

# Researchers Remember Forum

## Second and Third Generation Researchers and the Legacy of the Holocaust

The groups known as the "Second Generation" and the "Third Generation", children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors, have produced a long list of researchers in various scientific fields. These researchers can be divided into two basic groups: those who chose to devote their professional lives to researching topics pertaining in some way to the trauma of the Holocaust, their family background or communal or national history, and those whose fields of research have no direct connection to the Holocaust. There are those about whom one can state that their entire field of research is driven by the trauma that their parents experienced, which they translated into an almost therapeutic force that propelled their research. And there are others who don't see any connection between their professional choices and their personal past, yet the Holocaust often appears to accompany their professional life like a shadow that follows them everywhere.

Many members of the "Second Generation" faced unanswered questions as children, questions that they feared to ask. Others asked, but found it difficult to continue raising queries as a result of their parents' and grandparents' responses. Is there a connection between their background and their choice of a research profession where they are taught to use various analytical tools and encouraged – or at times even forced - to ask questions and discuss difficult issues in depth? That is one of the issues that the "Researchers Remember" Forum discusses, as its members examine the connection between professional choices made by researchers of the "Second Generation" and "Third Generation", and their Holocaust legacy.

The idea behind the Forum is based on a combination of time, place, and interpretation. Most "Second Generation" members were born between the mid 1940's and the end of the 1970s. Most "Third Generation" members were born between the 1980s and beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. They were raised in various locations throughout the world, and their parents and grandparents had different Holocaust experiences. However the ones we focus on in this forum all have an additional common denominator, their

choice of a research profession. The forum serves as a framework to discuss, examine, and probe the connection between these three factors.

Among the questions asked are: How do "Second Generation" and "Third Generation" researchers of the various research groups deal with Holocaust memory? Did their "Second Generation" and "Third Generation" background influence their professional choices and if so, in what way? How does their research, and the research tools that they constantly employ, impact upon the way that they deal with the Holocaust and its influence on their lives and that of their families? These are the initial questions that were asked in forum discussions.

The project is divided into two stages. The first is a focus group that meets monthly to discuss these and other questions connected to their being both "Second Generation" members and "Third Generation" members and researchers. The second, run directly by Prof. Judy Baumel-Schwartz, is the creation of an international network/forum of "Second Generation" and "Third Generation" researchers who expressed a willingness to fill out a detailed questionnaire that deals with their personal background and professional choices.

The forum is sponsoring a book of academic autobiographies of 30 forum members to be published in 2021 and entitled *Researchers Remember: Research as an Arena of Memory for Offspring of Holocaust Survivors, a collected volume of academic autobiographies*, edited by Prof. Judy Baumel-Schwartz and Prof. Shmuel Refael-Vivante.

Prof. Judy Baumel-Schwartz is the Forum Coordinator.

## First Focus Group Members:

**Prof. Judy Baumel-Schwartz**, Finkler Institute of Holocaust Research  
(Jewish History Bar-Ilan University)

**Dr. Dan Carter**, Director of the Neurogastroenterology and Pelvic Floor Clinic,  
(Sheba Hospital and the Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel-Aviv University).

**Prof. Zehavit Gross**, UNESCO Chair, Sal Van Gelder Center (School of  
Education, Bar-Ilan University)

**Prof. Shmuel Refael-Vivante**, The Salti Center for Ladino Studies  
(Literature of the Jewish People, Bar-Ilan University)

**Prof. Dov Schwartz**, Institute for the Study of Religious Zionism (Jewish  
Philosophy, Bar-Ilan University)

**Prof. Liat Steir-Livni** (Culture Dept. - Sapir Academic College; Literature,  
Language and Arts - the Open University)

**Prof. Haim Taitelbaum**, Council for Higher Education (Physics, Bar-  
Ilan University)

**Prof. Ilan Tsarfati**, Laboratory for Microbiology and Clinical  
Immunology (Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel-Aviv University)

