UNIQUE COLLECTION OF RECIPES AND TESTIMONIES FROM AUSCHWITZ SURVIVORS

THE IMPACT OF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION AND MUSEUMS IN AUSTRALIA

“UNDER YOUR WHITE STARS”. EXHIBITION IN CRACOW

MEMORY 4.0 - AN ONLINE EDUCATIONAL TOOL FOR YOUTH

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We invite all of you to work closely with us. We would be grateful to receive information about events, projects, publications, exhibitions, conferences or research that we should share with our readers. We also accept proposals for articles.

Paweł Sawicki, Editor-in-Chief

Our e-mail: memoria@auschwitz.org

Please do share information about this magazine with others, particularly via social media.

All editions: memoria.auschwitz.org
More than a cookbook, this collection of over 110 recipes, memories, biographical notes, and traditions shared by some of the last living Auschwitz-Birkenau survivors from before and after the Holocaust is, in the words of ABMF’s Chairman, Ronald S. Lauder, “a story of hope and triumph of the human spirit.”

The genesis of this book’s creation goes back to January 2020, when the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Foundation, under Lauder’s leadership, brought 120 survivors to the Auschwitz Memorial to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the liberation of the German Nazi concentration and extermination camp.

“A few months later, ABMF decided to keep the survivors’ delegation engaged and connected via bi-monthly Zoom calls. During these calls, survivors shared their favorite recipes to keep their spirits up during a particularly challenging time of a global pandemic,” said Dr. Maria Zalewska, book editor and the Executive Director of the ABMF.

The book includes a preface by Dr. Piotr M. A. Cywinski, director of the Auschwitz Memorial and Museum, in which he summarizes the cultural importance of the cookbook: “In the camp, practically no one ate at a table. The culture was, after all, meant to disappear among the barely living prisoners. And with the disappearance of the prisoners was to disappear cultural memory, and within that, the culture of the table. A person did not survive alone--together with this person survived nostalgia and memory, knowledge and feelings, traditions, and customs... And what is what this book is about – it is not only a collection of culinary recipes. It is a book about survivors’ recipes, dishes, meals... about remembering the table, about the familial nature of food, about gatherings... about the influence of traditions, conventions, and innovations in this cultural space which centers – today, just as before – people around a table.”

Dr. Maria Zalewska believes that “Honey Cake and Latkes” is a cookbook unlike any others: “Before cooking, we suggest you begin with reading the recipes’ headnotes, as they are the heart and soul of this book. They hold all the memories that inspired this volume: from Eugene Ginter’s recollections of the chocolate sandwich that his mother made to nourish and strengthen him after the liberation; the rakott-krumpli recipe shared by Eva Shainblum, who recalls that this Hungarian dish of layered potatoes was the last meal she shared with her family before they were all deported to Auschwitz one day after Shavuot in 1944; Benjamin Lesser’s vivid memories of his grandfather’s orchard and gardens in pre-war Munkatsh where every summer the family gathered to pick the fruit and make compote; family stories of Goldie Finkelstein’s delicious and abundant cooking as a way to process the war trauma of scarcity, hunger, and depletion; to - finally - joyous memories of holiday meals shared by many survivors after the war with the second, third, and – now - the fourth generation. We hope that this book, collected and edited during the 2020 lockdown, will...”
“allow the readers to appreciate the traditions that unite us and bring us comfort.”

All the proceeds from the book sales will go towards the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Foundation: whose mission is to safeguard the memory of Auschwitz through preservation & education.
Australia has responded to increases in antisemitic incidents in the country – with 447 being registered in 2021 alone – with an unprecedented push to support Holocaust education and remembrance programs. The IHRA Member Country commemorated International Holocaust Remembrance Day with one ceremony across Australia for the first time in 2021 and is working towards establishing a Holocaust museum or educational center in each of its jurisdictions. The aim? To build a more compassionate society.

