addresses for accessible contact and notification regarding any important events or information. We need to verify your information for all future mailings.

Membership Dues can also be made on PayPal. See our website... www.newcracowfriendshipsoc.org

To our members who have lost family in the recent months, we are sorry for your loss and extend our deepest most heartfelt condolences.

Looking forward to a new and productive year. Hopefully we'll be able to meet again soon. Stay safe. Be well.

Best regards,
Ida Lewis
Membership Committee Chairperson
147-17 78th Road
Flushing NY 11367
(718) 380-3574

WELFARE COMMITTEE REPORT

The year of 2020 has been difficult and very challenging for the entire world. A very serious and previously unknown pandemic sadly, has caused many deaths, and a disruption of our everyday lives. For every challenge that we must go through our sages teach us that a better world can emerge with new discoveries, new medicines and more advanced technologies. All mankind comes together for the benefit of all. This is a historic moment in history for Israel in making peace with some of its Arab

neighbors and working with them for a cure.

In spite of a challenging and difficult year, the New Cracow Friendship Society is so grateful for your very generous donations and outpouring of support for Mr. Leon Schagrín during this difficult time in his life. We gratefully acknowledge the following donors:

Faye and Jack Gingold
Joshua Greenspan
Barbara Greenspan Shaiman
George Hoffman
Annette Insdorf
Sydelle and Arthur Spielman

If any member knows someone who is in financial need please contact:

ncfs@newcracowfriendshipsoc.org. Attention : Renata Farahník

Our website for making donations is: www.newcracowfriendshipsoc.org. Indicate of it's for the Welfare Fund or for Mr. Leon Schagrín. He has a shortfall of \$800 every month. Thanks so much for your very kind and generous donations. You have helped save and improve many lives.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members, friends and their families a very Happy Healthy prosperous and Joyous New Year.

Renata Fryszman Farahník
Welfare Chairperson

YIZKOR APPEAL

The following members have generously contributed to our Welfare Fund for the annual Yizkor appeal:

Michael Arzewski, in memory of Stanley Arzewski
Dolores Finder Berkowsky, in memory of Helen & Alex Finder and Charles Finder
Lotte Bloch, in memory of Leon Bloch
Marvin Blumenfrucht, in memory of Bina Blumenfrucht
Sam Blumenstyk, in memory of Adele Jachzel Blumenstyk
Marcel & Gail Brandstaedter
Susan Krul Caren, in memory of Jean & Eli Krul
Helene & Abe Dortheimer, in memory of Ann & Henry Dortheimer
Saul Dreier, in memory of Clara Dreier
Marsha & David Edell, in memory of Dola & Dolek Polland
Joy Wolfe Ensor, in memory of Leon & Henia Karmel Wolfe and Ilona Karmel
Renata Fryszman Farahník, in memory of Mary & Sam Fryszman and Jared Farahník
Faye & Jack Gingold, in memory of Martin Getzler and Regina & Julius Gingold

Yona & Jerry Gonen, in memory of Ida & Emanuel Beitscher and Lola, Chanah and Josef Schonwald

Lucy Haber, in memory of Elias Haber
Maria Helfman & Ally Stoeger, in memory of Janet & Emil Stoeger
Dorothy & George Hoffman, in memory of Ester & Wiktor Hoffman
Roselyn & Michael Horowitz, in memory of the Insdorf and Horowitz Families
Carol & Bill Huppert, in memory of Fanny Huppert and Simon Huppert
Mark Klapholz, in memory of Gerda Klapholz & Joseph Klapholz
Rose Kluger, in memory of Michael Kluger
Abraham Krieger, in memory of Tonia Krieger & Nathan Krieger
Gloria Lack, in memory of Nathan Offen
Meryl & Alvin Lewis, in memory of Victor Lewis
The Liebling Family, in memory of Regina Liebling & Simon Liebling
Susan & Charles Mandelbaum, in memory of Mollie Mandelbaum & Jack Mandelbaum
Ruth Offen, for helping survivors
Esther Peterseil, in memory of Joseph Peterseil
Eva Pfau, in memory of my dear husband, Julius Pfau
Sara Picon, in memory of Arnold Picon and Risa & Herman Schein
Stephanie & Frederic Rothenberg, in memory of Pauline Bloch Boyman & Leon Bloch
Simon Salamon, in memory of Celina Salamon & Herman Salamon
Sara Schanzer, in memory of Pola & Samuel Schanzer and Sam Berdick
Simone Hilfstein Scheumann, in memory of my parents, Dr. Erna and Max Hilfstein
Yvonne & Eliot Shapiro, in memory of Felicia Spritzer, Mr. & Mrs. Marmor and Ralph & Frida Shapiro
Bernice Slutzman, in memory of Fela & Roman Weingarten
Genia Sommer, in memory of Jack Sommer and Mina & Izak Gries
Sydelle & Arthur Spielman, in memory of Czarna & Simon Spielman and of family we lost in the Holocaust
Elizabeth Szancer, in memory of Irena Szancer and Henryk Szancer
Natalie Tittman, in memory of Joseph Tittman
Sally Wimmer, in memory of beloved husband, Joachim Wimmer, Zaide, and Great Grandfather
Ruth Zaidband, in memory of Henry Finder and Jack Finder
Rachele Zuckerman, in memory of Rela Zuckerman and Henry Zuckerman
We thank you all for your generosity.

