

Short Updates about exciting developments

▶ A belated Bar Mitzvah:

Ten years ago the Museum began a bar mitzvah program for children and their families at the Museum. In response a grandfather, Holocaust survivor, asked to celebrate his belated bar mitzvah, together with his grandson and family, at the Museum, since he was unable to celebrate his bar mitzvah during the war. And so, a new project was born. Today the Children's Museum, Yad LeYeled, invites all Holocaust survivors who were never "bar mitzvah" to celebrate together with their grandchildren and families in a special program at the Museum.

▶ The Ghetto Fighters House: Center for the Study of the History of Poland and Polish Jewry

launched a continuing education course for 40 participants, which will include a seminar in Poland. The opening session was attended by Ms. Agnieszka Magdziak-Miszewska, the Polish Ambassador to Israel, Oded Feller, the Polish consul in Haifa, Dr. Anat Livne, the Director of the GFH, and Batya Gilad, the Executive Director of the International Friends of Janusz Korczak.

▶ Strengthening the Connection with the ultra-Orthodox public:

The ultra-Orthodox community had been hesitant to learn about the Holocaust and deal with the many faith issues that it raises. In recent years we have been working to reach out to different sectors in Israeli society to visit the Museum and study our unique message. This October, 350 ultra-Orthodox yeshiva students from the Pirchei HadeGel youth movement visited the GFH for a special program. The young men studied about the Holocaust through the museum's exhibitions and survivor testimonies. The visit received wide coverage in "Yated Neeman", the major ultra-Orthodox newspaper. We view the participation of this sector as a significant achievement based on staff work with the ultra-Orthodox community's leadership and plan on hosting other groups from this community.



Yad LeYeled Features Beloved Author Paul Kor in Children's Exhibit

▶ The Yad LeYeled Children's Museum is showcasing the works of beloved Israeli children's illustrator, and Holocaust survivor, Paul Kor (Kornowski) in its exhibit, "Following a Single Image." Through the writings, photographs, and drawings created by Holocaust's youngest victims, this riveting exhibit features stories of separation, escape, survival, reunification and renewal.

Kor lived a normal and happy childhood until the Nazis invaded France in 1940. A year later, his father was captured and deported to Auschwitz, where he died. In desperation, Kor's mother fled with him and his brother to Nice in 1942, and a family friend eventually managed to smuggle the boys to a children's home in Switzerland in 1943, where Kor and his brother lived for the next 4 1/2 years. It was during this time that Kor's artistic talents were revealed and he was sent to study at the Geneva School of Art.

In 1947, Kor and his brother were finally reunited with their mother in Paris. Yet, one year later, Kor, who had no interest in moving to Israel but was outraged by the war, enlisted and joined the battle for Israel in the War of Independence. As a result of this life-changing experience, Kor decided to settle in Israel permanently.

Kor's first well known poster, "War Loan, War Victory," was commissioned by the Israeli government and Kor soon became a well known and sought after graphic artist. He continued to produce designs for the State of Israel including tourism posters, placards, books, stamps and banknotes (the 100 lira note that bore Theodor Herzl's figure). In 1973 Kor returned to painting and in 1974 he published a book of paintings for children without text which was met with great success. In the next 14 years he wrote and illustrated over 20 children's books becoming one of Israel's most cherished children's authors.

Throughout the exhibit, Yad LeYeled features a large selection of Kor's work, dating from 1940-1995 including sketches, paintings, posters, commemorative stamps, banknote illustrations, as well as his children's books.

BEIT LOHAMEI HAGHETAOT
GHETTO FIGHTERS' HOUSE MUSEUM
Kibbutz Lohamei Haghetaot
M.P. Western Galilee 25220, Israel
www.gfh.org.il

Contact:
Raya Kalisman,
Director of External Relations
972 4 9958040 • 972 5246 39408
rkalisman@gfh.org.il



BEIT LOHAMEI HAGHETAOT

GHETTO FIGHTERS' HOUSE MUSEUM

Fall News Letter 2011

Message from the new Director, Dr. Anat Livne

Dear Friends,

The Museum's founders, the heroic Ghetto resistance fighters, stressed that the memory of the Holocaust must be accompanied by the ethical imperative to act in the face of injustice. They believed that the Jewish people, undergoing a renewal in the land of Israel, must build a just and humane society that will forever fight against the phenomena that created and allowed the tragedy of the Holocaust to occur. This message, which has tremendous educational value, is, in my opinion, the singular message that we at the Ghetto Fighters' House must emphasize. This ethical imperative makes us a "different" museum – a museum with a clear vision that can influence Israeli society.

I have been part of the unique staff at the Ghetto Fighters' House Museum for many years, and I am convinced that by working together, we can raise the Museum to new heights of activity and success and thereby honor the memories of its founders.

I wish all the GFH staff, Board members, friends of the Museum, and Ghetto Fighters' House kibbutz members a good and fruitful year filled with solidarity, renewal and creativity.

About the new director

Dr. Anat Livne is an educator at her core. She earned her BA in History and Philosophy, together with a teaching certificate, from the Hebrew University and her MA and PhD from Tel Aviv University in Jewish History and Jewish Studies. She taught and advised students at Oranim College from 1998-2010, and was Director of curriculum and senior educator at the Ghetto Fighters' House Center for Humanistic Education from 1996-2010.



New exhibits made possible by Claims Conference and Ghetto Fighters' Kibbutz funding:

▶ "Leadership and the Community: the Challenges of Decision-Making"

This exhibit portrays the ghetto as a place where the Jewish public met the Jewish leadership, a complicated situation in which the leadership had to make fateful decisions without knowledge of what was truly going on. The exhibit includes a number of different ghettos, the various organizations, leadership groups (official and unofficial), and their interactions.

