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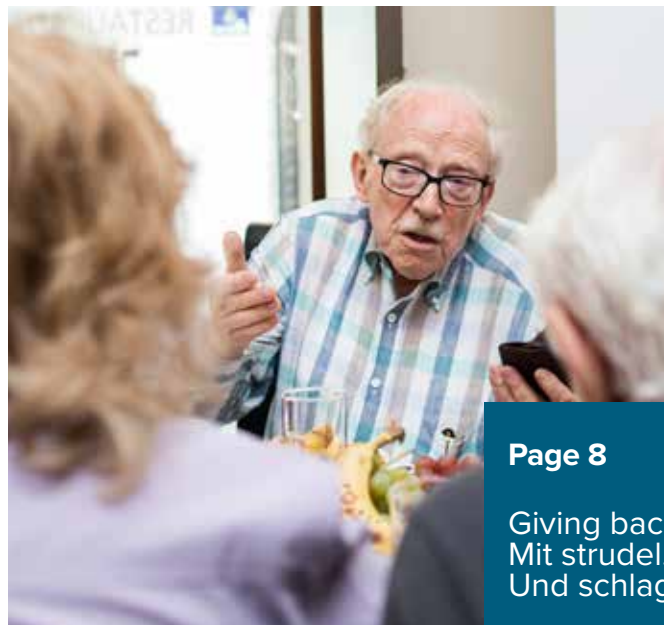
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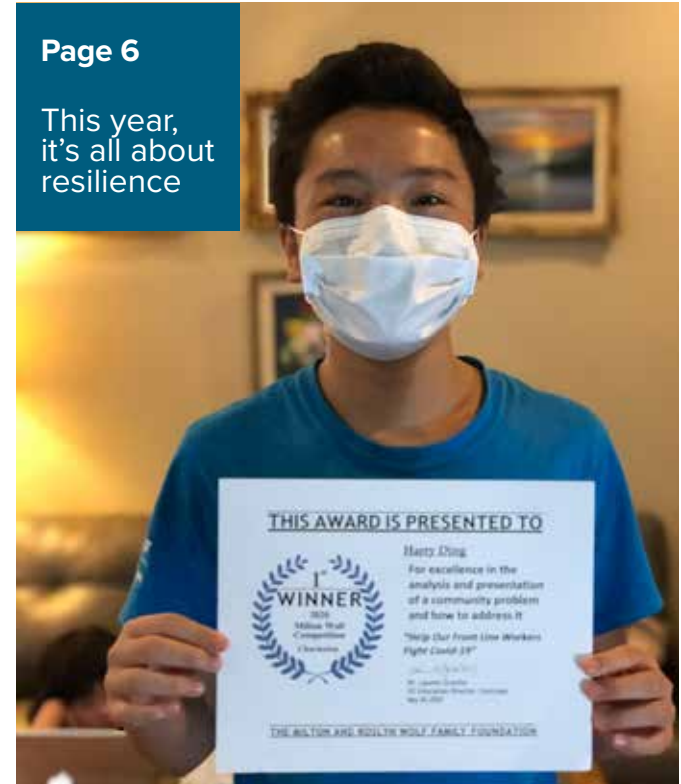
About the cover. From left: Stella Kale, a teacher in the Thessaloniki Jewish School at our Centropa Jewish Network seminar in Berlin (Robert Bacs); center: in the Holocaust Memorial, Berlin (Robert Bacs); Right: Vienna International School students (Ouriel Morgensztern).



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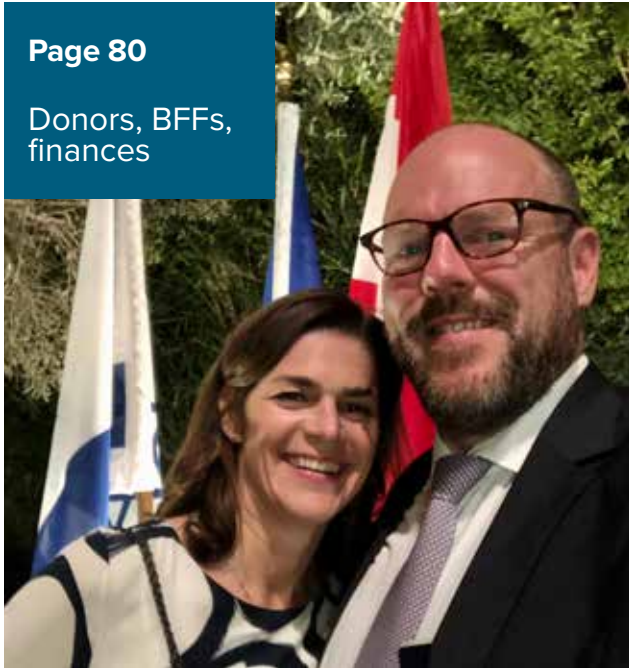
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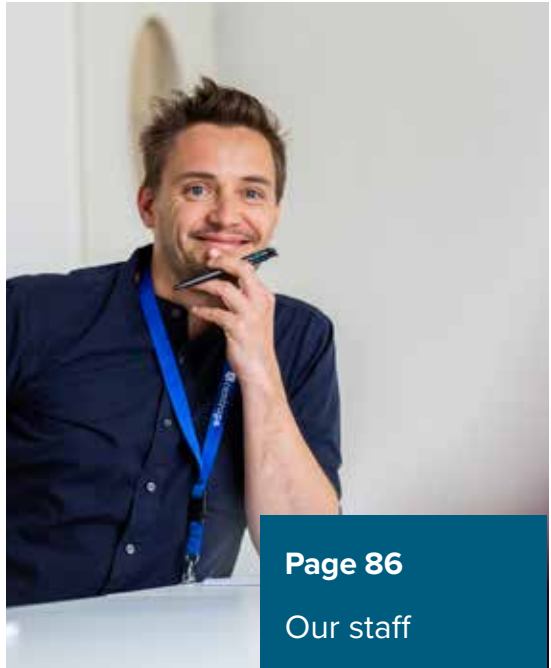
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A dedication

Somewhere up in heaven, Charles Dickens is feeling relieved he didn't have to write the first lines of *A Tale of Two Cities* about 2020. After all, unless you are in the mask, plexiglass, or vaccine business, few of us would call these the best of times.

We live in cities where stores have closed for good, restaurant owners have given the keys back to their landlords, and hotel entrances have been sealed shut, sometimes with ugly court orders taped to their doors. Factories have furloughed, laid off, and fired workers and in the US, at this writing, the Corona crisis is still sending a great many people to hospitals, and hundreds to cemeteries every week.

In these extremely difficult times, we would like to dedicate this annual report to a very special group of people: the classroom teachers we work with in the US, throughout Europe, and in Israel.

Centropa counts well more than seven hundred educators in our network. Some are as young as twenty-five and are brimming with passion and enthusiasm. A few are well past retirement age but love teaching too much to give it up.

We have long believed if you want to change society for the better, you invest in teachers, because these are the people, in every country, who stand on the front lines of civil society. That's because we entrust teachers to tackle difficult subjects, create a safe space for teens to try out new ideas and grow, and encourage their young minds to employ critical thinking.

No teacher however, signed on to work the front lines of a worldwide, debilitating, and oft-times murderous pandemic. Yet that is where they find themselves today.