VIRTUAL UNVEILING



Upon the 5th anniversary of her passing, as we commemorate the setting of the stone, we invite you to share in honoring the memory of Dr. Halina Ragazzoni (nee Poss). Halina survived the Shoah and went on to study Veterinary Medicine in Italy, where she also met and married Gian Domenico Ragazzoni (deceased). They emigrated to the US in the 1950's and Halina became a true New Yorker. A small woman with a big, big personality and impeccable style, she was a strong supporter of Israel and follower of the Jewish faith. Halina commuted from Manhattan to New Jersey, tirelessly serving the community for many years, working for The Department of Health. She gave her time and charged insights generously to friends, family and strangers alike. We miss her so very much.

It is with utmost sincerity that we acknowledge and thank those who have contributed to making this day happen including but not limited to:

Bernice Slutzman and The New Cracow Friendship Society, Mark Markowitz of Sprung Monuments, Drs. Carey and Jay Costantini

We stand before her memorial stone (virtually) in the NCFS plot at Beth Moses Cemetery....and we say Kaddish for our beloved and departed friend Halina Poss Ragazzoni.

Leslie Halpern and Michele Costantini

SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION, MAY 1947

Ebensee was one of the largest of the 49 subcamps of Mauthausen. It would be the end of the line for about 27,000 prisoners, from 25 different countries, some of whom had already survived Auschwitz, Gross Rosen, and the Nazis' last-gasp death marches that resulted in a frenzy of murder in the closing stages of the war in Europe. Up to 11,000 died at Ebensee. Malnourished and ill-clad, they were simply worked until they dropped. Once they became too weak for productive labor, their already meager food rations were cut in half until they starved to death, or that outcome was hastened in the camp's primitive gas chamber. The crematorium could not keep pace with all the executions. When the U.S. Army's 80th Infantry Division entered the camp on May 6, 1945, they found hundreds of naked bodies stacked to the ceiling in a warehouse, and hundreds more in open pits. Pictured here are some of the Ebensee survivors who greeted the liberators.



Many of these living skeletons— some walking, some crawling, some unable to move at all – did not survive the aftermath of liberation, dying by the hundreds from typhus, tuberculosis, dysentery and malnutrition. A cemetery was dedicated to provide dignified interment for the deceased. One of the goals of the first anniversary commemoration and march of survivors from the Golden Cross Hotel to the Ebensee cemetery, described and pictured in the May-June 2020 issue of the Cracow Society newsletter, was to raise funds for the upkeep and maintenance of this cemetery.

On May 4, 1947, my father-in-law, Alex Finder, again helped to organize a second anniversary commemoration and march. In the group photo from that date, Alex is in the back row, face partially hidden. Helen, his bride of 11 months, stands at center, before the flagstaff. In the marching picture, Alex is at right in the color guard.



The money raised at the May 1946 commemoration had been turned over to local authorities

for the upkeep of the Ebensee cemetery; but this money was squandered, and the cemetery – a magnet for visiting survivors and displaced persons in the local area – fell into disrepair. The embarrassed local authorities simply put up shrubbery and fencing to hide the cemetery from the road.

In August 1947, Alex wrote a bitter letter to *GLOSU* (The Voice), the Polish-language DP camp newspaper at Bad Ischl, calling to task the municipal leaders for their mismanagement of funds for the upkeep of the Ebensee cemetery. An original clipping of this letter was submitted to the archives of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC in 1999. Only recently has it been translated, bringing to life for our generation Alex's words from 73 years ago:

[translation of 1947 letter to editor]

Letters from readers . . .