Earlier this year, the Gandel Holocaust Knowledge and Awareness in Australia Survey shined a spotlight on how much Australians know about the Holocaust and how aware they are of its impact. The survey, the first of its kind for the country, was one of Australia’s pledges at Remember – ReAct, the Malmö International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism, and has since helped guide policy and decision makers, providing them with crucial data on gaps in Australian adults’ Holocaust knowledge and awareness, and clear recommendations on how and why to fill them.

Commissioned by the Gandel Foundation and undertaken by a team of researchers at Deakin University, including IHRA delegates Dr. Steven Cooke and Dr. Donna-Lee Frieze, the Gandel Survey asked over 3,500 Australians more than 70 questions, making it the largest survey of its kind ever undertaken.

Some of the survey’s key findings were alarming: Although Australians showed comparatively high levels of Holocaust knowledge, a quarter of the population had little or no knowledge of the Holocaust, with that number rising to 30% among Millennials. Likewise, over 70% knew nothing about Australia’s own connections to the Holocaust – despite Australia being home to one of the largest populations of Holocaust survivors per capita.

However, the Gandel Survey looked beyond Australians’ knowledge of the facts. A key objective of the survey was also to understand how aware Australians were of the catastrophe and its enduring impact, and the lessons it holds. This was considered to be “Holocaust awareness,” or acknowledging the true scale of the Holocaust and caring about Holocaust education.

“We know that it isn’t enough to know the facts. Caring about this history is just as important. Only then can we learn from the past,” Dr. Donna-Lee Frieze said. “We wanted to make sure the study captured not just what Australians knew, but what their attitudes were towards Holocaust education and whether they thought it was relevant for today.”

Researchers concluded that a large majority of the Australian population (83%) had medium to high levels of Holocaust awareness, with 88%
believing that “we can learn lessons for today from what happened in the Holocaust” and two-thirds (66%) believing it should be compulsory for schools to teach about the Holocaust in schools.

Crucially, higher levels of Holocaust awareness were associated with warmer feelings towards Jewish people and other minorities, asylum seekers, and First Nations peoples, providing strong evidence for supporting initiatives that advance Holocaust awareness and knowledge. As Dr. Frieze put it, “Caring about the Holocaust means that you’re more likely to care about other issues as well.”

The Gandel Survey’s findings pointed to two of the most effective ways of increasing Holocaust knowledge and awareness in Australia: specific education about the Holocaust in schools and visits to Holocaust museums.

Although only a quarter of the Australian population had visited a Holocaust museum or center, doing so meant that they were about 50% more likely to have excellent Holocaust knowledge.
“When people visited a museum or learned about the Holocaust in school they not only knew much more and cared much more,” Steven Cooke underlined, “but these experiences also shaped the way they viewed the world. The work ahead of us is understanding the relationship between education and potential changes in thinking and behaviors, as well as figuring out how to increase that number of people.”

With 79% of those who had learned about the Holocaust at school agreeing that these lessons had had a lasting impact on them, it is likely that current initiatives to strengthen these programs and institutions will have an effect well into the future.

Researchers stressed that policymakers and leaders in civil society should see the Gandel Survey as the starting point for activity. They made eight recommendations based on their analysis of the findings:

1. Include the Holocaust on the curricula of Australian states and territories, and support teachers with ongoing accredited professional development;
2. Develop strategies to drive engagement with Holocaust museums, memorials and educational institutions;
3. Research, create, and distribute specific resources to address gaps in Holocaust knowledge, especially the period 1933-1939, and as it relates to Australia;
4. Develop a research agenda to understand the long-term impact of Holocaust education in schools and museums;
5. Challenge antisemitic myths and stereotypes in education through support for education programs;
6. Improve communication over the need for annual commemorative activities;
7. Provide opportunities for students to engage with Australian Holocaust survivor testimony;
8. Repeated cross-sectional research on Holocaust knowledge and awareness.