Centropa teachers have told us about holding Zoom meetings with teenagers trying to learn in overcrowded apartments in Newark and Houston, and who need regular WhatsApp one-on-one calls to cheer them up. Teachers in Lithuania and Poland wrote to say how their students, some of whom live in farm towns with poor internet connections at home, bicycle each morning to the village square where they sit on a park bench outside city hall or crowd into their towns' libraries so they can join their classes.

Teachers have become cheerleaders, life coaches, tutors, and psychologists, all while tending to their own difficulties at home. And they do this on salaries—to keep up the Dickens analogy—that would make Ebenezer Scrooge blanche.

But here's some good news to share about 2020. Between April and August, we held two online webinars: the first was for Polish, Ukrainian, German, and Moldovan teachers; a second was open to teachers from across our network, and a third, held in August, was held in person for 30 socially distanced Polish teachers. Together, more than 300 teachers signed on, showed up, and took part in our webinars and seminars, and 67 of them started cross-border, international partnerships to connect their students in this most isolating of years.

That is as clear a signal and as powerful a message as we can share with you. Our teachers care. Our teachers are doing everything they can to brighten the day and engage their students in these difficult times. Which is why we salute them and why we thank you for your support.



This year, it's all about resilience

Although this annual report focuses on what we accomplished in 2019, the world we live in now dictates that we highlight our current programs, because Centropa is placed like no other Jewish historical institute to meet the challenges we are now facing. In fact, it is as if we were made for these times.

Back when we were founded 20 years ago, we used new technologies to combine the old-fashioned art of storytelling with tens of thousands of family pictures. To get a glimpse of how broad this archive of digitized memory is, just turn to the *20 Stories* section of this report.

Not only have we preserved the Jewish world of yesterday in ways no one else ever did, you can access this library on your phone, your tablet, or your laptop. And in this report we'll show you what we are doing with our archive: publishing books, creating temporary and permanent museum exhibitions, producing award-winning multimedia films and co-operating with some of the world's most prestigious universities (especially with digital humanities departments). But during this Covid-19 crisis, the most important things we're engaged in right now are our school programs in North America, Europe, and Israel.

For teachers, we are offering professional development programs quite unlike anyone else. Not only did 167 teachers from 25 countries take part in our virtual Summer Academy in July 2020, 67 of them signed up to form cross-border partnerships so their students—whether stuck at home or back in class—can carry out projects with kids their own age in other countries.

Just as important, since the world went into lockdown in March, 2020, we have been placing a special emphasis on stories of resilience, because we could all use a few inspiring stories these days. And although we are not comparing the Covid crisis with what our interviewees endured during the Holocaust, by looking at the past with them, they help us draw lessons for our own time.

For instance, Shelly and Raya, pictures on the opposite page, fled from their homes in North Carolina in 2013 to visit the farmer's family who had hidden them for 28 months during the Second World War. Shelly, on the left, has looked at life ever since as one giant

gift that keeps on giving, which is why she has been on Zoom calls speaking to teachers as well as on other Zoom calls that have been bringing her directly into teenagers' bedrooms, meaning, of course, their virtual classrooms. The multimedia film we made that tells their story, and which Shelly and Raya narrate, has been screened not only in classrooms all over the US, but even in cinemas in Ukraine.

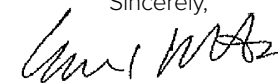
On the right is clearly a woman you wouldn't want to tangle with. Meet Elena Drapkina, and by the time you read this, we will have completed a multimedia film about Elena, who passed away not long after she shared with us her life story in 2005. Elena told us that in 1943, she escaped the infamous Minsk Ghetto, found a band of Russian partisans and announced, "I'm a Jew. They killed my family. Now give me a weapon."

Bottom left, that's Zeyneba Hardaga, the first Muslim to be given a Righteous Gentile award for saving a Jewish friend in Sarajevo during the Second World War. But that's not the only story we tell about Zeyneba, because when her city was besieged in the 1990s, Zeyneba and her family were trapped there. This means it was time to rescue a hero and that's when a former diplomat and deal-making businessman from Cleveland, Milton Wolf, rolled up his sleeves and called in every chit owed him to get Zeyneba and her family out of the war zone.

Sociologists tell us that we can plot every society on a bell-shaped curve. There's a tiny percentage of people who do terrible things. The vast majority, to varying degrees, are in the middle, but then there's that tiny piece of the bell curve all the way on the right. Those are the people who interest us. Those are the stories we want to tell. Especially these days.

We at Centropa thank all our friends and supporters who make our programs possible. And be in touch if you'd like to help us at this critical time.

Sincerely,



Edward Serotta
Director



Giving back. Mit strudel. Und schlag.

Café Centropa in Vienna and Budapest

We've been saying this since June 2006: Centropa is surely the only oral history institute in the world with its own social club.

Fourteen years ago, when we decided to celebrate the completion of our Vienna interviews, the US, British, and Israeli ambassadors offered to host an event for us while Tanja Eckstein, who had conducted most of those interviews, telephoned everyone on her list.

Seventy guests attended, and as we tucked into our strudel and sipped our Viennese mélange, someone asked: can we do this again next month? Indeed, we did, and since June 2006, we have met 154 times.

Tanja began writing a monthly newsletter and sending it around to more than a hundred of our regulars, and stayed in touch with them by phone, too, never forgetting birthdays or the Jewish holidays.

In 2019, we held three holiday dinners along with eight *Kaffee und Kuchen* events. We invited novelists, opera singers, and Sephardic musicians to play for our Holocaust survivors, and we attracted between 40 to 120 guests.

Just downstream on the Danube in Budapest, in 2019 we held six events for our seniors, who engaged with novelists, cookbook writers, and actors.

In both Vienna and Budapest, Café Centropa events are open to everyone—of a certain age. Our clubs are, sadly, growing smaller each year, but even though many of our members are in their late nineties, they are a hale bunch, and we will continue to host events for them as long as even one of them wishes to meet.



COVID-19 UPDATE: in Vienna, our Jewish community has been extremely pro-active during the months of lockdown. Every Holocaust survivor was phoned on a regular basis, the Jewish community sent freshly cooked meals to them at home, and even sent over iPads and iPhones so they could stay in better touch with our community's social welfare workers and psychologists. Budapest's Jewish community proved to be almost as engaged, providing food, medical care, and calls from social workers and psychologists.







Top row: Stefan Sablic is the cantor of the Belgrade synagogue, a theater director, and a Ladino singer. We brought Stefan to Vienna for our Hanukkah party, 2019. Ethel Merhaut, an opera singer here in Vienna (which really says something) entertains our seniors.

Bottom left: Bela Koreny is a Hungarian born classical pianist.

Bottom right: actor Michael Masula reads from the book *Where is Home?* by Gad Granach.

Children don't do poker face

As stated elsewhere, Centropa was founded so we could preserve Jewish memory in the lands where it has been all but wiped out. While there are Jewish communities still extant in Central and Eastern Europe—and they should be applauded and supported in all that they do to maintain Jewish life—our focus is memory. The Jews we interviewed are the last souls alive who can describe what their communities were like in the 1930s.

While we still have these time witnesses among us, we do everything we can to bring them together with high school students. But just as Centropa is unique in our approach to preserving memory, so are our youth meetings.