## **Second Focus Group Members:**

**Prof. Dov Dori** (Industrial Engineering and Management, Technion)

**Prof. Yehudit Dori** (Faculty of Education in Science and Technology,  
Technion)

**Dov Eichenwald** (CEO Yediot Publishing House)

**Prof. Emmanuel Friedheim** (Chair, Department of Jewish History, Bar-Ilan  
University)

**Dr. Hilda Nissimi** (History Department, BIU)

**Dr. Daniela Ozacky-Stern** (Director Moreshet Archives, Postdoc Fellow,  
Finkler Institute, BIU)

**Prof. Abraham Reznick** (Technion, Medical School)

**Dr. Ruth Samuel Tenenholtz** (Research Fellow, Finkler Institute, BIU)

## **Third Focus Group Members:**

**Dr. David Clark** (Ethnicity, Sociology of Work, Tourism and Heritage Management, U. of West London; London Metropolitan University)

**Naomi Levy** (Solicitor, couples therapist, genealogical researcher)

**Prof. Dorota Glowacka** (Humanities, Contemporary Studies, Kings College)

**Anita Grosz** (Juris Doctor; doctoral candidate, Aberystwyth University)

**Dr. Jacqueline Heller** (Psychiatrist)

**Prof. Susan Jacobowitz** (English, Queensboro College)

**Rachel Jarach-Sztern** (Linguistics, Yiddish; Independent researcher)

**Prof. Sam Juni** (Psychology, NYU)

**Elizabeth (Elzbieta) Karpowicz** (Canadian Govt. Microbiologist)

**Rina Krautwirth** (Information Science, Stern College)

**Prof. Abraham J. Peck** (History, University of Southern Maine)

**Dr. Katalin Pecsí-Pollner** (Genealogy; Independent researcher)

**Anita Winter** (Director, Gamaraal Foundation)

**Dr. Ariel Zellman** (Political Science, BIU)

# Who We Are:



# Contributors

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**Prof. Judy Tydor Baumel-Schwartz** was born in New York in 1959 and immigrated to Israel with her Holocaust survivor father and American-born mother in 1974. She completed her undergraduate and graduate degrees at Bar-Ilan University and specializes in Holocaust Studies and Israel Studies with emphasis on gender, memory and religion. She has written and edited numerous books and articles about religious life during and after the Holocaust, gender and the Holocaust, Holocaust commemoration and public memory in the State of Israel. Today she directs the Arnold and Leona Finkler Institute of Holocaust Research at Bar-Ilan University where she is a Professor of Modern Jewish History. She is married to Prof. Joshua Schwartz and together they have a blended family of children and grandchildren.



**Dr. Dan** Carter is the Director of the Neurogastroenterology and Pelvic Floor Clinic at the Chaim Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer and a Clinical Senior Lecturer at the Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel-Aviv University. He was born in Haifa in 1970, the only child of a father who survived Auschwitz and a Polish-born mother who escaped to the Caucasus area and Siberia with her family during the war. He studied medicine at the Technion in Haifa and served as a military doctor for 19 years in various positions, including as military branch medical officer in the Intelligence Corps and advisor to the



Chief Medical Officer for Gastroenterology. From 2001 he has worked at the Chaim Sheba Medical Center, since 2008 as a medical specialist in gastroenterology and liver diseases. In 2018 he was appointed Director of the Neurogastroenterology and Pelvic Floor Clinic. He is a Clinical Senior Lecturer at the Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel-Aviv University where he directs the gastroenterology course. He has three children.



**Dr. David Clark** is an active member of Second Generation Network, UK, Both his parents were child refugees from Berlin. He led a nomadic existence until the age of 27, going to schools in Rome, Vienna and London and studying Anthropology in Montreal, Nairobi, Brandeis and London. He carried out research on housing and employment of ethnic minorities in Britain, taught Sociology of Work, Leisure and Tourism at undergraduate and MA level at London universities, and completed a PhD on Jewish museums in Italy. He has been on the editorial boards of *Jewish Renaissance*, a London-based arts and culture magazine, *Second Generation Voices* and currently of *Exiled Ink*, a magazine devoted to works by exiled and refugee writers based in the UK. His poems have been published in *Contemporary writers of Poland*, *Flying Between Words* (2015), *Second Generation Voices*, *Exiled Ink* and in *Voices Israel Poetry Anthology* (2019). He is also co-editing a book on the emotional impact of visits to places and sites connected with family history.