The municipality of Ebensee received 4,000 shillings for proper maintenance of the concentration camp cemetery!

Referring to the article by the Canadian army pilot, published in the last issue of *GLOS* [Voice], Mr. Aleksander Finder of Bad Ischl, a former political prisoner in German concentration camps, wrote the following:

"After reading the item about the state of the concentration camp cemetery in Ebensee, I came to the conclusion that the claims of the Canadian pilot are justified. Our holy place looks like a forgotten and neglected piece of property. Only the crosses and the stars of David, peeking up from amidst the overgrown grass, testify that this is a cemetery where our comrades from different nations and of different religions are buried.

"15 months ago, on May 5 [1946], a representative of the municipality of Ebensee stood here at the podium and solemnly pledged, in the name of the city and its inhabitants, that this place would be honored by them, and that it would be maintained accordingly.

"Today we see the sad results of these promises. We asked very little from the city. We raised 4,000 shillings among ourselves, and on the first anniversary of the liberation we gave this sum to the city's representative. We didn't want to be a burden on anyone. All we asked was for the municipality to provide funds for the care of the cemetery. How come just the opposite has happened?

"That same day I walked by the SS cemetery near the Steinkogl hotel. It is beautifully taken care of. No money was raised by appeals and no pledges were made to the public for that, and yet someone's hands are caring for all the graves in that cemetery. The difference between the two cemeteries speaks for itself. Those who should be remembered are neglected, and those who caused the catastrophe – their graves are beautifully

decorated with flowers and greenery! The concentration camp cemetery is in a beautiful place, alongside the road from Ebensee to Bad Ischl. Its location alone should cause city officials to think about its condition. What will visitors to the area think?

"These weeds need to be pulled out – and not just the ones that obscure the gravestones. The weeds of hatred in the hearts and minds of humankind need to be uprooted! In this cemetery lie human beings whose lives were sacrificed for the sake of LOVE!"

Peter A. Berkowsky
2nd Generation

THE UNDER THE RADER EARTHQUAKE

What a world we live in! The Corona virus continues to wreak havoc on everyone. Though in Israel, you wouldn't know that this is really something everyone in the world is facing. It has got so bad here that by the time of this writing people's focus in this country is only inward. Only Israel is handling it poorly. Only Israel is suffering with suffocating restrictions. Only Israel messed it up following the first wave.

Of course, that isn't true, but who are we to argue with people's subjectivity? Plenty of other countries are suffering just as bad. The second wave is hitting countries across the world, not just here. Many governments haven't got it right, not just ours. But plenty of the criticism in Israel is on target. It didn't have to get this bad, not after the success we had the first time around. The period between the first and second waves was entirely wasted by lack of preparation on the one hand and endless political in-fighting on the other. Both of which ultimately led to a collapse in the public's trust in its leadership, to open rebellion in many (maybe most) sectors of society regarding increasingly harsher restrictions. The government for the past three months looks helpless, like it has no clue, and no one trusts the decision makers, from the Prime Minister, to the Corona Project Head and on down.

There have been countless articles and TV/Radio analyses as to when things started going wrong. The general consensus is on May 17, the day before the unity government was sworn in when our Prime Minister took the credit for the great success in stemming the first wave (and it was a great success) and more or less opened the floodgates, inviting the public to go back to normal, and then took himself out of the day to day involvement of the crisis as if it were a thing of the past. It wasn't.

Opening the floodgates to include schools, weddings, beaches, you name it was the cardinal sin. But the fact that so many high ranking politicians totally (and publicly – we can say that because they were caught publicly) disregarding the guidelines that they demanded everyone else follow, totally undermined the public trust in those very politicians. The list is long and it starts with

Netanyahu (the Prime Minister) and Rivlin (the President) celebrating with their extended families at the Seder during Passover (against regulations – like with Yom Kippur and Sukkot 2020, we are only allowed to be with those who live in our households), but it continues to this very day, with high level advisors to the Prime Minister openly violating restrictions and being caught on camera. People ask with justification, if these guys are not taking it seriously, why should we?

But the problem goes even deeper.

