

Family Histories



A Tribute To My Mother

Sonia Welis Frenkel

By Marsha Frenkel Goren

Editor's Note: Mrs. Goren teaches English at Ein Ganim School in Petach Tikva, Israel. Her mother, Sonia Welis Frenkel was a survivor of the Holocaust. This is her story as told to the Husky Howler staff via e-mail. We thank her for sharing this story and invite our readers to visit her website to learn more about the Holocaust and her Global Dreamers. The web address is <http://www.globaldreamers.org>. Our thanks to Andrew G. for adapting this story for publication in the Husky Howler.

"Although my mom hated to talk about the Holocaust there were things that I will never forget.

There was always a house full of food and she was always going shopping! She was afraid of not having enough food for us.

The house was always spotless and clean. She hated filth and was obsessed with cleanliness and a healthy atmosphere. Her nightmares of the filth and contamination from the Holocaust never left her.

We never took showers at our house; as a matter of fact she broke the shower tap so we couldn't use it and never told us why. I learned this only after my marriage to my husband Moshe and our first visit to our house when she did not allow him to take a shower.

While working as a dressmaker one of her friends convinced her to steal a piece of cloth so they might have an extra piece of bread. While returning the stolen cloth a German SS soldier caught her and put a gun in her mouth. He tried to shoot her, but for some reason the gun did not go off! He then bashed her in the head and sent her out! She said the trauma affected her so much she was afraid to go to sleep. The next morning she was up and sewing uniforms. She said her head hurt so much she could barely see but she know if she stopped working they would kill her.

She remembered a straw mattress on a freezing winter night with a little thin blanket where about ten girls were pulling in order to keep warm. No one could keep warm under those conditions. She said she was always cold and hungry.

One of the most horrifying experiences for Sonia was the train ride and the sound of wheels. She also said the overcrowded train ride was unbearable and many people died of suffocation and hunger

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before they reached the camps.

One of the saddest and hardest memories for Sonia was when the Bialostokghetto was liquidated and she was separated from her family. She never saw her mother, father, and two of her brothers in her life.

She also remembered the screaming and crying that did not leave her for a long time. She also remembered the screaming and crying that did not leave her for a long time.

I remember the Holocaust Memorial day as a young girl and seeing my Mother allow herself to cry in front of us. My father told me she always cried at the Holocaust Memorial ceremonies.

When she first arrived to the United States, doctors told my dad that she was extremely ill women because of the Holocaust. Her determination and strong nature helped her to build a new life with a family and a loving husband.

When she became ill, my brother called and told me to come to the U.S.A. to say goodbye. She was then very ill with cancer. Two days before I was able to arrive she was taken to the emergency room and almost died. She asking my brother and sister when is Marsha coming? I have to see Marsha. Her strength kept her alive and she waited to see me.

After spending a week with her, I know I would never see her again. Saying goodbye was the hardest experience I have ever had in my life. That morning I woke up and went to her bedroom. She asked me to call my brother and sister when and remove the suitcases from her house.

She was very emotional and said she could not deal with seeing suitcases again. She told me she remembered the Holocaust and the suitcases made her even sadder. I called my brother and told him to take the suitcases out of the house immediately and he did. After she left I told her the suitcases were gone and she was relieved. It was very hard but she said goodbye. She knew she would never see me again. I still remember her waving and crying.

Her last wishes were for us to write on her gravestone that she was a Holocaust survivor and instead of making donations to the synagogue to please send them to the Holocaust foundation at Yale University. Both of those wishes were granted.

Last but not least, she asked me to always teach children about the Holocaust. It is one promise I will always keep, it's engraved in my heart and soul.



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Our City, Petach Tikva

By The 6th Graders at Ein Ganim, Israel

In Hebrew, the meaning of the words: "Petach-Tikva" is "opening of hope". It is called Petach-Tikva because when the first settlers arrived, to settle this area, they feared because everywhere there were swamps, dirt and diseases, but they had hopes and dreams.

