

Hungary Forum Members

Binyamin Avrahami, Forum coordinator, independent scholar, Member, Hungary Forum Committee

Dr. Jehuda Hartman, independent scholar, Member, Hungary Forum Committee

Dr. Ayala Nedivi, Spiegel Fellow, Finkler Institute, independent scholar, Member, Hungary Forum Committee

Yuval Alpan, independent scholar

Dr. Chava Baruch, Yad Vashem, independent scholar

Ilit Ben Dan, independent scholar

Efraim Cohen, independent scholar

Dr. Miriam Farber, Spiegel Fellow, Finkler Institute, independent scholar

Ruthi Glick, Ph.D Student, Gender Studies Program, Bar-Ilan University

Moshe Golan, independent scholar

Naomi Gryn, independent scholar

Dr. Isaac Hershkowitz, Bar-Ilan University

David Holits, independent scholar

Dr. Nadav Kaplan, Spiegel Fellow, Finkler Institute, independent scholar

Dr. Menachem Keren-Kratz, independent Scholar

Zehava Kor, independent scholar

Prof. Ruth Landau, The Hebrew University (Emerita)

Prof. Ruth Lorand, University of Haifa (Emerita)

Roni Lustig, Director, Museum for the Heritage of Hungarian Jewry

Prof. Michael L. Miller, Central European University, Vienna

Meir Nachshon, independent scholar

Dr. Atila Novak, Thomas Molnar Institute for Advanced Studies (National University of Public Service in Budapest) and the Goldziher Ignaz Institute for Jewish History and Culture in Budapest

Dr. Anna Szalai, independent scholar

Prof. Ilana Rosen, Ben-Gurion University

Agnes Shemesh, Jewish Studies Library, Bar-Ilan University

Dr. Moshe Vered, Independent Scholar

David Weisberger, Independent Scholar

Yuval Alpan



Yuval Alpan was born 1951 in Kibbutz Haogen to Tova and Moshe Alpan, who were members of the " Zionist Youth Resistance Movement in Hungary in 1944" and until the end of the War. "Pil", his father was one of the leaders of this Resistance Movement which saved tens of thousands of Jews.

Alpan served in a Naval Commando Unit, studied Industrial Engineering at the Technion in Haifa, and managed several companies until his retirement.

He joined the Society for the Research of the Zionist Underground Resistance Movement in Hungary during the War, and is now leading it together with David Gur, the last person remaining from those who were active in 1944.

Alpan also serves as the deputy chairman of the "Committee to Recognize the Heroism of Jews Rescuers during the Holocaust" and is active in trying to change the "Yad V'ashem" law in this respect.

Alpan is especially active in trying to promote the story of the brave youngsters in Hungary who saved tens of thousands of Jews during the Holocaust, whose story is not known to the public.

Biniamin Avrahami



Biniamin Avrahami was born in Transylvania, then part of Communist Romania to Holocaust survivor parents. He is familiar with Yiddish, Hungarian and Romanian cultures. He made *aliyah* in 1958 with his parents and sister, and grew up in Rehovot. He studied biochemistry for a bachelor's degree at Bar-Ilan university and a MSc degree at the Hebrew University. He was a lecturer, an educator and a board member of the Academic College "Givat Washington".

In 1987, he joined Bar-Ilan University as Assistant Head of the Department of Life Sciences, accompanying the development of the department. Upon the department becoming a faculty, he became its first Head of Administration, a post he held until his retirement.

He has been interested in and has studied Yiddish literature for a better understanding of the Jewish world before the Holocaust.

For the past six years he has been an active member of the board of directors of "Testimony House" for the heritage of religious Zionism and the commemoration of the Holocaust, located in Nir Galim.

Biniamin's main concern is the characterization of local leadership in the Dej and the Maros-Vasarhely communities, during the Holocaust. Particularly, the connections with the National Rescue Committee, the treatment of refugees from Poland and Slovakia, the attitude towards the Zionist youth movements, the connection with the forced laborers from their community and other questions that can teach us about their functioning at such a crucial time for our people.