While we do sometimes send an individual survivor to meet with high school students, more often than not we try and fill a room with students who move from table to table,

speaking with our Café Centropa members and engaging them in conversation. In many cases, the students have read the survivors' stories on our website before their visit, and now they have the chance to ask them questions.

As every parent and teacher knows, most children have not yet learned to mask their feelings with a poker face, and these pictures, all taken in Vienna by Ouriel Morgensztern, speak volumes. On this page and on the top of the next, we see our Café Centropa members meeting students from a school in Vienna. Below are students from a Jewish school in the United States.





20 Years 20 Countries 20 Stories

The Library of Rescued Memories

When we began our interview program 20 years ago, the goal was to seek out a thousand elderly Jews still living between the Baltic and the Aegean Seas and ask them to tell us stories about the entire twentieth century, just as they lived it.

We never used video in those interviews, which often lasted between four to six hours, nor did we focus primarily on the Holocaust. That's because the people we met were the last time-witnesses to a world that no longer exists: the Jewish world of yesterday. Ten years from now, a hundred years from now, the Centropa archive will make for even more compelling reading. In these stories, we have opened a window onto that vanished world, and in the following pages you will meet the man who saved the life of a frightened little girl in wartime Vienna, visit a small market town in western Romania to admire an oversized ox, and sit under a shade tree in the Turkish town of Bursa.

By the end of 2009, we had sat on 1,260 sofas or at dining room tables, held up 25,281 old photographs and documents, and asked our respondents, "Who are we looking at here?" And "What's the story behind this ID card?"

Those were the questions that, every single time, would elicit either a smile or a grimace. Stories would follow, sometimes slowly, hesitantly; at other times, with a great gush of emotion.

Twenty years before we sat down with our first interviewee, Susana Hacker in Novi Sad, Serbia, in early 2000, there was no technology to carry out such a program. Twenty years later, meaning today, it is too late to begin now.

Susana sent us to interview three of her friends, and afterwards she told us, "You know, you are the fourth group who has come to our community. But you are the first people to ask us how we lived, not just how we died."

The stories in the following pages are but a sample of our collection, from Berlin to Bucharest, the Baltics to the Balkans, and places in between. We call it a library of rescued memories.



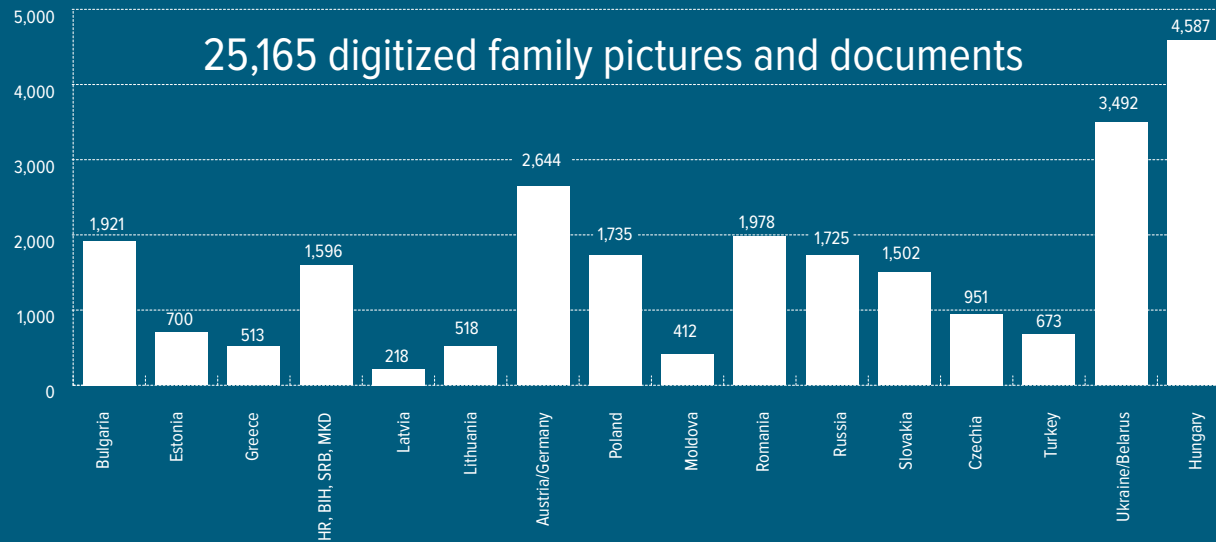
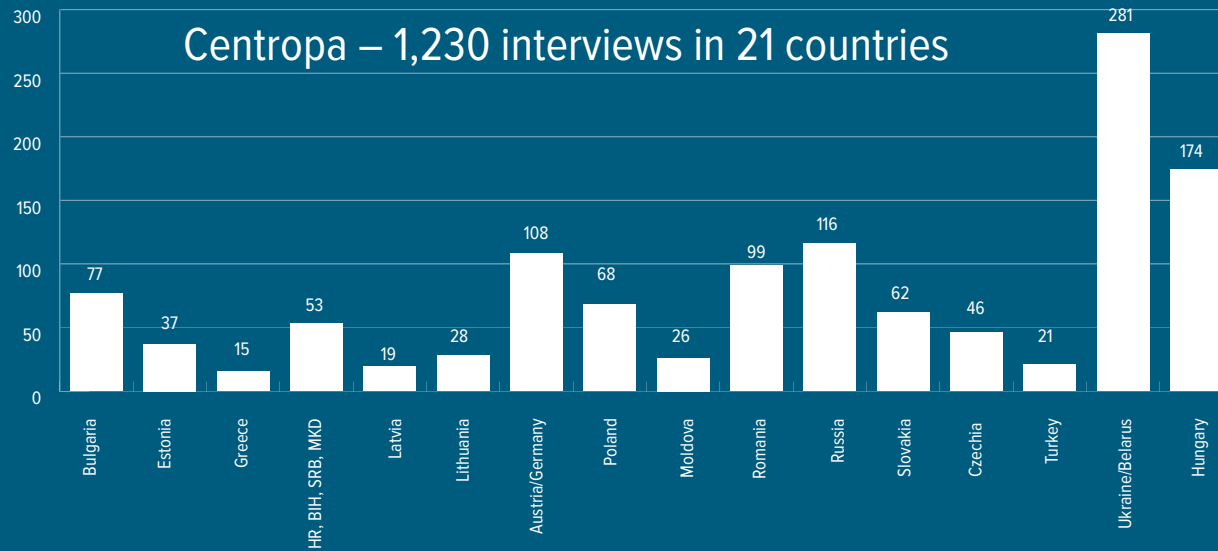
3,654 hours of digitized interview-recordings



3:31:27 average interview length



Number of tapes
2,940





AUSTRIA, HUNGARY, GERMANY, CZECHIA, SLOVAKIA, POLAND, ROMANIA

Austria

Dr Lucia Heilman was interviewed by Tanja Eckstein in Vienna in July 2012.

This is Reinhold Duschka, the man I owe my life to, along with my daughter Monika (behind us, in the middle) and my granddaughter, Lilli. Three generations of us, three generations that would not be here were it not for this brave man. The picture was taken in 1991 at a ceremony honoring Mr Duschke as a Righteous Among the Nations.