**Prof. Dov Dori** is a Professor of Systems Engineering and Head of the Enterprise Systems Modeling Laboratory at the Technion, Israel Institute of Technology. Between 2000-2020 he was intermittently Visiting Professor at MIT, Cambridge, MA, USA. He is Life Fellow of IEEE and Fellow of INCOS and IAPR. In 1993, Dr. Dori invented Object-Process Methodology (OPM ISO 19450:2015) and has been central to the field of Model-Based Systems Engineering (MBSE). Prof. Dori has authored about 400 publications and supervised 60 graduate students. He chaired nine international conferences, was Associate Editor of IEEE T-PAMI and Systems Engineering, and Founding Co-Chair of the IEEE Society of Systems, Men, and Cybernetics Technical Committee on MBSE. His 2002 and 2016 books are the basis for MBSE edX certificate program and MOOC series. He has received various research and innovation awards and is a member of Omega Alpha Association - International Honor Society for Systems Engineering. He is the son of a Holocaust survivor, Tova Myersdorf (Zeidner), who as a young adult survived the Lodz ghetto and Auschwitz.



**Prof. Yehudit Judy Dori** is a faculty member at the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology since 1991. She served as the Dean of Continuing Education and External Studies, and later as the Dean of the Faculty of Education in Science and Technology at the Technion. Prof. Dori has also

intermittently been Visiting Professor and Research Scholar at MIT, Cambridge, MA, USA. She received the NARST 2020 Distinguished Contributions to Science Education through Research Award (DCRA) as a recognition of her many significant, lasting contributions to the field of science education. Her research on teaching, learning and curricula has impacted how science is taught in the K-12 and higher education. Coinciding with her well-regarded research on visualization, assessment, and metacognition, she has pioneered the field of science education through her work on many national and international committees. The hallmark of her academic contributions is her notable leadership, which has produced science education researchers and leaders and resulted in international connections that advance the field and have made a global impact. Prof. Dori co-edited two books on cognition and metacognition in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, published numerous journal papers, and mentored about seventy graduate students. She is the daughter of a Holocaust survivor, Risya Haisraeli (Dudman-Dudai) who, as a young girl, spent a year and a half in Auschwitz.



**Dov Eichenwald**, father of seven and grandfather of twenty one, is married to Dr. Tali Eichenwald-Dvir. He attended Segula elementary school and Haroeh high school, serving in the investigative branch of the military police as a first lieutenant and completing his reserve duty as a captain. He studied economics and business administration at Bar-Ilan University and was severely injured during the First Lebanese War (1982). Since 1994 he has been the CEO of Yediot Books, and the publishing company's editor-in-chief. He likes to remark that "his world is as narrow as the world of books". He is the son of Zvi Eichenwald (age 95 in 2020) born in Zaglembia, Poland, who lost his entire family in the Holocaust, the last remnant of parents and nine siblings murdered in Auschwitz. In 1949 Zvi moved to Israel and in 1952 he married Dov's mother who was born in Jerusalem.



**Prof. Emmanuel Friedheim** was born in Paris in 1970 where he was also raised. His father, Raphaël, was born in Paris in 1939 to Polish-Jewish parents and his mother, Simone, was born in 1939 in Strasbourg to French-Jewish parents from Alsace. Emmanuel immigrated to Israel in 1988 after graduating high school in France. He obtained his BA (Jewish History and General History), MA (magna cum laude) and PhD (summa cum laude) degrees from the Department of Jewish History at Bar Ilan University. Today, he is an Associate Professor and serves as chair of the Israel and Golda Koschitzky Department of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry at Bar-Ilan University, where he teaches and researches the history of the Jews during the Second Temple Period, and that of the Mishna and Talmud. He has published extensively about the relations between Jews and Pagans in the Roman period (e. g. his book: *Rabbinisme et paganisme en Palestine romaine – Étude historique des Realia talmudiques (Ier-IVème siècles)*, Religions in the Graeco-Roman World, vol. 157, Leiden – Boston: Brill 2006). He is on the editorial board of *Revue des études juives* and has been a visiting professor at *LABEX RESMED* (Collège de France, Sorbonne Universities), *EPHE* (Vème section des sciences religieuses) and *UNIL* (Faculty of Theology, University of Lausanne).