Dr. Chava Baruch



Dr. Chava Baruch was born in Hungary, the only daughter of Holocaust survivor parents. Arrived in Israel at the age of 13, she is married to Yoram, the mother of three sons, and grandmother of four grandchildren. She graduated from the Faculty of History of Tel Aviv University, worked as a history teacher in High Schools, wrote her MA thesis about "The Budapest Ghetto in 1944" at the Faculty of Contemporary Jewry at the Hebrew University, where she also completed her thesis about "The Self-Perception of the Jewish Neolog Leadership in Budapest between the Two World Wars". While working at Yad Vashem for years, she organized and directed teachers training seminars in Israel and abroad: in Hungary, Romania, Croatia, Serbia, Macedonia, Slovenia, and Kosovo. After retiring she still volunteers at the department of the Righteous among the Nations of Yad Vashem, and she gives lectures and translates books and personal documentations from Hungarian to Hebrew.

Ilit Ben Dan



Ilit Ben Dan was born in Israel, a third-generation Holocaust survivor. She grew up in a home that preserved Hungarian culture. She is a social media expert and an independent Holocaust researcher.

Among her discoveries related to the Hungarian regions:

- Location of the Jelšava (Jolsva) labor camp -This labor camp was established in former military barracks, where 400-500 forced laborers stayed at the same time, among them Ephraim Kishon and Shraga Shemer-Shirman, one of the founders of the Testimony House at Kibbutz Nir Galim. Later, the barracks were used as a transit station for the deportation of the area's Jews to the extermination camps. Years later, the barracks were destroyed by the Soviets before they left the area.
- Discovery of the first Jewish cemetery in Tornal'a (Tornalja), in the Owl Forest - established in 1860 and operated for about 40 years, when a new one was established within the town. This cemetery is deep in the forest and was forgotten over time. The discovery of the cemetery included locating it, with local help, and documenting and mapping the few identifiable graves.

She writes and publishes stories and research on the Holocaust, genealogy, and Jewish history on the Facebook page "One story out of millions." Her work is mainly emphasized in Hungary and the Hungarian regions in Czechoslovakia. She is active in her work in Israeli advocacy and the global fight against anti-Semitism.

Efraim Cohen



Efraim Cohen was born and raised in kibbutz Matzuva in the Western Galilee. His parents, like many of their friends in Matzuva, were Holocaust survivors from Hungary who emigrated to Israel through Zionist youth movements. His mother survived Mauthausen and his father escaped a labor camp and became an operative of the Zionist Youth Movement underground as a member of the Young Macabee group.

Efraim Cohen served in the Israeli military from January 1972 to the end of March 1977. He then was called for reserve service until 2004. He was honorably discharged at the rank of Major.

He earned an undergraduate degree from the Beit Berl Academic College majoring in Education, Teaching and History.

As a retiree, for several years Efraim has been a member in the management committee of the association for the research of the Zionist Youth Organization in Hungary and is a member of the Control Committee for the association of the “Future Generations” of Holocaust survivors. He currently is doing research on “Jews Who Saved Jews” during the Holocaust.

Dr. Miriam Farber



Dr. Miriam Farber studied chemistry and mathematics in the Bar Ilan University. After that she earned a diploma from the University of Sheffield in Information Science. Returning to Bar Ilan she completed an MA in Medieval History (cum laude and the rector's award for "an outstanding" thesis) and then received her PhD in Information Science at the same university.

In 1985 she established the Information Unit at the Weizmann Institute of Science (first of its kind in the Israeli academic world) in addition to teaching at Bar Ilan University in the Department of Information Science.

She has organized many conferences on Information Science, published papers and lectured, served on the editorial board of *The Journal of Information Science*.

She retired in 2018.

Dr. Farber is continuing her research into the history of the Hungarian Jews during the Second World War and to the present.

Ruti Glick



Ruti Glick is a PhD student in the Gender Studies Program at Bar-Ilan University, specializing in History and Gender.