He saved my mother and me by hiding us in his workshop for four and a half years. Those were awful times as I simply couldn't go out. But there were four times when Mr Duschke and my mom opened the door for me, and I literally ran up into the Vienna Woods as fast as I could, just to feel the freedom. In hiding, you see, I was always afraid. But when I went running, I never was.

After the war, my mother enrolled me in school. I was four years behind every other child my age, but I was so determined that I woke up every morning at 4:00 and studied like mad until I caught up. My mom and I never lost touch with Mr Duschka; he stayed friends with us until he died. But it was quite late before I could tell my own children, or anyone else, about what I had gone through. Even at the time this picture was taken, in 1991, I wasn't talking about it. When I did, I felt like I was suffocating. But in time I started talking. And now I don't stop. I speak with school children everywhere.

Lucia Heilman (née Treister), like her mother Regina, studied medicine, and became an internist. Lucia married Alfred Heilman, who survived the war in Lviv/Lemberg, and they had three children together, one of whom died in infancy. At this writing, in September 2020, Lucia Heilman is ninety-one years old and is looking forward to meeting students again soon.





Hungary

Hedvig Endrei was interviewed by Szilvia Czingel in Budapest in October 2006.

Here I am in 1940 at my niece's wedding. I was a bridesmaid. And that's my husband, Istvan [or Pista] Endrei, just before he was drafted. The picture was taken in Budapest, on 8 April 1940. He wrote on it: 'With love, Pista.' The photo of us together is one we sent to my mother when we got married.

Pista was born in Budapest in 1914, but grew up in Debrecen. He was of Jewish origin but his father magyarized their name from Edelstein and they converted to Roman Catholicism. We married in 1942 in a civil ceremony. We agreed that our children would be Jewish. That was the condition for my mother's consent. She had been so looking forward to a big wedding at the Dohany Street Synagogue, and it just wasn't possible.

We moved to a flat on Karoly Boulevard, and I still live here. Pista was called up immediately after our wedding. I never saw him again. He was taken into forced labor and he died in Zhytomyr [Ukraine]. We didn't have any children, because we didn't live together even a year.

In this picture I am in the cake shop on Moricz Zsigmond Square in 1952. I first became interested in recipes when I was in a forced labor camp in Austria during the war. My friends, also prisoners, would recite their favorite recipes and I had the only notepaper and pencil so I wrote everything down.

In 1951, I started managing the Bukarest restaurant. I had five or six people working for me, including Feri Gundel, Karoly Gundel's son. Here was the most famous name in food in Hungary and, because he was an undesirable bourgeois, he was working for me! He taught me so much, as did the chef, a short little Romanian man. The Romanian and I then moved over to the Szeged Restaurant, and soon I was learning the finer points of buying the best coffee beans, roasting them, and serving the coffee. Then I started concentrating on ice cream!

This picture was taken on my 90th birthday here on Karoly Boulevard, on 22 May 2005. These are my neighbors and everyone celebrated with me. I have lived here longer than everyone else. My neighbors are all very nice, although people don't talk so much with each other anymore, mostly because of politics.

In 2017, Corvina Publishers released Hedvig Endrei's book of recipes from the forced labor camp and a theater troupe turned it into a play. Hedvig Endrei died in 2012.



Germany



Rosa Rosenstein was interviewed by Tanja Eckstein in Vienna in July 2002.

This is a photo of me with my sisters and friends on an excursion to Bad Buckow. The picture was taken in August 1926. We would take the train from Berlin toward Frankfurt an der Oder, and travel in third or fourth class. You could sit on the floor on your backpack and you had a blanket to lie on. Once we got there, we slept by the lake, boys and girls. Local farmers let us spend a few nights in their haystacks. Berlin's region has beautiful lakes and we would go out on paddle boats together. I never learned to swim, though. This is when I met Mischi, or Maximilian, who I would later marry. I remember when Mischi was first courting me, he wanted to take me to a non-kosher restaurant. I almost fainted!

Rosa and Mischi had two daughters and remained in Berlin until they fled to Budapest, where Mischi was born. They sent Rosa's mother and their daughters to family in Tel Aviv. Mischi was taken by the Hungarians into forced labor and perished. Rosa survived the Budapest ghetto, married Alfred Rosenstein from Vienna, and began a second family, all while her children in Israel continued to visit her. Rosa Rosenstein died in 2005 at the age of ninety-five.

Czechia



Chava Ginz Pressburger was interviewed by Martin Korcok in Prague, May 2005.

Here's a family picture of my brother Petr, me, my father Otto, and my mother Marie. Three years after this picture was taken, in 1942, Petr was deported to Terezin (Theresienstadt) at the age of fourteen, where he edited a secret magazine, *Vedem* (Czech for *We Lead*). He and forty other boys filled this hand-made weekly publication with poems, jokes, and essays. Petr wrote dozens of poems and in 1943 he wrote this one, below, about the city he was to never see again. My father and I arrived in Terezin later, and when Petr learned he was to be deported, "to the East," I volunteered to go with him, because I wanted to protect him. He was so tall, so thin, so pale. They didn't let me. The transport left on 28 September 1944. Petr was gassed immediately upon arrival in Auschwitz.

Eva told us that, after the war, "We made aliya to Israel, and because of the horrible pain we felt from Petr's loss, my father said we will never, ever mention his name again. And he didn't, until he died." Eva married Avram Pressburger from Bratislava, changed her name to Chava, raised a daughter, and became known as an artist of some renown.

Memories of Prague, by Petr Ginz

How long since I saw the sun fade behind the Petrin Hill
 with tearful eyes I gazed at you, Prague, enveloped in your evening shadows
 How long since I heard the rush over the weir in the river
 I have long since forgotten those hidden corners in the old town, those shady nooks,
 those sleepy canals.
 How are they?
 They cannot be grieving for me as I do for them
 For almost a year I have huddled in this awful hole, a few poor streets replace your
 priceless beauty.
 Like a beast, I am imprisoned in a tiny cage
 Prague, your fairy tale in stone, how well I remember.

Translated by Paul Wilson. Published in We are Children Just the Same: Vedem, the Secret Magazine of the Boys of Terezin, Jewish Publication Society, 1995.

Slovakia



Alexander Bachnar was interviewed by Zuzana Slobodnikova in Bratislava in November 2005.

This is in Topolcany in the late 1930s. Around a third of our town was Jewish then. That's my brother, Marcel Bachnar, who was then a soldier in the Czechoslovak Army and, in the middle, between friends, is my brother Armin. The man on the right is our friend Marcel Benau and on the left is Jona Bedzavsky. Both Jewish. My brother Armin moved to Palestine to get away from Europe and the war, though decades later his son Amos fell as an Israeli soldier in 1967. Marcel was murdered during the the Holocaust, as were eight other of my siblings.

Alexander Bachnar served in forced labor during the war, but he broke out with two hundred fifty other young Jews and formed a Jewish unit in the partisans in August 1944. Bachner led one of the brigades and received postwar commendations for bravery. The antisemitic mood in postwar Topolcany boiled over in September 1945, as anti-Jewish riots swept the city when a group of women broke into the school where a Jewish doctor was vaccinating children. He was accused of poisoning them. Forty-seven Jews were beaten on the street, eighteen were hospitalized, and the few Jews still living there almost all left.