Petach Tikva is located in the center of Israel, seven miles east of the Mediterranean Sea. Petach Tikva is the country's fifth largest city and its most highly industrialized area. It became a city in 1827 and is known as the "mother of the settlements" in Israel. The population is around 180,000 including mostly Israelis and a few thousand new immigrants.



The Globaldreamers and their teacher, Marsha Goren, of Ein Ganim have shared many letters and projects with the Husky Howler staff and the Glass Class. Learning from each other is an important part of education at both schools.

Hebrew is the main language but many people also speak Russian and English. It is a developing city with over 2000 different enterprises. IN the last years many Hi tech enterprises moved to Petach-Tikva's industrial zone. The city offers many services to its citizens such as excellent hospitals, sport facilities and beautiful parks.

The city is still developing and there is evidence of this in many areas of the city. On the one hand you can visit our historical monuments and buildings and on the other hand you can tour the new manmade park and its industrial area.

Ein Ganim Elementary School is a Jewish non-religious school situated in the Ein Ganim neighborhood of Petach Tikva. It has a loyal staff of teachers and great kids. We do many special sports activities and there are social events that bring all of the divisions together. Examples are sports days, road safety and book

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exhibitions and school rallies and ceremonies to commemorate each of our holidays.

In addition, we are implementing a really big project called "Globaldreamers". It is a great project and we are learning a lot about our friends around the world. We have also learned to become ambassadors for our country and work in teams towards global collaboration. We appreciate all of our friends around the world.

Bibliography - <http://www.petah-tikva.muni.co.il>



Illustration by Ryan H. Shared project for Globaldreamers Holocaust Memorial by Glass Class students.

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The Holocaust

By Gaya, Ein Ganim School

The Holocaust which is also known as Ha-Shah, was the most horrific event of the 20th century. It was managed by Adolf Hitler, and was a program that was deliberate extermination that killed approximately six million Jews. It was planned and performed by the National Socialist regime in Germany.



The Holocaust lasted about six years. It went from 1933-1945. Hitler started his craziness in 1933, but took him about three years to brainwash the German people. He did this by putting reports on the radio (there was no television back then) that Jews were smelly, ugly, wished to rule the world, selling caricatures, and were spreading rumors.

Yom Hashanah (Holocaust Memorial Day) is a day that we remember those who were murdered and tortured in the Holocaust. It was started by David Ben-Gurion, the first prime minister of Israel, who also wanted the people to

remember their struggle to survive. It is on the 26 of Nissan (Or the first of May).

On that day, air-sirens sound at exactly 10 o'clock in the morning and last two minutes. Everyone stops what they're doing, drivers and passengers get out of cars and buses, traffic stops, and everything is still and quiet except for the sirens, of course. Theaters, cinemas, and Banks are closed that day, and only Holocaust related shows are on television.

In the evening, they light special white candles and make sure their children do not blow them out. They think of people who died in the Holocaust, and the older people mourn dead friends or relatives. Some people sing sad songs, but not many. Most houses are silent, and people don't talk much. Yom Hashanah is incomparable to any other memorial day: because never in human history has such an occurred. We hope and wish it never will.



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Purim

By Shahar, Ein Ganim School

Purim is a very special Holiday; it is all full of joy and happiness because everybody has costumes or masks.

A Long Long time ago in Persia there was a king. The king was Ahasuerus, and the queens name was Vashti and they ruled a lot of countries Ahasuerus wanted to have a feast, so invited Vashti to the feast but she refused the

invitation, the king was very angry and she was excused. The time passed and the king felt lonely he wanted a new queen. Haman (Haman helped the king) and the king had an Idea- call all the girls in the country's that the king ruled to choose the most beautiful girl.

Ester a beautiful Jewish girl was chosen. Her Uncle was Mordecachi. In the palace nobody know she was Jewish. The king lover her because she was extremely beautiful and she was the queen.