Her dissertation, under the supervision of Prof. Lilach Rosenberg Friedman, is the immigration story of Hungarian speakers, women and men, who came to Israel after The Second World War and the Holocaust - from their point of view, based on their writing in Hungarian in real time.

Her Thesis, under the supervision of Prof. Margalit Shilo, explored the immigration story of Hanna Szenes, based on her personal writing (full diary and hundreds of letters in Hungarian) that were censored and rewritten in the versions which appeared in Hebrew. The thesis was published as a book titled: **Captive in a New Land** (in Hebrew) (Pardes, 2013).

Ruti Glick will continue her research on the topic of her doctorate: "The Immigration Experience and the Construction of Israeli Identity of Hungarian Speakers, women & men in the years 1948 – 1960 in "Uj Kelet".

By exploring the immigration story of this group, Ruti Glick intends to learn about the experience and everyday life of other marginal groups in the first decade of Israel – such as bourgeois immigrants, women and Holocaust survivors – and tell the history of Israeli society from a different and new point of view.

Moshe Golan



Moshe Golan was born in 1947 (Budapest) and immigrated to Israel in 1957 with his Holocaust-survivors parents. After graduating from elementary school in Be'er Sheva, he was admitted to the Thelma Yellin Musical Art School in Tel Aviv. After high school, he continued to study the violin at the Rubin Music Academy at Tel Aviv University. He then enlisted in the IDF and was nominated as the commander and head player of the Gadna Youth Symphony Orchestra. Upon completion of his military services, he worked as the Orchestra Director at the Israeli Chamber Ensemble and coordinator of orchestral activities and Chamber Music Courses of the Academy of Music at Tel Aviv University.

In 1977, he moved to the programming and processing field under the IDF's computer training center. In 1988, he finished his service as lieutenant colonel and Branch Head in one of the computer units. Until 2009, he was employed by one of the largest high technology companies in the country. For about 6 years from this period, he worked in one of the company's branches in the US.

In recent years, his interest is concentrated on the cultural heritage and history of Hungarian Jewry by means of symbiosis between literature, art, and various historical issues of the period between the World Wars, among them the Budapest Jewry's fate in the summer of 1944, the various international rescue activities and those conducted by the *Aid and Rescue Committee*, the "Glass House" and the underground of Zionist youth movements in Hungary. His work routine includes intensive cooperation with other researchers as well as advice to doctoral students. In 2013, he was awarded M.A. in the history of Jewish culture from the Rabbinical Seminary - the University of Jewish Studies in Hungary.

Naomi Gryn



Naomi Gryn is a writer and documentary filmmaker, born in New York and educated at the London School of Economics, with a degree in Philosophy of Science. She has worked across the film and television industry. Highlights include playing a hairdresser in *The Crying Game* and winning a gold D&AD award shortly before abandoning what might have been a lucrative career as a commercials producer to make documentaries for television.

She has also written and presented several radio documentaries: *A Strange Legacy* (Radio 4), *Next Year In Jerusalem* (Radio 2), *Inside The New Yorker* (Radio 4) and *The Last of the Just: Finding Beauty in Barbarity* (Radio 4). She was a researcher for the "Liberation" Exhibition (1985) at London's Wiener Library to mark the 40th anniversary of the liberation of Nazi death camps, and was a consultant for the Holocaust Exhibition (1998) advising on film and sound archive material for October Films and the Imperial War Museum.

Naomi Gryn co-authored and edited her father's (Rabbi Hugo Gryn) memoirs, *Chasing Shadows* for Viking/Penguin (2000) and *Three Minutes of Hope: Hugo Gryn on the God Slot* for Continuum Books (2010) and has written articles, reviews and short stories for many publications, including *The Guardian*, *Index on Censorship*, *Tortoise Media*, *The Times*, and *The Daily Telegraph*. She is currently working as the historic consultant on the television adaptation of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*.