After the war, Alexander Bachnar married, raised two sons, and spent his working life as a journalist.

Poland



Henryk Prajs was interviewed by Aleksandra Bankowska in Gora Kalwaria in January 2005.

I was called up in the spring of 1937. I went from being a tailor to learning to ride a horse—in one day! I got used to being in the army and remember roll call on Saturday and Sunday. An officer would call out: ‘All Jews step forward; all Lutherans [Germans] step forward; all Orthodox [Ukrainians] step forward!’ And we went off to each of our religious services. Catholics stayed behind for theirs.

I was posted to the Third Light Cavalry when the Germans invaded on 1 September. We raided their lines on 3 September but we had to withdraw because the Luftwaffe was attacking us. We lost our commander and I took control of the unit. I became a lieutenant and was wounded; so were a lot of others. Then when the Soviets invaded Poland from the East, we surrendered, and I was exchanged in a prisoner swap in December.

[Toward the end of his Centropa interview, Mr Prajs shared his philosophy with us] I had a good life. My house is cultured, open. If a Jew comes knocking, I’ll invite him in; if a priest, I’ll let him in, as well. Our parish priest is a great friend of mine. We speak like father and son. He respects me and vice versa. You see, every human being has a right to live, and it doesn’t make any difference if someone is black, or a Gypsy [Roma], or a German. Even against the Germans I don’t hold a grudge anymore. A German named Kulc harbored me for three months when I was on the run. Could I have any grudge against him, could I refuse to shake hands with him? I would do anything to help that man, because he helped me knowing I was a Jew. There’s no place for chauvinism, nationalism, or racism in my mind. Or in my home.

Henryk Prajs survived the war by slipping away from a deportation to the Warsaw Ghetto, although his entire family was murdered. Several families in the village of Podwierzbie hid him during the war. Katarzyna Pokorskawas was given a Righteous Gentile Award for hiding him.

Henryk Prajs worked as a tailor and then as a fruit grower. He married and had one daughter. He remained in Gora Kalwaria, the last Jew to live there. He died in 2018, age 101 and, when he died, he was the last surviving member of the wartime Polish cavalry. Henryk Prajs was given a state funeral.

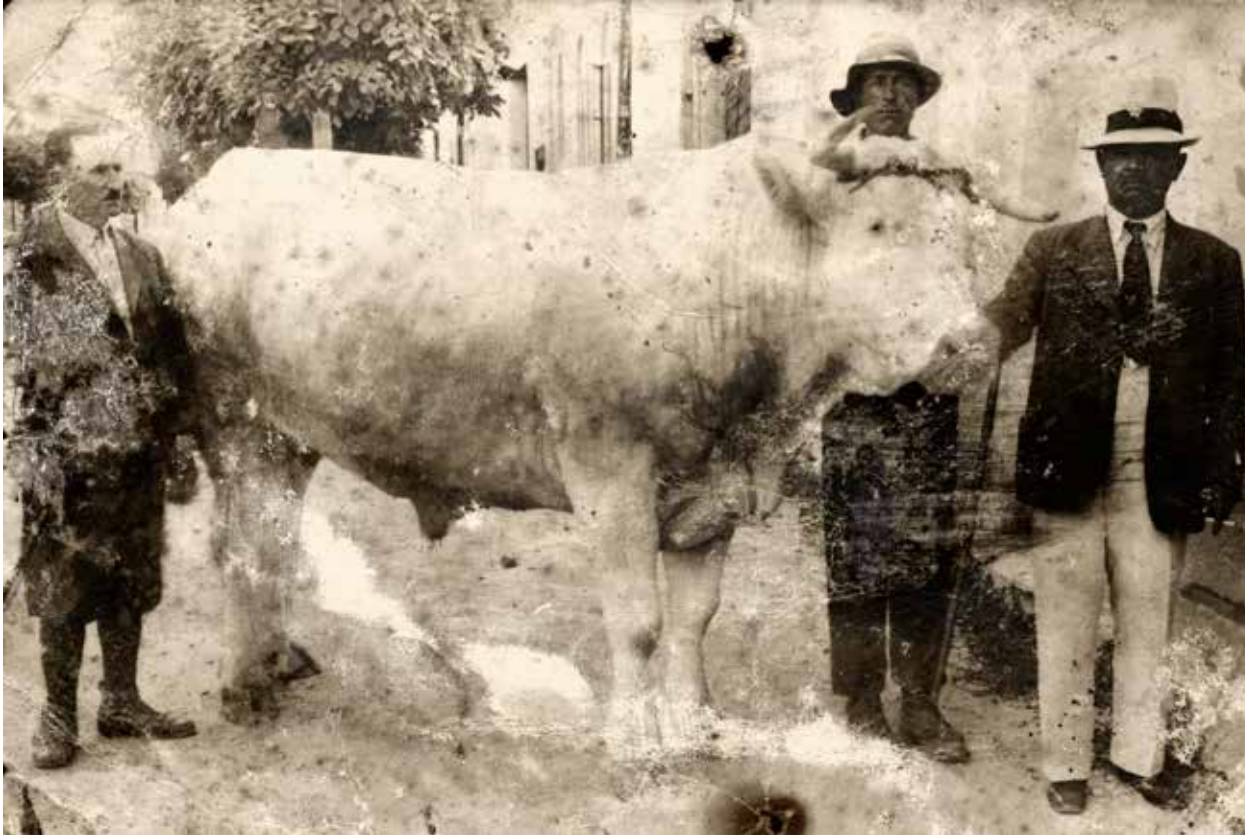


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ברוך דיין הוי



Romania



Mihaly Eisikovits was interviewed by Eموke Major in Baia Mare/Nagybanya, in October 2004.

This ox weighed 1050 kilos, if you can believe it! On the left, that's my father, Dezso Eisikovits, while on the right side, that's Samu Teleki, my father's business partner. Behind the ox stands an employee.

After my father married my mother, grandfather took my father into the family business. My father partnered with Samu Teleki. Teleki magyarized his name; he was originally Herskovits. He was a great landowner, famous for his philanthropy. His three sons were summoned to forced labor to Ukraine; he also had three daughters. One of his sons, Jenő Teleki, was a good friend of our family. And Jenő's son, who is a very, very good dermatologist in Ramnicu Valcea, was named Samu after his grandfather. I still keep in touch with him, even now.

Dezso Eisikovits, his wife, and son Mihaly were deported to Auschwitz. Only Mihaly returned home. In the years after the war, Mihaly Eisikovits worked as a manager in large state-run companies and since he retired he has helped run the Jewish community of Baia Mare (Nagybanya)

BALTICS: LITHUANIA, LATVIA, ESTONIA

Lithuania



Fania Brantsovskaya was interviewed by Zhanna Litinskaya in Vilnius in February 2005.

I live a fulfilled life today, partly because I'm so involved with our Jewish community. I'm not religious, but I'm happy that we have such a lively place to go, a Jewish school, and the Hesed that takes care of old people. I am in my nineties but I volunteer to help others, and I conduct public activities as a former inmate of the ghetto. I meet with the students in the Jewish school every year but I also speak in schools throughout the country. A real highlight for me was that in 1990, the forty-fifth anniversary of the victory over the Germans, I was invited to speak in the Knesset in Jerusalem with other veterans, former ghetto inmates and partisans.