More information about the researchers’ recommendations and the Gandel Holocaust Knowledge and Awareness in Australia Survey’s findings can be found here.
Varda Getzow is an Israeli artist who lives in both Israel and German capital, Berlin. The curator of the exhibition, Dr. Dalia Manor, has emphasised that memory and drawing are the path of art for Getzow. Memory is the source of thoughts, ideas, forms as well as materials whereas drawing is her principal, intimate medium. Varda Getzow was invited to Krakow by the Director of Museum of Krakow Michał Niezabitowski and she prepared new works which are shown for the first time in public.

Varda Getzow’s work is intimately linked to her own memory of the Holocaust as a daughter of survivors. However, the Holocaust is not present directly in her drawings, but only evoked if her works are shown at a specific location that had witnessed the murder of Jews. Thus the current exhibition touches on the issue of human suffering, particularly the suffering of children in all contemporary conflicts.

The exhibition of Varda Getzow’s works is located in the former building of Oscar Schindler's Factory in Krakow. This is a unique place that links us all to the time of the Holocaust. One of the pieces of Getzow’s art is displayed on the floor of the exhibition hall. It is a colourful presentation of the green areas of Krakow that belong to both city’s history and present, but they have complete opposite meaning and functions: one is the large green meadow of the former Nazi German camp Plaszow and the other is the Botanic Garden. The artist is trying to focus our attention on nature that is an indifferent witness to human fate.

The exhibition of Getzow’s art in Krakow is entitled „Under Your White Stars”/”Unter Deyne Vaysse Shtern”. The sentence comes from a poem (1943) by a Yiddish-language poet Abraham Sutzkever.

The curator of the exhibition is Dr. Dalia Manor, art historian, lecturer and former director of the Negev Museum of Art in Beer Sheva, Israel.
In the summer of 1941, Nazi Germany began systematically murdering Europe’s Jews. At first, there were mass executions of civilians in the East, followed by deportations to extermination camps established in occupied Poland. At times, rumors and reports about the mass murders made it clear to the Jews that they were facing a nearly inescapable death sentence. The aim of the conference is to identify and describe Jewish experience of life amidst the imminent threat of destruction. How did information about mass killings spread? How did Jews adapt to extreme conditions? What was their day-to-day life like under these conditions? What were their experiences and emotions and awareness of their further fate?

Although the period of Nazi persecution as a whole was an extreme situation for Jews, we have chosen the most extreme experiences of European Jews during the Shoah as the theme of this conference. We are interested in the experience of extreme situations, such as:

- daily life in the ghettos during German deportation operations,
- the experience of surviving mass execution,
- participation in death marches,
- living in bunkers, hiding places, in forests,
- and family camps,
- the experience of traveling on deportation transports and escaping from them
- daily life in German transit camps, labor and concentration camps, and death camps, including work in the Sonderkommando.

The Conference will take place around the 80th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. It will be complimented by the exhibition "Around Us a Sea of Fire" at the POLIN Museum, which is dedicated to the civilian experience during the Uprising in April 1943.

We invite applications from scholars ranging from advanced doctoral candidates to full professors. Please send a 300–500 word abstract of your paper in English (indicating the preferred language of your presentation: English or Polish) as well as a biographical note providing your institutional affiliation, an outline of your research experience, and contact details via the online application form. The application materials must be received by 27 November 2022. Incomplete or late submissions will not be considered. The selected participants will be notified by 20 December 2022.
MEMORY 4.0 - AN ONLINE EDUCATIONAL TOOL FOR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH GROUPS

Memory 4.0 is a set of lesson scenarios and online learning materials prepared in English by the International Center for Education about Auschwitz and the Holocaust. It is dedicated to the fate and persecution of the various groups deported to the German Nazi concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz.

The project is primarily aimed at teachers and educators who have visited the Memorial with their students. The lesson plans prepared for them are based on various sources. Their analysis provides a basis for reflecting on the persecution and discrimination people encounter.

‘Our package can be used both to complement a visit to the former camp site and as the basis for a self-study lesson on persecution in Nazi Germany and the history of Auschwitz. Additionally, the format of the materials makes them suitable for use with other groups, and their online availability also provides an opportunity for self-education,’ said Andrzej Kacorzyk, director of the ICEAH.