**Prof. Dorota Glowacka** is Professor of Humanities and Director of Contemporary Studies Program at the University of King's College in Halifax, Canada. She teaches classes in Holocaust and genocide studies, gender studies, philosophy of race, and critical theory. She obtained her M.A. (English) at the University of Wrocław, Poland, and her Ph.D. (Comparative Literature) at SUNY, Buffalo. Glowacka has authored and edited books and journals in the area of Holocaust studies and critical theory. She has published over 60 book chapters, journal articles, reviews, and encyclopedia entries in those fields. She is currently working on a research project on **the intersections of the Holocaust and settler-colonial violence against Indigenous peoples**.



**Prof. Zehavit Gross** is the head of the Sal Van Gelder Center for Holocaust Instruction & Research and the incumbent of the UNESCO Chair in Education for Human Values, Tolerance and Peace. She heads the graduate program of Management and Development in Informal Education Systems at the School of Education at Bar-Ilan University in Israel. Her main areas of specialization are Holocaust education, interfaith and religious education, and intercultural and peace education. She served as Chairman of the Advisory Committee for Restitution of Property, was responsible for Holocaust commemoration in Israel's educational institutions, and in 2016 delivered a speech at the United

Nations as part of a debate on the future of Holocaust Education. She has written extensively about Holocaust education in non-Jewish schools including in the Israeli-Arab sector. She was the president of the Israeli Society for Comparative Education (ICES) and has received numerous distinguished national and international awards.



**Anita H. Grosz** is a research doctoral student at Aberystwyth University conducting a comprehensive study on the Second Generation of Kindertransportees (KT2s) in the UK and the USA. Her research areas include transgenerational impact of trauma, forced dislocation and memory. Her father, Hanus Grosz, came to Britain in 1939 from Brno on the Kindertransport. In 1989, Anita met Eddy Behrendt and helped form the Kindertransport Association [USA] (KTA) in 1992. She has since continued to be an active member of the Board, and for numerous years the only Second Generation. Anita was instrumental in initiating the Kindertransport Memory Quilt (now on display at the Holocaust Memorial Museum, Michigan), as well as one of the key developers and organisers of the Kindertransport Oral History Project for which more than 125 video oral histories were recorded. She also co-formed a KTA Second Generation group, and was a key member developing and coordinating the numerous KTA conferences. Since 2002 Anita has been on the Governing Board of the World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust and Descendants. Since moving to the UK, Anita has co-organized a multigenerational Holocaust conference, an academic Kindertransport conference, and is co-organizer of the upcoming 2021 Second and Third Generation Conference. In addition, Anita is an active Committee member of the Second Generation Network [UK].

Anita has a Juris Doctor from Cardozo School of Law and is qualified to practice law in the United States, with a specialization in criminal law and intellectual property matters. In 2012, Anita earned a Master of Fine Art in Photography and has exhibited around the UK, India, and the USA. Anita was also co-founder and Trustee of Parenting Matters Trust.



**Dr. Jacqueline Heller** is a Los Angeles based psychiatrist and psychoanalyst who recently retired from her private practice. She volunteered psychiatric services at the Venice Family Clinic for many years. Dr. Heller was an active member of the clinical faculty at the David Geffen School of Medicine, Department of Biobehavioral Sciences, UCLA since 1989. She taught and supervised psychiatry residents and facilitated their process groups. She is a faculty member at the New Center for Psychoanalysis where she has taught classes on conflict theory, psychopathology, adolescence, and Freudian theory. She is a certified faculty member at the Center for Reflective Parenting, has led parenting groups, and introduced the program to private schools. For the last two years she's working on authoring a book for a lay readership, about inherited trauma. The narrative is informed by her experience as a psychiatrist and as a child of two Holocaust survivors.

Dr. Heller received a BA in Biology from NYU, an MSc in Basic Medical Science from NYU and her MD from Icahn School of Medicine, formerly known as the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Her psychiatry residency was at UCLA and her psychoanalytic training was at the Los Angeles Psychoanalytic Society and Institute. Doctor Heller holds three US patents including one utility patent for a multipurpose clasp. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband.