Dr. Isaac Hershkowitz



Dr. Isaac Hershkowitz is a senior Lecturer in Bar-Ilan University's Jewish Philosophy Department. He specializes in Modern Rabbinic Literature and Thought. he is also chair of the Research Forum on German Rabbis and the Holocaust at The Carlebach Institute. His research fields are Jewish Thought during and after the Holocaust, Philosophy of Halakha, and Religious-Zionism.

His recent book revealed the philosophy and Halakhic worldview of Rabbi Dr. Mordekhai Vogelmann, last rabbi of Katowicz, and rabbi of Kiryat-Motzkin.

Dr. Jehuda Hartman



Dr. Jehuda Hartman specializes in the history of Hungarian Jews in modern times. He holds a Ph.D. in Jewish History from Bar Ilan University and a Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of California in Los Angeles. Was associated with several universities and research institutions in Israel, the US and Canada. Hartman developed computerized mathematical systems for an international consortium, which were implemented in Europe, Japan and the US. He founded an Israeli company for developing industrial optimization systems and was its chief scientist. Hartman is a recipient of the Israel national defense prize. His book 'Patriots without Homeland: Hungarian Jewish Orthodoxy from Emancipation to Holocaust' appeared in 2020.

Dr. Hartman wishes to further his study of Hungarian Jewry since the Emancipation. He is also collecting material on Holocaust Heroine Mala Zimetboim.

David Holits



David Holits was born in 1947 in Transylvania to parents who survived the Holocaust. The family immigrated to Israel in the summer of 1950. About half a year after difficult assimilation hardships similar to many of the immigrants, they settled in Petah Tikva where his parents lived all their days and where he spent his youth.

Holits worked in ELTA (the Israel Aircraft Industry) in Ashdod, where he worked in advanced high-tech fields and at the same time completed his master's degree studies at Tel Aviv University. His master's thesis, which dealt with the "labor service" in Hungary between 1939 - 1944, was written under the guidance of Dr. Rafi Vago .

David Holits continues his research, on the Hungarian labor service, especially about Jewish prisoners in the Soviet camps. In this context, he brings the story of the labor service to the general public through lectures in various places, among them Yad Vashem, the Beit Haedot in Nir Galim, the Israel Aircraft Industry, the geriatric institution "Ganim" and more.

On May 14, 2008, he published an article in the "Shabbat" supplement of "Makor Rishon", "From Camps to Camps" dealing with the Jewish prisoners from the labor service in the Soviet camps. On October 2, 2008, Yalkut Morsheth [85] also published his article "Jewish recruits in labor service companies in Soviet captivity".

Additional subjects he investigates are: 1. The death march to Volary in Czechoslovakia. 2. The activities of Rabbi Weissmandel from Slovakia to stop the Holocaust. 3. The various aspects of the absorption of the immigration wave to Israel in the early 50's.

Dr. Nadav Kaplan



Dr. Nadav Kaplan holds a B.A. in Economics and Business Administration from Bar-Ilan University, an M.Sc. in Management from The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and a Ph.D. from The University of Haifa.

Prof. Maoz Azaryahu served as his advisor for his interdisciplinary doctoral dissertation, “A Hero Forgotten and Recovered: The belated commemoration of Raoul Wallenberg in Sweden and Hungary”.

In addition to his continuous business career, Dr. Kaplan remains actively engaged in several fields of academic research relating to Memory Studies. In addition to his work on the belated commemorations of historical events and individuals, he studies the Holocaust in Hungary. One recent project involves the 1957 assassination of Dr. Israel Kasztner. He is currently completing a monograph and several articles, forthcoming via various academic platforms.