The package consists of six related lessons. They comprise the following: an introduction; persecution of Poles and people of other nationalities as political prisoners; racial persecution of Jews, racial
persecution of Sinti and Roma; other types of persecution, and a summary.

‘The lessons include scenarios and exercises using working methods such as brainstorming, group work, analysis of source material, and project method work. Each lesson is accompanied by a guide for the educator, including assumptions, objectives, workflow and content and didactic recommendations. The package structure allows it to be implemented as a whole or to use individual lessons to complement other activities,’ said Nataliia Tkachenko, ICEAH, co-author of the package.

In each lesson, personal documents of prisoners produced by the camp administration are juxtaposed with excerpts from the accounts of Survivors who recount their personal experiences. The stories were chosen to show the broadest possible variety of camp experiences. The sources are supplemented by historical descriptions prepared based on studies by historians of the Auschwitz Memorial and other researchers.

‘The interdisciplinary approach allows us to look at historical facts and the educator’s working methods from a slightly different perspective. In our educational activities, it is essential to restore the subjectivity of people marked by the nightmarish experience of Auschwitz, to tell their story through the prism of identity and personal experience. This philosophy is also reflected in the Memory 4.0 project,’ emphasised Nataliia Tkachenko.

The final part of the package - the summary - also raises important questions about the role and significance of history in the contemporary world. It is intended to inspire participants to carry out original activities to discover and preserve the memory of various discriminated social groups and to counteract discrimination today.

The Memory 4.0 project is available free of charge in digital form. The project was developed in partnership with Arolsen Archives and was funded by the EVZ Foundation and the German MFA within the framework of the programme YOUNG PEOPLE remember.
In a new podcast episode, EHRI presents the story of two Romanian boys, Sorel and Marcu Rozen, and a simple postcard. The Rozen family, made up of a grandmother, parents and two children, were deported from Dorohoi (a town in Northern Romania) in October 1941 to the Ghetto of Shargorod in Transnistria (now a Russian occupied part of Moldavia). Marcu and Sorel were 11 and 5 years old.

The living conditions in the Shargorod Ghetto were dire and starvation and diseases rampant. Within months after arrival, the grandmother and parents died of typhoid, the boys were left alone. Desperate for help, Marcu wrote a postcard to his uncle in Bucharest, with the message to “do everything in your power to take us out”.

This postcard is now part of the collection of The Elie Wiesel National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania, in Bucharest.

Guest: Ana Bărbulescu, Senior Researcher and Head of the Research Department at the Elie Wiesel National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania.

Ana tells the story of Marcu Rozen and the postcard to his uncle. Interview of Marcu Rozen is from the archive of the USC Shoah Foundation – The Institute for Visual History and Education.

In each episode of For the Living and the Dead, a Holocaust researcher talks about an object, now often in a museum or archive, that tells a very personal story about the Holocaust. The first season of the EHRI podcast features a teddy bear, mica-flakes, a postcard, gramophone discs, a magazine cover and a typewriter. The unique stories come from all over Europe – the Holocaust being a continent-wide phenomenon – ranging from Belgium to Ukraine, from Romania to Italy.
Dragă nene Carol.

Maruș și Lorel
October 1942 is a special period in the history of KL Lublin. It was then that the first women were deported to the camp, where until then only men had been incarcerated.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of this event. We commemorate it by dedicating the latest issue of the "Varia" magazine to the situation of female prisoners of various nationalities at Majdanek.

Eleven articles written by the staff of the State Museum at Majdanek touch upon not only the living conditions of women prisoners, but also the functioning of the women's infirmary, clothing and art created behind the barbed wire. The role of camp female overseers is also highlighted. One of the texts presents the latest publications - diaries and memoirs of female survivors of Majdanek.

On October 1, 1942, the first female prisoners arrived at Majdanek. The date marks the creation of Frauenkonzentrationslager [FKL] – the women's concentration camp established at prisoner field V. The first women imprisoned at Majdanek were the Polish prisoners displaced from two districts of Lublin – Wieniawa and Dziesiąta, as well as from the Goraj settlement, and the Jewish inmates deported from the ghettos in Belżyce and the ghetto at Majdan Tatarski in Lublin.