Susan Jacobowitz is a Professor of English at Queensborough Community College, The City University of New York. Research areas include second-generation experience, graphic depictions of war, Australian Jewish writing and the conflicts and challenges of post-war Jewish identity. Her scholarship has appeared in *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies*, *Studies in American Jewish Literature* and *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies*. She has contributed essays to *Teaching the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict*, *Humanistic Pedagogy Across the Disciplines: Approaches to Mass Atrocity Education in the Community College Context*, *Religion and Nationalism: The Struggle for Modern Jewish Identity* and *Jewish Women's Writings of the 1990s and Beyond in Great Britain and the United States*.



Rahel Jarach-Sztern was born in Paris to a Polish Shoah survivor and the daughter of a Polish and a Greek Shoah survivor. She grew up with a number of cousins and friends who were young members of the "second generation". Always fascinated with old customs, genealogy (a family endeavor) and Jewish history, she expresses her love of the pre-WWII Jewish world in her prose. She wrote her thesis "Yankee Yinglish", published in 2017, about Yiddish in American English. She also published a novel about Jewish



identity among the 2g and 3g (*Je suis une étoile*, 2018) and an Ashkenazi-Sephardi traditional cookbook (*Recettes Familiales Ashkénazes, Judéo-Espagnoles et Judéo-Italiennes*, 2019). She has spent thousands of hours researching online genealogy archives and adding entries on Geni. Trained as an English and French literature teacher, she is currently at home raising her children, all named for family members, and helping her mother in publishing the memoirs of her Sephardic, war-survivor grandmother, and a biography of her Sephardic rabbinical great great-grandfather. Her husband, also a very invested member of the second generation, teaches English, chemistry, history-geography and physics in a charedi yeshiva in France.



**Dr. Sam Juni** is Professor Emeritus at New York University. He founded and directed the Psychology Graduate Program at NYU Tel Aviv for close to a decade, and is currently in private practice in Jerusalem specializing in Differential Diagnosis. He holds a doctorate in Clinical Psychology and a Post-Doctorate in Psychiatric Diagnostics. An international lecturer and renowned expert in Character Disorders, he has authored numerous research studies investigating cutting edge issues at the intersection of psychopathology and personality adjustment. Prof. Juni was born to survivors in the aftermath of the Holocaust, and raised in a community of survivors and their families. As a native Yiddish speaker, Sam always had a significant patient roster of Holocaust Survivors and their families. Years ago he began to notice distinct pathology syndrome patterns among the second generation. Research with colleagues and discussions with peers from his Yeshiva days led him to formulate a personality profile of the cohort which he published in a series of professional scientific research papers.



**Ela Karpowicz** was born in 1949 in Warsaw, Poland. After graduating with an MSc in Microbiology from the University of Warsaw, she worked on different research projects in the field of microbiology and immunology. In 1980 together with her husband and son she fled communist Poland for Canada. In Canada she worked in several microbiology and immunology laboratories, diagnostic and research. In 2006 her second son was born. In 2008 she obtained her second MSc in molecular biology from the Mount Allison University in Sackville, NB, Canada. For the last thirty years she has been researching her family roots and deepening her knowledge on Shoah. Her Mother and Father were the only Holocaust survivors in the family. Retired for ten years, she has been involved in many volunteer activities, locally and virtually.



**Rina Krautwirth** grew up in Highland Park, New Jersey. She attended Barnard College in New York, where she majored in Biology. She has held laboratory internships and an internship at the American Museum of Natural History. She has written articles on and spoken about topics that relate to science and Judaism. She currently works as a research librarian at Stern College, Yeshiva University. Her father was a Holocaust survivor, born in Frankfurt, Germany.



**Naomi Levy** is of the Second Generation currently living in London with a mother born in Krakow, Poland and a late father who was born in Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany. Originally qualified and working as a Family Law Solicitor for many years she later qualified and worked as a Couples Therapist. Today she focuses her time on family research and writing, feeling strongly that the next generation needs to know their family history. This began with her father's 1941 Australian Scout Diary that he kept during his internment in Australia that she transcribed and researched from both a British political perspective and from the individual perspective of her father who fought the War. Currently she is putting together details of her mother's War story of living on false papers and of escape while incorporating the story of her Polish family most of whom perished in the Shoah.