Dr. Menachem Keren-Kratz



Dr. Menachem Keren-Kratz is an independent scholar. In 2009 he completed a PhD in Yiddish literature (summa cum laude, Bar-Ilan University, Israel), and in 2013 he received an additional PhD in Jewish history (Tel-Aviv University, Israel). His first book was *Maramaros-Sziget: Extreme Orthodoxy and Secular Jewish Culture at the Foothills of the Carpathian Mountains* (Jerusalem: The Dov Sadan Publishing Project of the Hebrew University, 2013, in Hebrew). His recent book is *The Zealot: The Satmar Rebbe – Rabbi Yoel Teitelbaum* (Jerusalem: Zalman Shazar Center, 2020, in Hebrew). His two upcoming books are *Zealotry and Piety: Jewish Hungarian Orthodoxy* (London: Routledge, 2024, English) and *Bnei Brak: From Colony to the Capital of Israel's Haredi society* (Jerusalem: Yad ben-Zvi, 2024, Hebrew).

Over seventy of his articles, both in Hebrew and in English, were accepted for publication in academic and semi-academic publications. These included several peer-reviewed article collections as well as many academic journals such as: *Dapim: Studies on the Holocaust*; *Modern Judaism*; *Contemporary Jewry*; *Israel Studies Review*; *Israel Studies*; *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies*; *Jewish Political Studies Review*; *Association of Jewish Studies Review*; *Jewish Studies Quarterly*; *Jewish Quarterly Review*; *Religions*; and *Tradition* (in English); and *Identities*; *Cathedra*; *Kesher*; *Da'at*; *Moreshet Israel*; *Dor Le-Dor*; *History, Thought, Reality*; and *Moreshet* (in Hebrew) He also lectured in many local and international conferences.

Zehava Kor



Zehava Kor was born in 1957 in Nir Galim to parents who were the establishers of the settlement. Her mother Sarah was born in Jerusalem. Her father Dugo (David) Leitner was born in the city of Nyiregyhaza in Hungary, survived the local ghetto and Auschwitz-Birkenau, Mauthausen, Gunskirchen camps. In memory of those who did not survive the death march on January 18th 1945 like Dugo, he founded the custom of eating falafel, now known as *Mivtza Dugo*, led by Testimony House Beit Haedut.

Zehava Kor holds a BA degree in English literature from Tel Aviv University. She served in the IDF as an education officer at a military boarding school. She wrote 8 books in Hebrew for children and youth, among them *Dugo's Story* which was translated into Hungarian and English.

Zehava Kor continues with her father the work of imparting the memory of the Holocaust to the youth by guiding at the Testimony House in Nir Galim and by lectures.

Prof. Ruth Landau



Prof. Ruth Landau studied Sociology and Political Science (BA) at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and Social Work (BSW), at the University of Haifa. She has an MSW and PhD in Social Work from Rutgers University, New Jersey, USA. She studied history at Tel Aviv University.

She was employed at the Ramat Gan Municipality, Hamosad Lebituach Leumi, Planned Parenthood. For 22 years, until her retirement in 2013, she was a faculty member at the School of Social Work, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She was a member of the National Bioethics Council and of the Committee deciding which medicines and technologies were to be included in the national health basket.

In 2022 she published a book (Resling Publishing) entitled *The Price of Silence: The Jewish Leaderships in Slovakia and Hungary during the Holocaust Era*.

Prof. Ruth Lorand



Prof. Ruth Lorand was born 1948 in Cyprus Nicosia, in a British detention camp. Both of her parents were Holocaust survivors from Transylvania (father) and Hungary (mother) who lost most of their families during the Holocaust. Both spoke Hungarian. They arrived in the new state of Israel in February 1949, and lived in Kiryat Shmuel, Haifa.

She received her BA and MA from the University of Haifa (Hebrew literature and Philosophy) and Ph.D. from Tel-Aviv University (1986). She started her academic career as a teaching assistant at the University of Haifa, the department of philosophy and retired in 2016 (Professor Emerita).

She published mainly in aesthetics and history of philosophy. Among her books: *On the Nature of Art* (Dvir [Hebrew] 1991), *Aesthetic Order* (Routledge 2000), *Beauty as Reflected in Philosophy* (Haifa University [Hebrew] 2007), *On Interpretation and Understanding* (Tel Aviv University [Hebrew] 2010), *Order and Disorder* (Carmel [Hebrew] 2016).

