



"TO BE A BUKOVINIAN"

BUKOLINK

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My Dear friends,

For the past nine months we have sent you this unique on-line newsletter; which is not written by professional journalists, but written by all of us, in that you send us your memories, the stories of your parents: about life in Bukovina before the Holocaust; their survival, their heroism, their sacrifice.

Many friends have not heard their parents tell the stories (since their parents did not want them to grieve), others have said, "we were not so interested in listening since we were too busy in the race of life ..."

So, I ask you to share with all of us, please send pictures, certificates, artifacts, or stories that you have heard at home. It is important for us to receive your responses and share them with one another.

All the best from Shifra

and the entire team at

The World Organization of Bukovina Jews and Descendants

"And There Were Also Those Who...."

"Righteous Among the Nations";

Theodor Kriviano

Theodor Kriviano from the town of Brashov was a lawyer who had been recruited as a reserve officer to transfer Antonescu's secret plan to concentrate the Jews of Chernowitz into a ghetto to the Romanian governor.

As part of his job, he was assigned to submit a list of names of Jews to the authorities who were required for work. In spite of the instructions, and despite the great risk to his own life, Theodor secretly granted permits beyond the quota for essential Jews; among them Osias and Berta Hefter and their daughters Hilda and Melvina.

In her testimony at Yad Vashem, Hilda Hefter stated that Theodor Kriviano had granted permits to many Jews who were not essential or eligible, and thus saved them from deportation to camps in Transnistria.

During this period, an emotional attachment formed between Theodore and Melvina Hefter, and Theodor Kriviano passed the permits to Jews from himself through her.

Theodor and Malvina married and in 1945 their son Willy (now Ze'ev) was born. In 1950, Melvina and her son Ze'ev immigrated to Israel. Theodor remained in Romania where he died in 1988.

On August 8, 2007, a ceremony was held at Yad Vashem for the awarding of the title of "Righteous Among the Nations" to Theodor Kriviano of Romania.

His son Ze'ev (Willy) Kriviano received the medal in his father's honor.

"Chronology of the Holocaust"

May 5, 1939 - The enactment of the second anti-Jewish law in Hungary, which defined who is a Jew and greatly reduced Jewish activity in the economy.

May 15, 1939 - the women's concentration camp was established in Ravensbruck near Berlin. (From the summer of 1942, medical experimentation was carried out; in 1943 a crematorium was activated in the camp and at the beginning of the year 1945 a gas chamber was activated).

May 17, 1939 - The publication of the 'White Paper', which effectively reduced British commitments in the British Mandate and the announcement of the Balfour Declaration which severely restricted immigration to Israel. Following the reduction of immigration quotas and the intensification of persecution of the Jews in the Third Reich led to increased immigration to Palestine.

"Where did I Lose My Childhood"

By Helen Livnat

They took me and my doll
They tied her to my suitcase
And we walked out into the snow
.And the soldiers just whip and whip

And I do not have food to eat
And I have no garment for my child
And the snow is so very cold
.And the fears are so very great

And the doll cries with me
We want to go home to my own bed
;And I have no more strength to carry her
And into the mud she falls; lost

And with her fall she takes with her

!My lost childhood

"The Brave Soldier; Sigmund"

By Aliza Solomon

My father, Sigmund Roth was born in 1911 in Sedagora, a small town near the large city of Chernowitz, which until 1918 was the capital of Bukovina and under Austrian rule. His own father did not return from WWI, to which he was recruited to serve in the army of the Emperor Franz Joseph.

Until the age of 6 my father studied in the "cheder" and learned Hebrew in preparation for his bar mitzvah. When he reached the age of 7, he entered elementary school and at the end of first grade received a certificate that was still written in German.

This changed during the Romanian rule and everyone was forced to speak Romanian to the chagrin of the Jews. From the diploma we see the list of professions that were mandatory at the time; at the top of the list appears behavior and then religion; a broad subject for thought.



A photograph of Sigmund and his friends during their army service on their horses.

"The granddaughter of a member of the Nazi party who became a fighter in the Israeli Defense Forces"

Thanks to Hannah Dayan



Gaia Bartela has an extraordinary family story: her grandfather on her father's side was a member of the Nazi Party Organization and served as the head of a village in southern Germany.

"My grandfather Johann never regretted his support for Nazism and its race theory," she says. "He fully supported all of the party's positions and did not change his mind even after the war, but held it until the day of his death and often said that 'everyone knows that Jews are pigs, greedy and deceitful'; it was a common conversation".

Gaia served as a squad commander in the IDF, but after an injury she moved to the operations division of the battalion.

She adds that, "I am absolutely convinced that if he had ever known that his son, my father, would have decided to convert to Judaism and that I had become a combat commander in the IDF, he would have been furious and cut off contact with him and the rest of us. There is no doubt that he is turning over in his grave."

Gaia's father, Hans Bartela, is now one of the most well-known confectioners in Israel. He was born at the end of WWII, to a Christian family of seven children.

His two brothers joined the German army, one was captured by the British and the other was a pilot who was shot down and killed.

"My father never felt like he belonged in Germany," says Gaia. "He did not get along with the strictness, and he did not like the cold German personality. In Germany, you can walk down the street and no one will even look at you; like you do not exist. You can fall down and die and no one will care.

My father disliked this type of character, and this was his primary motivation to move away from his birthplace."

Father then studied how to be a pastry chef and was sent by the Hilton chain to work in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, while he hid his German identity and told them that he was a Swiss citizen.

In the meantime, he fell in love with the Israeli way of life and he felt that he wanted to belong to it, so he began the complex process of conversion.

At the age of 26 he enlisted in the IDF and even fought as a gunner in the Yom Kippur War.

In Israel, Hans met his wife, who came from a family of Holocaust survivors. Gaia's great-grandmother, who had survived the Holocaust, received Hans with open arms.

According to Gaia, the connection between the Holocaust-survivor side of her mother and the German-side of her father led her to enlist into a combat unit.

"There is a closure of two circles here; to protect my mother, which my great-grandmother could not do, and to be a soldier in the army of the people that my grandfather hated and wanted to exterminate."

On the other hand, I continue the deep spiritual development of my father, who chose to belong to another people and culture; the opposite of what he had been brought up with.

This is my unique contribution to the people of Israel, and I am very proud of my path."

RECIPE CORNER FROM THE BUKOVINIAN KITCHEN

"Torte cake with sour cream"

:Ingredients for the dough

100 grams butter

1/2 cup sugar

1 bag of vanilla sugar

1 egg

3 tablespoons milk

two and a half cups flour

Dough Preparation:

Mix all the ingredients for the pastry dough, divide into two. Flatten each half into a 26-inch baking dish and bake until golden. Remove one dough from the pan while still hot and keep the other in the baking dish - let cool.

Ingredients for the cream:

1/2 cup powdered sugar

100 grams butter softened

200 grams Sour cream

100 g chopped walnuts (you should toast them a little in a hot pan).

Preparation of the cream:

Whip the butter with the powdered sugar

add the sour cream while whipping, add the nuts.

Preparing the cake:

Spread the cream carefully on the pastry on base of the pan and place the cold dough on top of it.

Cool in the refrigerator for at least six hours - preferably overnight. Sprinkle powdered sugar on top or spread good jam.

ENJOY!

(This cake originally consisted of three or four layers of dough, with layers of cream between them.)