**Dr. Hilda Nissimi** is a senior lecturer in the General History Department at Bar-Ilan University where she studied for her degrees and joined its junior faculty in 1983. She served as chair of the department between 2013-2018. Specializing in European and British history, she has published articles and books on subjects that are connected to and deal with Jewish identity and the relationship of this identity with other nations – the British, the American, the Iranian. Her main field of research in the past two decades is the Mashhadi community, which is a crypto-faith community of the north of Iran and has today a global diaspora spread from Israel through Europe to the United

States. Lately, she has become interested and has published on the intersection of Jewish national and diasporic identity and museums. She is also interested in the connection between antisemitism and British national identity in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Among her research interests: gender studies, religious studies, memory, and commemoration. She is married to Reuven, and mother to Malka, Yair, and Michael and grandmother to Shaked, Sarah, and David.



**Dr. Daniela Ozacky-Stern** is a research fellow of the Institute of Holocaust Research, Bar-Ilan University, Israel. She completed her PhD in Jewish History at The University of Haifa, Israel, studying the Jewish partisans in the Lithuanian and western Belarus forests during the Second World War and the Holocaust. She completed her MA degree in General History from Tel Aviv University. Her thesis dealt with anti-Semitic Nazi propaganda led by Hitler's propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels during the final year of the Second World War. Published in Hebrew in 2012, it was entitled: *Twilight of the Gods: Joseph Goebbels, Nazi Propaganda, and the Destruction of the Jews during the last year of The Second World War*. She was the director of the Moreshet Holocaust Archives in Givat Haviva, Israel, for over ten years, and participated in numerous academic conferences and seminars in Israel and abroad. She is a Lecturer at *The Holocaust Studies Program, in Western Galilee College, Israel*.



**Prof. Abraham J. Peck** is Research Professor of History at the University of Southern Maine and a lecturer at Bates College. He is the son of two Holocaust survivors who survived the Lodz Poland ghetto and the concentration camps of Auschwitz, Stutthof, Buchenwald and Theresienstadt. None of their other family members survived. He was born in a Displaced Persons' camp in Landsberg, Germany, the city where Adolf Hitler wrote *Mein Kampf*. For more than three decades, Professor Peck has been actively involved in numerous programs devoted to meaningful dialogue and creative social action programs between members of the American and international Jewish communities and members of the Christian, African American, Muslim, German and Polish communities. He is the author or editor of fifteen scholarly volumes and more than 35 scholarly articles. His most recent books are (co-edited with Michael Berenbaum) entitled *The Holocaust and History*, published in 1998, and issued as a paperback edition in the spring of 2002 by the University of Indiana Press and an historical memoir, co-written with Gottfried Wagner, the great-grandson of the German composer Richard Wagner, published in both a German and an English-language edition entitled *Unwanted Legacies: Sharing the Burden of Post-Genocide Generations* (Texas Tech University Press) in April 2014 and nominated for a National Jewish Book Award. He is married to Jean M. Peck, an editor and novelist, and has two children.



**Dr. Katalin Pécsi-Pollner** was born in 1951, both of her parents are Holocaust survivors. She is a literary scholar living in Budapest, Hungary: an essayist, educator and a lecturer on the field of the contemporary Jewish literature and film and numerous issues related to the Holocaust and gender. She is the founder and president of *Esthers' House Association* for the Jewish Culture and the Feminist Values. She is also a member of the organization *International Council of Jewish Women (ICJW)*. She is the curator of the international traveling exhibition "'...sticking together...' *Personal Stories of Hungarian Survivor Women*, the Director of the project "*Hungarian Jewish Women who rescued fellow Jews during the Holocaust*" – in cooperation with the *Memorial of the German Resistance (GDW)* and the *International Auschwitz Committee (IAK)*, Berlin, the former Head of the Educational and Cultural Programs Department at the *Holocaust Memorial Center*, Budapest and former lecturer about "Representations of the Holocaust" at the Jewish University-Rabbinical School (ORZSE) and is the author of a number of books on the Holocaust and Gender topics.