She also published literary works in Hebrew: *First Term* (stories, Sifriat Poalim 1976), *A Lesson in Metaphysics* (poetry, Am Oved 2006), *Hungarian Lace* (novel, Safra 2018).

She is married to Prof. Giora Hon, have a daughter Dr. Dorit Barchana-Lorand, and three granddaughters: Ella, Lily and Talma.

Prof. Michael L. Miller



Prof. Michael L. Miller is head of the Nationalism Studies program at Central European University in Vienna, and co-founder of its Jewish Studies program. He received his B.A. from Brown University, where he specialized in European History and Old World Archaeology and Art. He received his PhD in History from Columbia University, where he specialized in Jewish and Central European History. Michael's research focuses on the impact of nationality conflicts on the religious, cultural, and political development of Central European Jewry in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

His articles have appeared in *Slavic Review*, *Austrian History Yearbook*, *Simon Dubnow Institute Yearbook*, *Múlt és Jövő* and *The Jewish Quarterly Review*. Miller's book, *Rabbis and Revolution: The Jews of Moravia in the Age of Emancipation*, was published by Stanford University Press in 2011. It appeared in Czech translation as *Moravští Židé v době emancipace* (Nakladatelství Lidové noviny, 2015). He is one of the authors of *Zwischen Prag und Nikolsburg: Leben in den böhmischen Ländern* (Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2019), which will appear in English as *Prague and Beyond: Jews in the Bohemian Lands* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2020). He is currently working on a history of Hungarian Jewry, titled *Manovill: A Tale of Two Hungarys*.

Meir Nachshon



Meir Nachshon was born in Budapest, Hungary, after World War II, to parents who were Holocaust survivors. He immigrated to Israel with his family in 1963. He enlisted in the IDF and served three years mandatory service, followed by an additional four years, out of which two years were in a Security Establishment in Europe.

Nachshon studied at the Technion in the Faculty of Industrial Engineering Economics and Management, graduating with honors. He was an executive in large companies (Solel Boneh, Africa-Israel), predominantly in the field of finance, marketing, entrepreneurship and as a CEO for nearly two decades. He was also one of the owners of a software company specializing in the real estate industry that operated in the mid-2000s in 17 countries around the world.

Since 2018, Meir has been engaged both in writing, but mainly in documenting Hungarian Jewry in all its facets and nuances on the Hebrew Wikipedia. He wishes to give the Israeli reader a complete and unique picture of Hungarian Jews. There will soon be 4000 articles on the subject, a huge volume of documentation that has no equal in the Hebrew Wikipedia.

Dr. Ayala Nedivi



Dr. Ayla Nedivi taught history and civics in high school, and as a teaching supervisor. At the same time, she studied at the University of Haifa in the departments of Jewish History, Hebrew Literature and Eretz- Israel Studies. The subject of her dissertation was "**The Palestine Office in Budapest: Its actions in saving Jews from 1943-1945 and their formulation in the collective memory**" (2009).

She worked at the Jerusalem College, at the Institute for Holocaust Studies, and has been involved in a variety of issues related to the Holocaust and its inclusion in the education system, such as writing quiz books and questions for a bi-annual Holocaust quiz. She also participates in research on various subjects, most of them related to Hungary, such as the project on introductions in the books of rabbis that constitute a historical document on the Holocaust, as well as diaries and memoirs

She published various articles and the book "**Between Krausz and Kasztner - The Struggle for the Rescue of the Hungarian Jews**" (2014), and the book "**Rescue from Tangier**" (2017), which she wrote with Rebbetzin Esther Farbstein.

Dr. Nedivi continues to explore the rescue program known as the "**Kasztner Train**". Among the questions that should be explored: When, how, and why was the program developed? What was the train's real destination? What were the politics conditions when the train departed? What happened during the three days that the train stopped at the Hungary-Austria border and why? Who were struggled for the release the passengers from Bergen-Belsen and in which conditions? How did the implementation of the rescue program affect the efforts of the rescue of Hungarian Jewry? And more.