▶ "The Future belongs to the Young"

Jewish Youth Movements played an important role in Europe between the two world wars and during Nazi rule. When the traditional community structures collapsed, youth movement members led clandestine activities in social affairs, education and culture and acted as the centers for Jewish resistance in ghettos and camps. This multi-media exhibit will highlight the significant contribution of these youth movements to survival in the ghetto and their complicated relationship with the adult leadership. Most of the members of these movements were the same age as the high school students and soldiers who visit GFH.



Avigdor Arikha's Works on Permanent Display

The Ghetto Fighters' House is honored to present a new permanent exhibit featuring the works of Avigdor Arikha, the formidable Romanian-born Israeli artist, art historian and curator whose talent is credited with helping him escape the Nazi concentration camps.

The exhibit includes seven drawings and one oil painting donated by Arikha through his friendship with Beatrice Rosenberg, a French patron of the Ghetto Fighters' House. Representatives of the Red Cross saw some of young Arikha's (then Dlugacz), original sketches while he was living under Nazi occupation in Transnistria, Romania in 1943 and were so impressed with his talent that they switched his identity with that of a recently deceased young man and subsequently arranged for him to be added to a group of 120 youth who were rescued and brought to Israel.

After arriving in Palestine at the age of 15, Arikha studied art in Jerusalem. He subsequently fought in Israel's War of Independence where he was severely wounded and left for dead. He ultimately recovered and made his way to Paris, where he became close friends with writer, Samuel Beckett and where he studied at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts.

The exhibit includes:

▶ **"A Drawing in Memory of a Jewish Child who perished in the Holocaust"** which is an oil painting on canvas created in 1959 that has never before been exhibited. At the center of the painting are the figures of a dog and a man with the man's arms outstretched in surrender. The bold style of painting employs collage techniques and utilizes multiple layers of transparent color on one side of the canvas and the colors associated with German expressionism on the other.

▶ A series of seven drawings entitled **"Registration of Girls during the Time of Deportation"** is a replica made by Arikha in the 1970s of a series that he drew in the 1940s. Arikha drew the series on the pages of a notebook given to him by a Romanian soldier while he was interned at a deportation camp in Romania. Depicted in the drawings are soldiers carrying corpses, soldiers shooting prisoners, escaping prisoners, and the forceful transport of deportees in the camp. The original drawings were lost during the war but were returned to Arikha in the 1960s and are kept today at Yad VaShem.



A Drawing in Memory of a Jewish Child who perished in the Holocaust

The "Pit" Akko
Alternative Festival



Late Renowned Physicist and Benefactor Honored by Ghetto Fighters' House in Theatre Re-Enactment

▶ The Ghetto Fighters' House recently honored the memory of benefactor, and renowned physicist and business man, Dr. Felix Zandman who died at 83 on June 4, 2011. As a tribute to Dr. Zandman, The Ghetto Fighters' House presented the play, "The Pit," at the Akko Alternative Festival which re-enacted the story of Zandman's heroic survival.

Born in Grodno, Poland (now Belarus), Zandman survived the Holocaust with the help of a Catholic Polish family. He subsisted for 17 months in a tiny dugout with his uncle and three other Jews. Only 67 inches long, 59 inches wide and 47 inches tall, the dugout was so cramped that its five inhabitants had to take turns standing and sleeping. Living in constant fear of exposure, the group was saved more than once by their quick thinking hosts who spread black pepper around the small chamber's air vent to confuse the hunting dogs unleashed by German troops prowling the area for hidden Jews. To pass time, during the long hours of darkness, Zandman's uncle, Sender Freydowicz, taught him trigonometry and advanced mathematics.

The Soviet Army liberated the group in July, 1944 and in the summer of 1946, Zandman immigrated to France, where he earned a Ph.D. in physics from the Sorbonne. After moving to the United States in 1956, Zandman soon founded Vishay Intertechnology, which manufactured and supplied electronic components to the computer, aerospace and other industries. Along with many other technological accomplishments that helped to make his company a success, Zandman developed a "thermal sleeve" for the Israeli Merkava tank. He later donated the invention to Israel. Zandman named the company after the small town, Vishay, in Lithuania where his grandmother was born.

Zandman received honorary Israeli citizenship in 1994 and an honorary doctorate from Tel Aviv University in 2005 for "his contribution to the Israeli high-tech industry and to strengthening the country's development towns." Three Vishay factories are located in Israel. Zandman and his family visited the Ghetto Fighters' House many times and he commemorated the memory of the children and teenagers in the Holocaust through his testimony and support of the Yad LaYeled Children's Museum.

Twelve performances of "The Pit" were held between October 16-18 and a reception for the family took place at the Ghetto Fighters' House on Monday October 17th. Anat Carmel, director of the Children's Museum, describes that when writing the play, the staff looked for eternal values in the story that could be transmitted to young people. They chose to emphasize: the laws of a functioning society, the importance of education and its role in shaping a person, the nobility of the Christian family that hid them, and, finally, the importance of Israel and Felix's vow, should he survive, to participate in the building of the land.

Felix Zandman is survived by his wife, Ruta Zandman, and his children, Dr. Gisele Zandman Goddard and her husband Eli, Mrs. Ariele Zandman Klausner and her husband Steven, and Mr. Marc Zandman and his wife Orit; and nine grandchildren.

"I, a survivor of the Grodno Ghetto, who was sentenced to death in 1943, am able to be part of the miracle of the state of Israel, and every day that I set foot on the land of Israel I am rewarded with the sensation that I have returned to my mother's womb."

(Inscription on the memorial plaque for Felix's parents, his sister, and 40 family members)