

A HAPPENING IN AUSTRIA

When we first received the article "Young Voices in Austria" (further below), from our dear member Dr. Judita Hruza, we were initially hesitant to publish it out of fear that those of our members who suffered at the hands of Austrians might find it objectionable. We do not wish to reopen old wounds and/or to revive feelings of bitterness. But Dr. Hruza followed up with the explanatory letter below and we concluded that her article merits publication and exposure.

"Dearest Esther,

It was great talking to you the other day. It also gave me a lot of thought. I was examining my own feelings, wondering, how come my Austrian visit was such a positive experience for me as opposed to your husband's and your friend's. And then suddenly it hit me. It was probably my fault that I didn't make it completely clear that the entire action, the creation of the memorial monument, the unveiling ceremony including the program, had nothing to do with the Austrian government. It was not done for show-off or to proclaim an act of goodwill or any other political purposes.

Ordinary people living in little towns and villages and farms in Upper Austria did it. They had gone through a lot of trouble, faced opposition from neighbors, and lobbied at city halls for grants. I have been in touch with several of those people ever since I participated in a documentary movie about the death marches of Hungarian Jews in Austria. The title was "Alles Schweigen" and the author Michael Zuzanek had researched the topic for 2 years, applied for grants in vain and finally sold his rights to the film to the Austrian TV for the expenses.

The movie traveled through Austria and inspired several communities to raise memorials in the memory of the people who had been killed there. I was invited to attend such occasion before, so I got to know more of those people who call themselves

marches. Walter Dall-Asen, a retired miner and self-taught historian dedicated his adult life to the history of the Austrian Holocaust. He lectures, writes, arranges exhibitions and radio-shows with his friend Bert Brecht, composer, illustrator and writer. Winifred Hofer, a high school teacher, wrote a dramatization of the life of a Jewish girl before and during the Holocaust, based on my experiences after several exchanges of letters. The play's title was "Wenn die Steine Weinen (When the Stones Weep)" and high school girls performed it beautifully. There was a competition announced for the design of the monument between the young people and the winner was an unnamed high school student.

The mayor of Eisenerz who organized the program picked up the tab for all. I have to mention the impressive organization 'Arge Jugend gegen Gewalt und Rassismus (Angry Youth against Violence and Racism), which is quite unique, as far as I know. They were the driving force behind all the preparations. The event was successful. Over thousand people attended. I am getting phone call and letters telling me that there are always fresh flowers and little stones in front of the monument.

I hope you will now understand why I would like to share my experiences with other Survivors. Thank you for listening, Love, **Judita Hruza**

YOUNG VOICES IN AUSTRIA, By Judita Hruza

My husband and I just returned from Austria and I would like to share with you our experiences. We went there on the invitation of the Mayor of town Eisenerz, an old little city in the Steyer Alps. The mayor asked me to participate in the unveiling of a memorial erected to commemorate 250 Hungarian Jews who were killed there during a Deathmarch towards the concentration camp Mauthausen.

The mass murder occurred on April 7, 1945, just about one month before the end of WWII in Europe and lasted about 40 minutes. We were on our 10th day of forced march and we got a soup and a slice of bread before beginning our hike up on a

at the other side of the mountain, we faced a horrendous sight: the road in front of us was littered with bleeding bodies, dead and wounded and the mud underneath was red from blood. Our guards - local Volkssturm - were standing on both sides of the road shooting into our rows indiscriminately. We were past fear. We all were faced with certainty: we are going to die.

The memorial to remember the victims was erected on the recommendation of eyewitnesses.

The authorities of neighboring communities all agreed that it was time to face the truth about the horrible crimes committed against the Hungarian Jews who were dragged here in these beautiful mountains for no reason at all.

The young people of the area, "Angry Youth against Violence and Racism" participated actively & enthusiastically in the realization of this project: they interviewed witnesses and Survivors and made their own design of the memorial. Students from the high school from a nearby town, with the help of their teacher Winifred Hofer, wrote a theater piece based on my own experiences. The play's title was "When the Stones Weep". It was so beautifully performed, it made the audience cry (myself the hardest).

There were several speeches from mayors of neighboring towns, from eyewitnesses of the marches and from Survivors. The ceremony started with a symbolic march on the ominous dirt road where the shooting occurred 59 years ago. The mayor of Eisenerz took me by the arm and gave the order: "Let's go".

I had a strange feeling of Déjà vu; the snow-covered mountains in the background and the tall firs on the roadsides were the same as THEN. As was the dirt under my feet. Behind me the colorful snake of young people walked effortlessly and swiftly and soon took me over as I was slowing down to catch my breath and I felt a stab of panic: I will be shot. This time however, I was surrounded by people who called a car and persuaded me to get in, saying: "you don't have to walk, you already did it once."

trembling and I had a hard time not to cry. The memorial was beautiful. It is a wall built of fieldstones with the number 1945 interrupted by a Star of David. Underneath are two human forms, one falling, the other running.

The response of the media was very positive, judging from the clippings from the Austrian newspapers sent to us by our friends. Everybody acknowledged the idea that: "It is time to face our history, no matter how dark it is."