Israel usually shines during crises, and if ever there was a crisis in this country, this is it. But this time, there is no pulling together. We saw people come together as they generally do in crises briefly in the first wave. We are not seeing it now. Its every man for himself. And it came to a head as I write this article, in the decision taken before Yom Kippur for a total lockdown. And it centered around two extremely sensitive and political issues – demonstrations against the government and prayer in synagogues.

During this entire crisis, on a weekly basis, sometimes more, there have been anti-government demonstrations outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. The numbers range in the thousands. If at the start they were mainly focused on Netanyahu's upcoming court trials, the people who are there are now coming from all parts of society, demonstrating against everything, but mostly about how their lives have been so badly impacted by the economic crisis and the failure of the government to do anything meaningful about it. The fact that many people in the crowd are Likud supporters or other right wing people who have been equally effected by the virus both health wise and economically, hasn't changed the consistent tirade coming from the Prime Minister's Office and Likud ministers against the validity of these demonstrations, calling them every bad name you can imagine. That in turn has forced the opposition to dig in its heels to protect the right to protest and make Blue and White, the other partner in the coalition, viewed as the defender of the right to protest. Blue and White's fall from grace since it joined the unity government has been epic, going from 19 seats after the split from Yesh Atid, to 7 currently in the polls. They have been accused of abandoning everything they stood for, though they will argue (in my view correctly) that they have protected the Supreme Court from attack by the Likud, they have prevented the unilateral annexation that Netanyahu was promising and the world held its breath as the July 1st date to implement it came and went, and they have defended the demonstrators right to demonstrate as is fit in a democracy. The ugly debate around this issue obscured the reality that whether or not demonstrators have a right to demonstrate, do they have a right to congregate in the thousands, many without masks, certainly with zero social distancing, in the midst of this pandemic? Most Israelis as the polls show, do not think

that right is without restriction.

The flip side of the demonstration issue is prayer in the synagogues. This has mostly turned into a Haredi issue since the national religious leadership, including Naftali Bennet, Yamina's head and rising star now polling at an unprecedented 21 mandates in the polls, has always said that saving life is more important than prayer in synagogues and that the recommendations of the health ministry and government decisions must be heeded. Strangely, the ultra-orthodox leadership and clearly many of the rank and file citizenry in that sector, don't share that opinion. Both in terms of the statements (if not threats to openly violate the restrictions) and actions, the message is clear that prayer (also in many cases large weddings and the Haredi school systems which against regulations continue to operate) are more important in principle than the dangers involved in spreading the virus. What is crazy with this logic is that it is mostly the Haredi public that is suffering. Statistics from last night showed that more than 20% of those sick come from the Haredi community, 12% from the Arab sector (another sector in which many people openly violate the regulations with large weddings, though the leadership hear strongly condemns those actions and calls for enforcement against them). With so many people sick and among the now close to 1,400 dead coming from the Haredi community (and not just in Israel by the way), you would think that the leadership would not be focused on saying that closing the synagogues is equivalent to the edicts of anti-Semites past, or that the Corona Project Head, Prof. Roni Gamzu is specifically targeting the Haredi community or – and this is the most popular – if masses of people can demonstrate, they can certainly pray in synagogues. Our own Rabbi has pointed out, and he isn't alone, that if people are jumping off the bridge, does that mean others should be screaming for their right to jump of the bridge as well? In this case "two wrongs don't make a right" was never more true.

Which brings us to the decision that was taken last night for the lockdown before the holiday. Ultimately, the battlefield lines were drawn – Demonstrations for Prayer. Either they both exist or they are both banned or limited. And in truth, that makes total sense. Public opinion polls taken yesterday showed the public overwhelmingly supported it and in the end, after days of bickering and one final 8 hour marathon meeting, that was the decision taken by the government. Both prayers in synagogues and demonstrations in the streets will be allowed but will be very limited by space and numbers. The question of course, is, will this be enforced?

So, with this background, its easy to understand how no one has faith in the leadership. If every decision is based on the potential costs of hurting a political constituency (the haredi parties, what remains of the Blue and White supporters, the workers, the hospitals, the

hotels, the airlines, the restaurants, the health clubs, etc..) then in the end nothing gets done or exceptions are made and we reach the situation where we have more than 7,000 new sick people daily, close to 1,400 dead and rising steeply (1,100 in the second wave) and no real light at the end of the tunnel. The projection is that these numbers will increase before we see a decline as a result of the lockdown but those results will only be partial, to be able get things under control and buy the hospitals more time before they collapse under the burden. But how long can the lockdown go? And the real fear is that after the lockdown is removed, because it can't last forever, and then will go back to normal, things will get worse and we will have to do it again. Let's hope that prognosis is wrong even if it is realistic.