Dr. Attila Novak



Dr. Attila Novak is a historian, a Senior Research Fellow at the Thomas Molnar Institute for Advanced Studies (National University of Public Service in Budapest) and the Goldziher Ignaz Institute for Jewish History and Culture in Budapest (an institution of MAZSIHISZ - the Federation of Jewish Communities in Hungary). He completed his Master's degree in History and Philosophy, then PhD in History at the Eötvös Loránd University of Sciences in Budapest (ELTE). His doctoral thesis deals with Zionism in Hungary after World War II and is based on Israeli and Hungarian archival materials and testimonies. He also studied in the Nationalism Studies program in Budapest at the CEU (MA 1999).

He received a postdoctoral fellowship and was a research fellow at Yad Vashem (International Institute for Holocaust Research, 2003).

Between 1999-2011 he was the editor of the Hungarian Jewish cultural monthly Szombat. His area of academic interest includes the history of Hungarian Jewry during and after World War II, the Zionist rescue movement of 1944, and the political and ideological problems of Zionism in East-Central Europe.

He was the Cultural Attaché at the Hungarian Embassy in Tel Aviv between 2012-2016. Recently he also deals with the history of Hungarian Jewry after 1949 and the history of Hungarian-Israeli relations and Orthodox Judaism in Hungary - in the light of archival sources. He has a book about the Zionist trial in Budapest in 1953, in which he described the process by which Communist leaders in Hungary attacked and imprisoned Jewish activists for being Zionists.

Prof. Ilana Rosen



Prof. Ilana Rosen is a Professor in the Department of Hebrew literature at Ben Gurion University of the Negev. She is a researcher of folk and documentary literature of Jews and Israelis in the twentieth century. She has published six studies and over forty articles on these topics. Her research interests include the memory of the Holocaust, the culture of Jews of Hungary and Central Europe, immigration and settlement in Israel focusing on the country's southern area, literature of various kind written by Israelis of Egyptian origin, and proverb research.

Agnes (Agi) Shemesh



Agnes (Agi) Shemesh is an information specialist at the Jewish Studies Library at Bar-Ilan University. She was Born in Budapest, Hungary. After immigrating to Israel, she received a B.A in Jewish history and Information studies, and M.A in Jewish history from Bar-Ilan University. Her M.A. thesis examines the Religious Zionist Jewish movements in Hungary between 1919 – 1949. The thesis was supervised by Prof. Haim Genizi.

In 2012 together with Prof. Genizi she published an article on the revival of Jewish Zionism in post WWII Hungary (1945-1949). In: Y. Arnon, Y. Friedlander, D. Schwartz (eds.) "Studies in Religious Zionism", (University of Bar Ilan Press- 2012, and also in: Genizi,Haim; "Ginzei Haim: Studies in the Holocaust Period"

Since 2000 she works in the Jewish Studies Library at Bar Ilan University as a information specialist. She is responsible of the periodicals department and manages several projects. (CRIS ect.) She is also responsible of the Hungarian collection which includes books which were published in Hungary during WWII and after the war.

She researched the Zionist movements in Hungary and especially the religious Zionist movements during the holocaust and the ramification of the holocaust on the Hungarian Zionist activities after the Holocaust. She also researched the ramifications of the Kastner trial on the Israeli attitude to the research of Hungarian Zionist activities during the Holocaust.

Dr. Anna Szalai



Dr. Anna Szalai is a Budapest University Ph.D. graduate in literature, engaged in research and editing. She was a senior researcher and lecturer at the Jewish Studies Institute of the Hebrew University. Her research topics concerned Jews in Hungarian literature, the legacy of Hungarian Jews and the legacy of Hungarian speaking Jews in Israel. In 2013 Dr. Szalai won the Scheiber Prize in Budapest.