J.H.

SOME WORDS OF PRAISE

IN early September, we joined many other NAHOS members in attending a Conference of Child Survivors in Denver, Co.

It was a pleasurable experience and, in my humble opinion, the best organized of all previous annual gatherings we had attended.

Our sincere congratulations to the organizers: Dr. Rudolph Jacobson, Eric Cahn, Rosalyn Kinkel and to all the hard-working volunteers who made it possible.

As in previous years, Dr. Robert Krell delivered a moving keynote address, as did Dr. Michael Berenbaum on the following day.

We hope to obtain printouts of the speeches and will publish highlights in our upcoming issues.

KOL HAKAVOD

Nesse Godin, co-president of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Friends of Greater Washington, D.C., was among some 30 Nazi-era Survivors who sat as honored guests at USHMM's program:

"Bearing Witness for Darfur".

The Museum's formal activities were halted while Darfurian Amal Allagabo gave testimony about atrocities in Darfur and Nesse Godin gave personal testimony about the Holocaust.

The Museum's 'Committee of Conscience' Staff Director Jerry Fowler appealed for action to stop the genocide in Darfur, as did members of Congress & the Senate, Corzine, Brownback, Payne, F. Wolf and Van Hollen.

Before an audience of 400+, Nesse

Godin stated in the name of the assembled Survivors: "Today we stand shoulder to shoulder with the people all over the world who are suffering, especially with the people of Sudan."

GET WELL SOON

Wishing a Speedy and Complete recovery to our dear members and/or friends:

**Paulette Wegh
Helen Rothstein
Marvis Schaecter
Lilly Levy
Hedi Brasch
Jilly Boiangiu**

Hoping to hear very soon that you are all up and about in the very best of health!

SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS

And Best Wishes to our dear NAHOS Board member

Elise (Lilly) Roth-Heller

on her Special Birthday on November 10th. Lilly is a devoted and tireless advocate and board member or functionary in a great number of charitable and non-profit organizations. All of NAHOS wishes Lilly many, many more successful years in enjoyment and good health!

SINCERE THANKS

To our dear Zophia Shulman for her kind gift to NAHOS in honor of Dr. Eugene Lowenkopf's 70th birthday!

BEST WISHES & CONGRATULATIONS

Birthdays:

Wiesenfeld, Jacob.November 18
Gold, SuzanneNovember 18
Goldstein, KathyNovember 18
Konar, SulamitaNovember 19
Costabel, EvaNovember 20
Weilheimer, Richard. . .November 21
Herman, MiriamNovember 21
Alexander, EditaNovember 22
Blumberg-Kaplan, Lotte . . .Nov 22
Seidner, HermanNovember 22
Bressler, SophiaNovember 23
Jawetz, IrithNovember 24
Rekowski-Kenny, Franziska.Nov. 24
Shulman, LouisNov 25
Gero LillyNovember 25
Silverstein, Renee.November 26

Mandel, EvaNovember 26
Krell, AaronNovember 26
Florsheim, ErnaNovember 27
Abramowitz, Hyman. . .November 27
Lanceter, GinaNovember 27
Zellner, AnnaNovember 27
Benjamins, BramNovember 29
Berger, KathyNovember 29
Hoffman, GeorgeNovember 29
Chapnick, AbeNovember 30
Pavel, SuzanneNovember ?
Bolender-ShapiroDecember ?
Bergfeld, Joseph.December 1
Grumet, Betty.December 3
Rebhun, BeatrizDecember 3
Keselman, Hanna. . . .December 6
Gero, GeorgeDecember 7
Kolar, ThomasDecember 7
Gracin, AdaDecember 8
Warshawski, Judith . . .December 8
Joshuah, Henry.December 8
Rosenberg, MinaDecember 8
Gottlieb, HelenaDecember 9
Berezowski, AnnaDecember 10
Weiss, MariannaDecember 10
Hartheimer, Michael, Dr. . . .Dec 11
Fried, MartaDecember 11
Radin, ShirleyDecember 11
Graf, BettinaDecember 12
Mishkin, EstherDecember 12
Adler, NorbertDecember 14
Schacter, RosaDecember 15
Bihaly, Judith.December 16
Dr. Cwynar, LidiaDecember 16
Dr. Padawer-Singer, AliceDec 16
Werdiger, Ilona.December 16
Urdang-DeTour, Irene.Dec 17
Lebovitz, LarryDecember 17
Weisbord, TobiasDecember 18
Price, EvaDecember 19

UNVEILING

We urge all members and friends of our beloved departed long-time member

Anita Paprota

to attend the unveiling of her gravestone at Mount Hebron cemetery, 130-04 Horace Harding Expressway (off L.I.E. & Main St.), Flushing, Queens, on:

Sunday, November 14th, at 11AM.

For info and directions, call
718-939-9405

IN MEMORIAM

We report with great sadness the passing of a most devoted and generous individual

Abe Oster

To his wife **Ann** and family we extend our sincere condolences.