The #WomenofMajdanek campaign aims to commemorate the fate of women deported to KL Lublin from various areas of German-occupied Europe.

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ARGENTINE
MEMORY FOR THE WORLD

The Memoria magazine is dedicated to the issues related mainly to the memory of the second world war, the Holocaust and Auschwitz. Yet, the reflection on and preservation of the memory of that period influence others. Below you can read an article by Mayaki Gorosito we received from the ESMA Museum and Site of Memory from Argentina that is the candidate for the UNESCO World Heritage List and the case of Auschwitz was an important inspiration to them.

During the last Argentine civic-military dictatorship, which took place between 1976 and 1983, there were more than 700 illegal detention sites. One of them was the Officers’ Quarters at the Navy School of Mechanics (ESMA), a remarkable set of more than 30 buildings spread across 17 hectares, located in the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina. In the Clandestine Center installed at the Officers’ Quarters of ESMA, Argentine Navy officers and NCOs kidnapped, tortured, and murdered more than 5,000 people, executed a plan to steal babies once they were born in captivity, exercised sexual and gender violence, submitted detained-disappeared persons to different kinds of slave labor, and organized the theft of the victims’ properties and real estate.

Today, as the result of a long-time social demand regarding the resignification of that horror, the ESMA Museum and Site of Memory - Former Center of Detention, Torture and Extermination operates in that building, a comprehensive expression of the State policy of “Never Again”, which enjoys an almost unanimous consensus among society.

Inaugurated in 2015, the Museum not only symbolizes and bears witness to what happened there, but also has great relevance in the framework of the Argentine State’s public policies of Human Rights. It is a fundamental tool of the Memory, Truth and Justice paradigm and also within the field of education and the construction of citizenship.

In addition to accounting for the crime of forced disappearance of people in its permanent exhibition, the Museum also seeks to contribute to international awareness and prevention of this crime and provide international visibility to social consensus as a means to achieve justice. For this reason it has submitted a candidacy to the UNESCO World Heritage List, the program that preserves heritage assets with outstanding universal value, such as the Auschwitz Birkenau State Museum.

The goal is to provide greater visibility to the values on which the candidacy is based, and highlight the struggle of both Human Rights organizations and survivors and relatives. But, among other things, we believe that our inclusion on the list is also an opportunity to broaden and deepen the debates regarding the issues of Heritage and Human Rights. This is fundamental, since we, from Latin America, can and must bring to these discussions issues that are not sufficiently visible and yet are essential for a comprehensive approach to the issue.

On the other hand, the application allows us to strengthen the Museum’s institutional matters, as it forces us to deepen the work of strategic planning and to observe the rigorousness of the public policies for which the institution was created. It also helps the consideration of the Museum staff efforts as a valuable input for national, regional and international technical cooperation with other museums and Sites of Memory in Argentina, Mercosur and the world.

After fulfilling the technical, social, diplomatic and political requirements of UNESCO, the final nomination file was presented to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in mid-
mid-January 2022, an effort that will go on until June 2023, when the final deliberation will take place at the committee meeting.

Presently, the application has been a very valuable tool for the Museum, since it has involved the implementation of a network of connections and dialogues with different sectors and actors from around the world that broaden and enrich their visions on the institution. Human Rights Organizations, survivors, scholars, workers from other museums and sites, networks of cities, national, regional and international parliaments, transfeminist organizations and social movements, to name just a few of those sectors that support us.

As you can see, the candidacy represents for us a political, social and cultural challenge that expresses a profound agreement between all Argentines, represented by the National State. But, at the same time, we believe that it will not only protect the ESMA space and other spaces of memory in the country and the region –and therefore our democracies– but ultimately it will be a significant contribution to all of Humanity.

* Mayaki Gorosito is the Executive Director of the ESMA Museum and Site of Memory - Former Center of Detention, Torture and Extermination.