Dr. Szalai's latest enterprises: *אה לבדך תביני* (Hanna Szenes' Letters 1935–1944. Edited and annotated by Anna Szalai; Israel, Hakibbutz Hameuchad Publishing House, 2014). *Hagyománymentés és útkeresés* (Jews in Hungarian romans after the emancipation until the Holocaust as presented by Jewish and non-Jewish writers; Budapest, Gondolat Publishing House, 2018). *Entertainment between Worlds* (a tri-lingual book: Hebrew, Hungarian, English about Béla Pásztor 1895–1966 and his era. Pásztor was a Jewish actor engaged in theater and cinema, the founder of the Hungarian theater in Israel; Israel, Zafra Books, 2018). „...*lehet, hogy messze szakadunk egymástól...*” (Hanna Szenes' and her families' life in Hungary until her immigration to Israel; Budapest, Wallenberg Books IX, 2021). *A Kárpát-medencétől a Földközi-tengerig*, מאגן הקרפטים ועד הים התיכון (Hungarian speakers in Israel. Initiating and editing in Hebrew and in Hungarian; Budapest, Gondolat Publishing House, 2021).

Dr. Moshe Vered



Moshe Vered is a physicist (Ph.D. The Weizmann Institute of Science) by profession, who devoted his career to applied research of nascent technologies. After his retirement, he began researching his family's Hungarian roots.

Following that, he enrolled as a graduate student in Tel-Aviv University, the Department of Jewish History. In honor of his grandfather who served as a highly decorated sergeant in the Hungarian army in World War I, his M.A. thesis dealt with the question of "Shirkers or Participants – The Public Debate about the Combat Service of Hungarian-Jewish Soldiers in World War I". This thesis was graded as *summa cum laude*. Another of his research papers dealt with another part of his family history – "The Nagymegyer Ghetto in Upper Hungary, May-June 1944" which appeared in the *Moreshet Journal of the Study of the Holocaust and Antisemitism*, vol. 18, December 2020, pp. 125-159. This paper was awarded the Guttman Prize for Holocaust research, 2022. Currently he is researching and collecting material for a possible Ph.D. thesis concerning the Aliyah (immigration to Israel) from Hungary following World War II.

David Weisberger



David Weisberger was born in the Jewish hospital in Miskolc in 1947. Until 1957 the family lived in Szendrő, a town in the North Eastern Hungary. In 1954 he studied for six months in cheder in Budapest. From Szendrő they moved to Miskolc, where his Father served as the secretary of the community and its administrative manager. For two more years (1959-61) he studied at the Budapest Yeshiva, the only Yeshiva at that time in Eastern Europe. At the end of 1962 the family immigrated to Israel and lived in Be'er Sheva.

After his military service, he was hired by Motorola as a regional technician for the Western Negev and the Gaza Strip. He completed evening studies in practical electronic engineering and later studies in accounting and business administration at Tel Aviv University. He was involved in the management and establishment of large wireless communication and command and control projects, wireless telephone and in a later phase cellular systems, in Israel as well as in East and West African countries. Among other things, he and his family lived for two years on the Ivory Coast, as the Technical Director of the French branch that also represented Motorola in the area.

In 1994, he was in the founding team of the independent Pelephone company in positions of steering, establishing and managing engineering departments. He retired from the company in 2011 after 41 years of work at Motorola and Pelephone.

Hungarian Jewry, the Holocaust, especially its periphery has occupied his thoughts ever since. His mother was born in Hungary, but grew up in Slovakia. His wife was born in Transylvania to a Hungarian-speaking family, immigrated with her parents and sisters at the age of 8 months, also to Beer Sheva. All of this brings him to a permanent involvement in the culture and history of Judaism in those regions. He regularly reads books in Hungarian, English, French (too little) and of course Hebrew. Mainly interested of the history of the People of Israel, the Hungarian people and the peoples of Europe in general. Writes and publishes on the issues of Hungarian Jewry as well as the Holocaust period in local communities and especially in social networks of Hungarian speakers in Hebrew and in Hungarian. Married and father of three children, grandfather of 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.