But all this leads me to my main, and final point. The earthquake that has gone under the radar. In better times than these, the events of the past few weeks would have been so dramatic that they may really have reshaped the middle east landscape. I'm talking about the agreements with the UAE and Bahrain of course. These are dramatic and hugely important deals and their importance cannot be overlooked. They will indeed reshape the middle east. A very strategic rug has been pulled out from under the Palestinians who over the years have held on with dear life to their maximalist demands, with the support of the Arab world. Now that support is beginning to crumble. Other deals with other countries may come soon or take more time but the trend is clear. The Arab League didn't support Palestinian condemnation of these countries. Saudi Arabia may not rush to sign on their own, but they control what happens in Bahrain, they gave their blessing. Their skies are open to Israeli planes flying to and from the UAE and Bahrain. Similar support was heard in Qatar and Kuwait, Sudan, Oman and Morocco all candidates for normalization deals. Egypt was openly supportive. In fact, the only ones who were openly against it were the Palestinians, Iran and Turkey. The myth that there can only be agreements in the middle east with a resolution of the Palestinian issue, died with these two agreements and the ones that will follow. That doesn't mean that the conflict with the Palestinians doesn't need to be solved, it does. But the path to resolution has changed (in that context, perhaps these agreements also put an end to Israeli plans for unilateral annexation). And everyone seems to know that the path has changed. And that is the real strategic earthquake that has gone under the radar while everyone is focused on the three way – perfect storm – crisis, that is not only hitting Israel, but also the US – that is – the health crisis, the economic crisis and the political crisis.

Back in March 2017, I wrote an article for this publication from the airport in Amman, Jordan, upon my return from a business trip to one of the countries mentioned above as one of the potential countries to sign normalization deals with Israel. At the time, I was

stunned by what I saw. I was part of an official Israeli hi-tech delegation, though we all used foreign passports. They knew exactly who we were and it seems it was quite common for Israelis to be visiting in such a context. I remember vividly our very gracious host taking me and one of the other participants out to dinner one night (he went out of his way to find a vegetarian place) telling us the following: "The enemy is not to the West (Israel), it is to the East (Iran). We need to move on and bring the best technology to our country. And you guys have the best." It was surreal and it was amazing. I believed then that this was what was happening not only in the country I visited but in others and three years later it has been proven true. People may raise eyebrows as to the timing of these agreements both in American and Israeli contexts, and there is legitimacy in raising them. But if current circumstances have led to an opportunity that can finally be taken advantage of, credit must go to those who capitalize on the moment. The fact that these agreements have gone under the radar, does not make them any less significant.

Shana Tova.

Barry Spielman

From Locked down Oranit, Israel

TO OUR FAMILY, THE NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

We are Clila and Hadasa, the daughters of Joseph and Rebecca Bau.

We manage the "Joseph Bau House" Museum which is the only museum in the world that is dedicated to all the Jews from Krakow.

This museum used to be our father's studio. As you know, he was one of the first graphic artists, the first animator in Israel, a painter and illustrator, an author and poet who also wrote about Krakow and books in Polish among the ones he wrote in Hebrew. Some of your parents were recipients of Joseph Bau's talent as a forger who provided them with false papers to escape, even if only for a while, capture by the Nazis.

We are inviting you to a zoom meeting where we will tell our parents' amazing life story in Krakow, Ghetto Krakow, Plaszow, Oscar Schindler's Camp in Brinlitz, Auschwitz and Lichteveden.

How our parents met after the war in a miraculous way.

How each one of them saved many people during the Holocaust, and the award of "Jews who saved Jews" which was bestowed on them this year, 2020. It would have been our father's 100th birthday.

We will also show pictures of the museum and a power point presentation with our father's paintings. We will be very happy that you will join us. We are already very excited to meet you all!!!

Please let us know if you would be interested in being part of this presentation by contacting us at josephbau@hotmail.com and we will let you know the date and time of the zoom presentation.