Fania Brantsovskaya (née Jopheles) and her family were imprisoned in the Vilna Ghetto, escaped, and joined the partisans, where she met and married Mikhail Brantsovskiy and they had two daughters. Fania worked as a statistical analyst until she retired in 1990. In 2020, she is ninety-eight years old and still meeting with students.

Latvia



Hana Rayzberg was interviewed by Ella Levitskaya in Riga in August 2005.

This is a page from my student certificate. I finished the 6th grade. I'm wearing the uniform of our Jewish school. But then war came. This photo was taken in 1941 in Ludza.

I finished the Jewish school and passed exams to the Latvia gymnasium, the only possible option in Ludza. All subjects were taught in Latvian, and it was difficult for me. We also studied Latin, German, and English. I was good at foreign languages. I was also very fond of chemistry. I was thinking of continuing my studies after school to become an interpreter or a teacher, but this was not to be.

When the Germans invaded in June 1941, Hana Edelstein and her family fled to Nizhny Novgorod in Russia, then went on to Uzbekistan to wait out the war. Afterwards, the family returned to their village of Ludza, moved to Riga, where Hana became a manager in a textile family, married Aaron Rayzberg in a Jewish ceremony, and had one son. She spent four decades as a manager and analyst in the Ministry of Light Industry. After the death of her husband in 1985, Mrs Rayzberg became ever more involved with the newly reconstituted Jewish community and spent most of her time in the senior citizens' Jewish choir.

Estonia



Simon Rapoport was interviewed by Ella Levitskaya in Tallinn in May 2005.

This is Ruth Polyak, my wife-to-be (second from the left) with her friends at the graduation party at the Jewish Lyceum. The picture was taken in Tallinn in 1938. I met Ruth Refes at my friend's place. Ruth had an older sister, Valentina, and Ruth was born in Tallinn in 1920. Her father, Mark Polyak, was from Ukraine and her mother, Marta Polyak, née Kaplan, was born in Tartu, Estonia. Ruth's parents were doctors. In 1939, Ruth married a man from Tartu, a lawyer named Evgeniy Refes. Their son Arkadiy was born in 1940. When World War II was unleashed, Ruth, her child, and parents were evacuated to Tataria [Tatarstan today]. Her sister Valentina and her husband stayed in Estonia. Both perished. Ruth's husband went to the front with the Estonian Army to try to hold back the Germans.

When the war was over the family came back to Tallinn. Ruth studied to be an English teacher. She and I married in 1957. Ruth is retired now, but she didn't give up her love of teaching. She is tutoring at home. Her son lives in the USA. We just went there for a visit. We are happy to have found each other. In 2007, we are going to celebrate our golden wedding anniversary.

A few days before Germany's invasion of the Baltics, Simon Rapoport and his family were arrested by the Soviet NKVD and sent to Siberia, which saved their lives. Upon his return, Simon Rapoport became a construction engineer and continued advising on construction projects well into his eighties.

RUSSIA, UKRAINE, MOLDOVA

Russia



Galina Natarevich was interviewed by Anna Nerush in January 2002, in St Petersburg.

This is my mom when she was with the Mariinsky Ballet (then the Kirov) and she is dressed for her solo in *The Second Wife of Girei* by Astafiev. That was a special place, the Imperial Mariinsky Theater, where Jews had never been admitted! A tradition remains a tradition. But that tradition was broken in Soviet times. Mom was never a principle dancer but she did well enough to dance several important roles.

When the war began in 1941, the entire Kirovsky Theater was evacuated to Molotov (today Perm) in a special train, complete with families. My father said goodbye before my mother left with her father and mother. Dad went off to fight and he perished on the front. I was born eight months after he said goodbye to mom, so I never met him. After the war, we all returned to Leningrad and mom taught in the famous Leningrad Ballet on Ice.

Galina Natarevich married, had one son, and worked alongside her husband as an artist. She remains in St Petersburg today.

Ukraine



Mina Gomberg was interviewed by Elena Zaslavskaya in Kyiv in September 2002.

My father, Ilia Roitman, dressed up for Purim in Kyiv in 1914. My grandfather gave him a bicycle as a present and took this picture. My father was born in Kyiv in 1909 and his father, Joseph Roitman, was a tailor and had many clients. The family lived in a small apartment, but they were well-to-do for a while.

My father finished cheder and a Russian secondary school in Kyiv. After finishing school, he entered a technical college, but only studied there for a short time. The family was pressed for money and he had to work to support them. My father worked as a laborer wherever he could find a job.

My father, Ilia Roitman, during the Soviet-Finnish war in 1939. He joined up again in 1941, becoming a tank platoon leader in charge of four tanks and promoted to first lieutenant. He was wounded twice. He was demobilized in 1946, got a job as a foreman at the Vodokanal municipal water-supply company, working there until 1984.

Here's my father on Victory Day in the 1980s. On his jacket, there are orders and medals awarded to him for his combat deeds and labor achievements. These include the Order of the Great Patriotic War, the Order of Glory, the Medal for the Defense of Stalingrad, the Medal for Courage, etc.

Every year on 9 May [Victory Day] my father and I went to the Monument of Glory, the Tomb of the Unknown Ukrainian Soldier. Every single time my father went to pieces and sobbed hysterically. It must have been about what he knew and remembered, but he never mentioned anything to us—not ever. He never revealed this mystery, and we never found out whom he cried for and why he was afraid to tell us. My father died in 1986. His death was a terrible blow to me.

Mina was born in 1938. Her family was evacuated to the Sverdlovsk region of the Soviet Union where they waited out the war, returning to Kyiv afterwards.

Moldova



David Wainshelboim was interviewed by Natalia Fomina in Kishinev in June 2005.

This is my paternal great-grandfather, Avrum Wainshelboim. This photo was taken in Kishinev in the 1890s. My grandfather's brother, Iosif Wainshelboim, gave me this photo.

Avrum Wainshelboim moved to Bessarabia from some place in Russia in the early 19th century, escaping from recruitment to the tsarist army: young people were regimented for the 25-year army service at the time. Knowing about the liberal attitude towards Jews in Bessarabia, my great-grandfather Avrum moved to Kishinev. He became a melamed, teaching Jewish children. I can't remember the date of his death. His grave is still there in the old Jewish cemetery and I still visit it.

When the Germans and Romanians invaded Bessarabia in June 1941, David Wainshelboim, his parents, and his maternal grandmother fled East, into Ukraine. His father, a physician, felt they had gone far enough, and David could not persuade him to run farther. His parents were murdered, and David went to Siberia where he studied in university, became an eye surgeon, and returned to Kishinev in the 1950s. He married, raised a family, and worked as a surgeon into his eighties.

THE BALKANS: SERBIA, BOSNIA, CROATIA, NORTH MACEDONIA, BULGARIA, TURKEY, GREECE

Serbia



Pavle Sosberger was interviewed by Dina Sosberger in Novi Sad in March 2003.

This is my brother Dodi [Adolf] when he was playing in one of the performances that my mom organized with her children in the Jewish kindergarten. He was supposed to be the English delegate, and had to wear a tailcoat and top hat. We never called him Adolf or Arman but Dodi or Dodika; even in school they called him by his nickname. He was born in 1926 in Novi Sad.