**Prof. Shmuel Refael Vivante** is the Director of the Salti Institute for Ladino Studies at Bar-Ilan University, Israel. His main subject of interest is Judeo-Spanish (Ladino) literature, language, ritual life, and culture. He is a board member of the *National Authority for Ladino Culture* and an Academic correspondence (Académico correspondiente) of the *Spanish Royal Academy* in Madrid. Currently he is the scientific secretary of the Israeli National Academy for Judeo-Spanish (Ladino). He has published extensively about the Sephardim and the Holocaust and about the representation of the Holocaust in

Judeo-Spanish (Ladino) poetry. In 2015 he has published his first poetry book "A visitors' guide to Birkenau". He is also the playwright of *Golgotha* a Monodrama on the Salonican Jews and the Holocaust (Tzavta Theatre, The-Aviv in cooperation with La MaMa e.t.c Theatre N.Y.) and of *Kerkyra*: a play based on *Le Livre de ma mère* by Albert Cohen. He is married to Prof. Revital Refael Vivante and a father of four, son of Esther (Vivante) and Haim Refael z"l, Holocaust survivors from Corfu and Salonica.



**Prof. Abraham Reznick** is a Professor Emeritus of the Haifa Technion who specializes in biological research in aging. Born in Europe on the day that the Second World War was declared over, he moved to Israel when he was two years old, becoming one of the oldest members of the second generation while also being one of the youngest members of the first generation. From the mid-1980s he was on staff at the faculty of Medicine at the Haifa Technion, eventually becoming a Professor of Medical Sciences. Among his academic activities Prof. Reznick served in the early 2000s as president of the Israeli Society for Oxygen and Free Radicals Research and in 2010 was nominated as Head of the department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, Faculty of Medicine of the Technion. He has numerous publications and 25 MA and PhD students graduated from his laboratory. In recent years he has become more active in Holocaust related issues both personal and professional.



**Dr. Bela Ruth Samuel Tenenholtz** is a "Spiegel Fellow" at the Finkler Institute of Holocaust Research at Bar-Ilan University. She was born in the Netherlands, daughter and sister to Shoah survivors. After marrying an American Jew she lived in New York for almost five years where her two sons were born. The family made Aliyah in 1969 and in Israel four daughters were born. When she was 48 years old, she was accepted to the English language and literature department of Haifa University, and went from BA (cum laude), MA (magna cum laude) to PhD in ten years. After 25 years as an English teacher in religious state schools, she moved on to teach English literature, language, and translation studies at Gordon and Shaanan colleges of education in Haifa where she taught Shoah literature and Jewish identity in literature. During this time, she published articles connected to her field of expertise and published books: a book of poetry in English, a children's book in Hebrew, and a book which relates the story of her family, in Hebrew and Dutch. She is still involved in translation.



**Prof. Dov Schwartz** was born in Haifa in 1961, an only child to Holocaust survivor parents. His father spent the war in forced labor camps in Transnistria and his mother in the Czernowitz area. He took his degrees at Bar-Ilan University where he completed his doctorate four years after first beginning his university studies. He also began teaching at the university while he was still a student. Since that time he has written dozens of books and numerous articles dealing with different periods of Jewish thought, starting with the middle ages and up to modern Jewish thought. Today he



studies Jewish Byzantine Jewish thought in the late Middle Ages and phenomenological studies of religious Zionist thought. He received the EMET Award in Jewish Philosophy in 2015. He has served in various positions in the university including Dean of Humanities and department chairs. Today he also directs the Dr. Zorach Warhaftig Institute for the Study of Religious Zionism at the university. He is married to Gila (Igel) and together they have six children and numerous grandchildren.



**Dr. Liat Steir-Livny** is an Assistant Professor (Senior Lecturer) in the Department of Cultural Studies, Creation and Production at Sapir College, and a tutor and course coordinator for the Cultural Studies MA program and the Department of Literature, Language, and the Arts at the Open University of Israel. She was born in Israel in 1973 to second-generation parents. Two of her grandparents fled to the USSR during World War II and lived in Siberia. One grandmother is a survivor of the Warsaw ghetto and of Auschwitz-Birkenau. One of her grandfathers is a survivor of the Lodz ghetto, labor camps and a death march. Her interdisciplinary research focuses on the changing commemoration of the Holocaust in Israel from the 1940s until the present. It combines Holocaust studies, Memory Studies, cultural Studies, Trauma studies and Film studies. She has authored numerous articles and five books. Her partner is Boaz Albert. Together they raise her two daughters and his daughter.