With a lot of love
Yours,
Hadasa and Clila Bau



have been blessed to know. The magnitude of their resilience and zest for life after what they witnessed and endured gives my strength. Hopefully it give you strength as well. We must remember them so that future generations are equipped to carry on our legacy and traditions. We must stand united especially in light of the current Jewish hate that we all know exists here and around the world. To honor our families by doing good work and giving charity to other: to be a light unto the darkness that lives in the recesses of society. This was exemplified most recently by Israeli firefighters volunteering to help with the disastrous fires on our west coast, or medics/rescue workers going to impoverished natural disaster areas all over the world to bring medicine, food and technology. Our background dictates that we too, help our people, our family and others in need (due to pandemic, unemployment, illness..).

Fortunately, we can socially distance and collectively remember our loved ones today. May they rest in peace and may all of you and your families have a healthy and meaningful New Year.

From my family and the Board of Directors I wish you L'Shanah toavh u'metukah, for a good and sweet year. G'mar chatima tovah, May you be inscribed [or sealed] for good.

Shalom,
Simone Hilfstein Scheumann



Renata Farahnik delivering the Welfare Chairperson's remarks

YIZKOR SEPTEMBER 13, 2020
PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS AT THE YIZKOR, as delivered by David Hilfstein.

Dear Friends,
I'm sorry that I cannot personally attend this year's gathering. My heart is with you all.

"Yizkor", to "Remember".... We gather here each year around Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur to remember the souls of our relatives and friends that have passed on and have their resting place at Beth Moses Cemetery. We also remember those family and friends that perished by horrific brutality in Krakow, in the concentration camps and elsewhere. Thankfully, many family names of those murdered in the Holocaust have been inscribed on our society's three monuments by our surviving members thus bringing them into our consciousness.

Today let us renew and strengthen the connection between our Kedoshim and us. Today, and as on most days, I remember my survivor parents, one surviving grandmother and the many survivors of our society who I

David Hilfstein delivering the President's remarks



Cantor Todd Rosner intoning the Kel Mole



SUNSHINE COMMITTEE REPORT

HAPPY EVENTS

ANNIVERSARIES:

September

Mr.. & Mrs. Douglas Ensor
Mr.. & Mrs. Kenneth Helfman

October

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Banyasz
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Gonen
Mr. & Mrs. Leo Rechter

Marriage

Julian Gingold, son of Faye and Jack Gingold, to Danielle Bazer.
Mazal Tov.

Grandparents

Yona and Jerry Gonen became grandparents in June to a baby boy, Elan Chanan Harel. Born to their daughter Michele.

Betty and William Nusblat became grandparents in September to a baby boy, Noam Emanuel Halpern. All are doing well. Mazal Tov.

A Special Birthday

September 2, 2020 a very happy **101st** birthday to Regina Lewis, co-chair of the Membership Committee for 50 years and a member of the society since its inception. May you be healthy 'til 120!

Refuah Sheleima

Our wishes for a speedy recovery to Eva Silberstein recovering in rehab after a fall.

Condolences

To Lucy and Diane Ross on the loss of beloved husband and father, Julius Ross.

DONATIONS

Welfare

George & Dorothy Hoffman, in memory of Dola Polland, zl. \$100

Ida Lewis, in honor of Regina Lewis' 101st birthday. \$36

Regina Lewis and Family, in memory of the 11th yearzeit of Victor Lewis, dearly beloved husband and beloved father. \$100

Lucy Ross, in memory of dearly beloved husband Julius Ross. A yellow butterfly appeared at the gravesite symbolizing the soul is at peace.

Beit Halochem

Ida Lewis, in memory of dearly beloved father, Victor Lewis' 11th yearzeit. \$36

Arthur Spielman, in memory of Selma Fischer. \$36

Please send us your good news, births, bar and bat mitzvot, graduations, engagement, marriages, etc. We love to share good news with our membership.

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy autumn and a very good new year 5781.

Ida Lewis 718 380-3574, idale747@gmail.com
Eva Pfau 718 464-0932

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We sadly announce the passing of
Dear Member and Friend

ROSE KLUGER

Our sincerest condolences
To her Family

We sadly announce the passing of
Dear Member and Friend

Dr. Gertrude Schneider

Our sincerest condolences
To her Family

We sadly announce the passing of
Dear Member and Friend

SALLY WIENER

Our sincerest condolences
To her family

MAY THEIR SOULS REST IN EVERLASTING PEACE



We acknowledge the contribution of the
Conference on Jewish Material Claims
Against Germany in helping to publish
this Newsletter.