Years past and the king decided to choose Haman to be his Prime Minister. Haman was very vain. He thought that everyone needed to bow to him. Mordechai didn't bow to him because the Jewish religion did not allow that. It was a sin. Haman was very angry and decided to cast a Purim to determine the day of Annihilation of all the Jews.

The king discovered that Mordechai saved him from the assassination plot of two slaves. He asked Haman for a gift for somebody that the king wished to reward. Haman thought the kings intentions were for him and said, " The honoree should be dressed in royal clothing, ride upon a royal horse and be led through the city streets by an official proclaiming." " This is what is done to the man the king's wishes to honor and desire."



Friends' Histories - Israel**International Holocaust Day**

By Naama Y., Ein Ganim School

On the 27th of January we note the "International Holocaust day" The Holocaust was a massive slaughter of the Jewish people in the Second World War. 6 million people died in the Holocaust! I just can't even think about that! It's such a big number. The Holocaust was so incomprehensible, that when you say "Holocaust" in Israel, everyone thinks about another thing, or picture.

The Holocaust started in 1939, the night is called Israel: "The crystal night", because the Nazis people broke a lot of glass, and burned Scrolls of Law. Hitler was the leader of the Nazis people. He said that his race was the best, and the Jewish people were a scattered nation, and all the Jewish people needed to die.

We think that the Holocaust is a horrible thing. It's genocide without reason. Hitler killed 6 million people, only because his nation and religion was different from them. He was self-centered, and other people were murdered because of it. Today U.N. declared that there is no difference between people to people are entitled to human rights based on equality. The Holocaust is an important day for all the Israel people because—all the history of Israel based on the Holocaust. All the families that survived the holocaust were part of a group that made Israel what is today. because of that –I think that I can understand when they want people not to deny the holocaust and will believe the stories and the horrors we are telling.

Another reason that I think that the holocaust should be not just a subject of discussing in class-it should be a lesson in every class. It's a very important subject that is our "job" as and Israeli person-you need to learn, know and share your knowledge with as many people possible.

If we don't know anything about the Holocaust- It will be just like we won't know anything about our country! And we don't want that happen... It's our duty to learn about our history and about our country why are we celebrating the independence Day if we don't know what the warriors in our state lived through in order get it? So on the next holocaust day- try to learn more about your history. Our history is our future.



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Peace

By Gaya, Ein Ganim School

Peace is a very important thing all over the world. Without it, there wouldn't be anyone alive, because they would all die in wars or fights. Some also might die from pollution, but that's a different story.

Peace is a state of harmony or the absence of hostility, disturbance, or agitation. It can also mean a non-violent way of life, state of quiet or tranquility, respect, justice, and goodwill. Many different theories of "peace" exist in the world of peace studies, which involves the study of conflict resolution disarmament and cessation of violence. The definition of "peace" can vary with religion, culture, or subject of study.



Some people wanted to encourage peace in others. Itzchack Rabin was one of the those people. He signed many peace contracts and prevented wars. He was murdered by Igal Amir, who was in jail for a very long time.

Another person was Mahatma Gandhi. Mahatma Gandhi suggested that if an oppressive society lacks violence, the Society is nonetheless not peaceful, because of the injustice Of the oppression. Gandhi articulated a vision of peace in Which justice is an inherent and necessary aspect; that peace requires not only the absence of violence but also the presence of justice. Galtung described this peace, peace with justice, as "positive peace," because hostility and further violence could no longer flourish in this environment.

There are rewards for peace, like the Nobel Peace Prize. The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded annually to notable peace makers and visionaries who have overcome violence, conflict or oppression through their moral leadership, those who have "done the most or the best work for fraternity between the nations". The prize has often met with controversy, as it is occasionally awarded to people who have formerly sponsored war and violence but who have, through exceptional concessions, helped achieve peace.