Dodika, like me, attended the Jewish elementary school, then secondary grammar school. He got to live until he was sixteen. My brother was murdered in Novi Sad by the Hungarian police in the raid they carried out in Novi Sad, 21-23 January 1942. Most of my family would go on to be murdered once the Hungarians started deporting Jews in the spring of 1944.

Pavle Sosberger worked as a building engineer for the Yugoslav National Army and spent thirty years documenting the destruction of Jewish life in the Vojvodina region. He married Agika Neuberger after the war (see wedding photo above, from 1948) and they had one son. He became and remained an active member of the Jewish community until his death in 2012.

Bosnia



Josip Papo was interviewed by Ida Labudovic in Belgrade and Zagreb in August 2001.

This is the wedding of my parents, Rifka Levi and Albert Papo, in Sarajevo on 26 June 1919. The women are wearing traditional Sephardic headpieces. The men are wearing a dark fez as Muslims wore red ones.

My father and mother met in Sarajevo. Back then young Jews went to dances at the Jewish community. My paternal grandmother told my father that when he shakes hands with a girl to touch the palm of her hand. If her hand is smooth then she's lazy and won't work. If he feels calluses, then she has a rough-worn hand and she's a hard-working woman. So, Rifka had rough hands and dad proposed. They moved to Makarska on the Dalmatian coast and opened a retail shop. We were just about the only Jews in town and there was certainly no antisemitism.

During the war, we had no problems at first, although I was thrown in jail in 1941 for being a communist, not a Jew. The Ustasha Croats wanted to shoot me. The Italian officer overseeing them wouldn't hear of it. Once the Italians capitulated, our family went to the Partisans.

After the war, Josip Papo's parents returned to Makarska while he studied law, married, raised a family and practiced law until 2010 in Belgrade.

Croatia



Albert Eskenazi was interviewed by Ida Labudovic in Belgrade (Serbia) in October 2001.

My father was taken away from us in Zagreb in 1941; we never saw him again. My mother took my sister and me to Mostar, where the Jewish community cared for us. When the occupying Italians were told they had to turn Mostar over to the Croats, they insisted on taking all the Jews down to Dalmatia to keep us safe. We ended up in this hotel in Hvar, the Slavija, where we stayed from February until June 1943. The owner, Tonci Maricic, gave us everything. Tonci made things work. After liberation many Jews came to him and he came to us in Sarajevo and Zagreb. This friendship lasted as long as he was alive. Things got worse when we were transferred to the island of Rab, but when the Italians capitulated, the partisans rescued us.

Albert Eskenazi remained with the partisans until liberation. In 1948, he emigrated to Israel, and during a trip home, he met his future wife, Sarina Katan. They married in Yugoslavia, and had two sons. He worked in a zinc processing plant for three decades and, upon retiring, Albert Eskenazi began working for the Belgrade Jewish community, where he worked until 2004.

North Macedonia

The Republic of North Macedonia had an extremely difficult twentieth century. For hundreds of years, this landlocked Ottoman province—north of today's Greece, west of Bulgaria, and south of Serbia—was home to a mix of ethnicities. Thousands of Jews lived in Monastir (today's Bitola), the Ottoman administrative center known as the City of Consuls.

In 1908, Jews joined in protests against Ottoman rule, but in 1912, instead of achieving independence, the province was subsumed into Serbia. Five years later, Serbia brought it into the newly formed Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, which became Yugoslavia. In 1941, Bulgaria occupied the province. In 1944, Macedonia went back to Yugoslavia and only in 1991 did it finally achieve independence.

During the wartime Bulgarian occupation, Jews in Bitola were required to provide the police with photographs of themselves and their addresses. Those photographs were used when, in March 1943, the Bulgarians deported 7,444 Macedonian Jews to their deaths in the Nazi death camp of Treblinka in German-occupied Poland. Not one returned. To this date, Bulgaria has neither apologized for the deportations nor offered a penny in compensation.

Rachel Chanin Asiel, based in Belgrade, conducted three interviews for Centropa in Macedonia in May 2005, and our three respondents, Roza Kamhi, her husband, the former Yugoslav general Beno Ruso, and the doctor and poet Avram Sadikario, all shared pictures of family members deported and murdered.



Interviewee: Roza Kamhi

This is a picture of my older brother, Mois Kamhi. The photo was taken in Bitola in the 1940s. He finished the French school in Bitola, which was a very elite school back then, and tried his hand at living in Palestine, but returned home. He was taken to Treblinka with the rest of the family.



Interviewee: Roza Kamhi

I am the one who got away. I joined the partisans with Estreje Ovadjija, Adele Faradji, and Zamila Kolonomos. We were teenagers. Estreje was killed; Adele and Zamila kept fighting. I was thrown in jail. Since the end of the war was in sight, the partisans sent a message to the head of the prison. "If you do not release your political prisoners, we will find you and kill you." When the war ended, I kept waiting for my parents and brothers to come back from this place called Treblinka. No one did, and it took a very long time to believe it.



Interviewee: Beno Ruso

Matilda Mato Levi was my father's sister. She married a grocer named Bencion Levi and had six or seven children. They lived well. Mato was a very energetic woman, very strict, literate and cultured. She was the commander in the house, as you would have to be with so many children. We lived right next door. Mato was gassed in Treblinka with her entire family.



Interviewee: Beno Ruso

This is my cousin Beno Levi, one of Mato's sons. He was just a kid, probably around ten or twelve. He was sent to Treblinka with the rest of the family.



Interviewee: Avram Sadikario

My mother, Vida Sadikario. She was a very calm and easygoing person, despite the fact that she had eight children running around her. My mother's head is not covered here, but she usually covered it with a kerchief trimmed with two rows of coins, a very old Balkan Sephardic tradition. It saddens me to look at this picture as she was such a good-natured woman. She was murdered in Treblinka along with everyone else except for my brother Shlomo, who was shot by the Bulgarians.



Interviewee: Avram Sadikario

My father, Josip Sadikario, sold leather in Bitola. When we were little he spent a lot of time with us. He knew the Torah and Talmud very well. Imagine, he read Aramaic and Talmudic books and translated them into Ladino for others. Like just about everyone back then, he was a heavy smoker although because he was religious he put out his last cigarette on Friday evening and lit up again on Saturday the very second he saw three stars.



Interviewee: Avram Sadikario

Pinhas Koen was my sister Mirjam's son. He had a tailor shop and was always giving us clothing for the partisans. In 1943, I received a letter from him while he was in the camp in Bitola. He asked me to take care of his sister, Solci, who was sick in Sofia and where I was hiding out. He wrote that since he didn't know what was going to happen to them—he thought they were going to work—that I should take care of her until he came back. His sister survived the war. Pinhas was gassed in Treblinka.



Interviewee: Avram Sadikario

My brother Shlomo, the troublemaker. My older brother, Mois, used to slap him around because he gave our mother so much grief. When Mois left home, I did the same. Troublemaker that he was, Shlomo was an excellent student. When they began the round-ups in 1943, he ran to the partisans and, we were told, proved to be a fierce fighter. Shlomo was shot and killed in a battle with the Bulgarians near Kumanovo in 1944.

Bulgaria



Leontina Arditi was interviewed by Patricia Nikolova in Sofia in March 2004.