**Prof. Haim Taitelbaum** is a professor in the Physics Department at Bar-Ilan University, former department chair, Vice Rector and University Rector (2010-2014). Also former chair of IUCC (Machba) (Inter-University Computation Center) and a member of the Council of Higher Education of Judea and Samaria. Since 2016 he is a member of the National Council for Higher Education (CHE). Born in Israel in 1959 to parents from Poland, his father, born in Katowice, survived the war in the Russian forests while his mother, born in Chrzanow, survived the camps of Gliwice and Ravensbrueck. He served as Chair of the Student Council at his high school in Ramat-Gan, then served in the Israeli Defense Forces in the artillery. He was promoted to a Colonel in the reserves in 2004. He studied all of his academic degrees at Bar-Ilan University (Physics, Computer Sciences and recently also Business Administration), and after a post-doctoral stay at the University of Maryland and the NIH, joined the faculty of the Physics Department at Bar-Ilan in 1993. He specializes in statistical physics, reaction kinetics, interface growth, photon migration and simulations and modeling of physical systems. He is married to Dr. Dorit Taitelbaum who is the national Chemistry supervisor at the Ministry of Education. They have four children.



**Prof. Ilan Tsarfati** is a member of the department of microbiology and clinical immunology at the Sackler School of Medicine at Tel Aviv University. His degrees are all from Tel-Aviv University. Born to an Israeli mother and Greek father who moved to pre-State Israel before the Holocaust, his Holocaust connection came from studying family history and from close family friends who were Holocaust survivors. He was very close to these childless friends, one of whom had undergone medical experiments during the war and later developed ovarian cancer. Consequently, Prof. Tsarfati began studying what we know about the material that these women were injected with during those wartime experiments. Today he is building an academic data base of information pertaining to Jewish survivors from Greece and their families. In addition, his research deals with breast cancer: finding signs of the disease, developing new drugs and attempting to understand the cell mechanism that causes metastasis. He is married to Dr. Galia Tzarfati and they have three children.



**Anita Winter** is a daughter of Holocaust refugees and the founder and president of the GAMARAAL Foundation, a Swiss Foundation that grants financial support to survivors living in poverty and furthers projects in the fields of Holocaust Education and genocide prevention. She is a member of the Swiss Begleitgruppe of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) of the Swiss Federal Department for Foreign Affairs and has

served as a visiting lecturer in Holocaust education at the University of Tirana in Albania. In addition, she holds an official accreditation as the main representative of the Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations and as a representative of B'nai B'rith International at the United Nations in Geneva. She is also the Honorary Consul for the Republic of Albania in Switzerland. She is married with four adult children.



**Dr. Ariel Zellman** is a lecturer in the Department of Political Studies at Bar-Ilan University. His research examines the role of national identity narratives and sacred homeland claims in the perpetuation and resolution of international territorial conflict, with a particular comparative focus on Israel/Palestine and the Former Yugoslavia. He teaches courses on nationalism, territorial politics, and research methods. His academic articles have been published in *East European Politics*, *The Journal of Peace Research*, *Politics and Religion*, *Security Studies*, and *Territory, Politics, Governance*. His newest research project examines the political influence of white hate groups in the United States from 2000-2018. He is also a member of the "Third Generation" whose grandparents, Nechamia Knobel and Shifra Nudelman-Knobel, met and married at a DP camp in Germany after the war, moving first to Israel and then to Canada where their youngest daughter, Zellman's mother, was born. Zayda Nechemia was a prolific chronicler of his experiences before and during the war, with his stories appearing in numerous local and national Yiddish and English-language publications, until his death at age 93 in the summer of 2002. Bubi Shifra still lives in Toronto and at 96, has nine grandchildren and twenty-one great grandchildren.