This is a photo of me and my friends in the Jewish neighborhood in Sofia. The boy is Niso Benbasat, my first love.

My father, Samuil Moisey Arditi, sold his wedding ring to buy me a violin. He felt I had an ear for music; I was only four then. My violin teacher was Uncle Kamen, the famous violinist Kamen Popdimitrov.

During the war, when we were about to be interned and sent away from Sofia, I was finishing up middle school. To my horror, I received a failing grade in geometry, which meant my grade book would show that I could not start high school! My math teacher, Mrs. Yankova, was the nightmare of my young life. She never gave me a break and I wanted to suffocate her!

We arrived in Dupnitsa where the high school refused to take me. I was beside myself, so Mum wrote to Uncle Kamen. Before I knew it, he sent me a grade book for a completed third class of the junior high school with my name all filled in and with excellent marks for math and geometry!

What had Uncle Kamen done? What could he have said to Mrs Yankova? To this day I don't really know, but instantly this cruel woman turned into a saint for me! What does this all mean? It means that two Bulgarians decided to help a blunt-witted Jewish child as best they could, a chance to continue her studies. And I did!

*Leontina Arditi played violin professionally and also became one of Bulgaria's best-known actresses. She performed one-woman stage shows and enjoyed a career as a character actor in feature films well into her eighties. Leontina Arditi is also the author of a highly praised autobiography, *In the End is My Beginning*, which was translated into German in 2010. She married, and had one daughter who had twins and a third child. Leontina's grandchildren all attended the Sofia Jewish school but then emigrated to Israel. Her husband died in 1996. She passed away in 2012.*

Turkey



Janet Arguete was interviewed by Feride Petilon in Istanbul in August 2006.

Bursa 1930s

Janet grew up in the inland city of Bursa, where Jews settled in the early 1500s under the protection of the Ottoman sultan. They remained active in commerce and the professions and more than 4,000 Jews lived in Bursa at the turn of the twentieth century. Few Jews live in the city today.

A picnic spot in Bursa. Lace dresses and wooden chairs. Picnics like these were part of life in Bursa that you couldn't do without. Back then, there were so few cars that the streets and gardens were ours to play in. We would grill but of course brought our own meat from home since everyone kept kosher.

One of the favorite pastimes of those days was for families to gather at the Gonlu Ferah Hotel in Chekirge (a district of Bursa famous for its hot springs). Families would reserve several rooms in the hotel and those rooms came with their own private *hamams*, and just outside were these lush gardens. In the summers, we would spend the week there, with our dads traveling back and forth to their businesses during the day and returning in the evenings.

Janet Arguete (née Sages) married her husband Avram in 1946. They had one daughter and Albert moved the family to Istanbul where he ran a successful hardware store and a textile business before his death in 2003.

Greece



Mirou-Mairy Angel was interviewed by Nina Hatzi in Athens in February 2006.

In my heart this is the most important photograph I own because I can see my mother, Rachel Karasso, as I remember her when I was young. I never got to see her age or her hair turn white. She is standing in the center, my brother Albertos Samuel is on one side, and me, Mairy-Mirou Samuel Karasso, I'm on the right. The other picture is of my siblings: Jema, Isidor, and Rene. I never got to see them grow up.

My mother was always elegantly dressed. Her clothes were designed for her by Olga Boton, a well-known couturier. Mom often wore a hat when she went out and always to synagogue, where she sat in the first row in the woman's section. My mother kept the Sabbath, didn't use fire, nor did she cook or do housework.

Although my mother was well educated, she did not speak Greek well, but that was hardly unusual among the Jews of her generation. When she was born, Salonica wasn't even in Greece.

Before the deportations began in 1943, a neighbor gave false papers to both me and my brother Albertos, while my father, mother, and four younger siblings fled to the mountains. But since my parents hardly spoke Greek, they were caught, deported, and all of them were murdered.

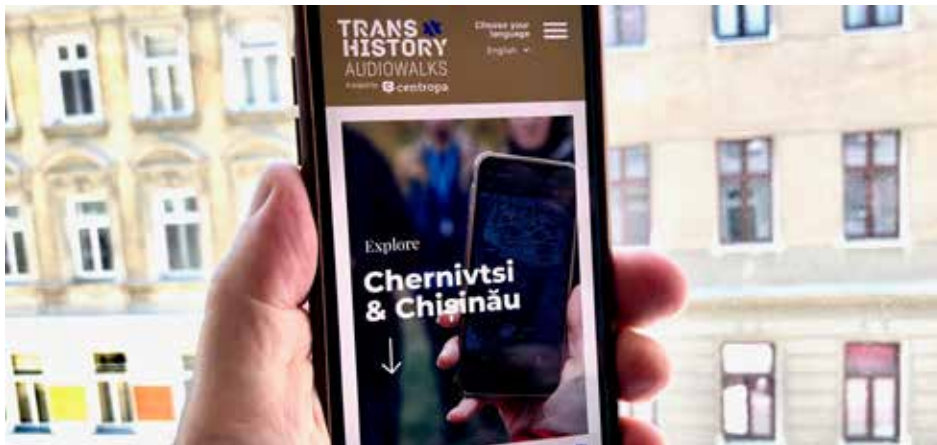
Albertos and I survived in Athens on our false papers and with incredible luck. I kept asking him about our parents and he told me they were fine. When we came back to Salonica after the war I went all over town holding up pictures of my family, asking people who returned from Auschwitz if they could help me find my family. They told me they had been burned. I screamed at them and said they were crazy. Then Albertos told me, no, those people weren't crazy. I beat him with my fists and sobbed. He had lied to me for two years.

Mairou-Mairy Karasso married Alfredo Angel in 1946. She told Nina, our interviewer, that she was crying during the entire wedding ceremony, as she kept hearing her mother, who had told her often, 'Just wait and see what a wedding I will make for you!' Mairou-Mairy went on to have two daughters, who now have families of their own and take care of their mother, who has trouble walking. "My daughters are wonderful. They are there for me to torture. And everyone asks how I raised such magnificent girls. I tell them, 'Never argue with your husband in front of the children!'"

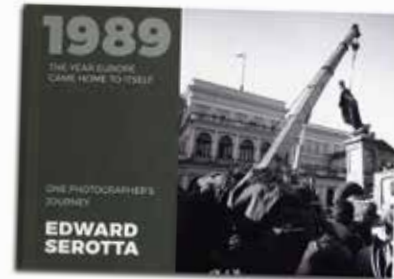
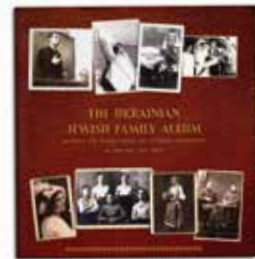
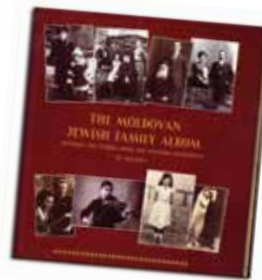
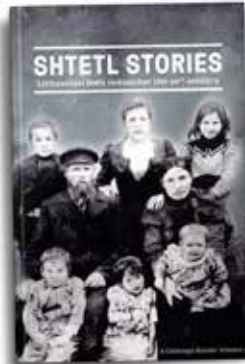


Public history

on the web, on the street, on the walls, and in print



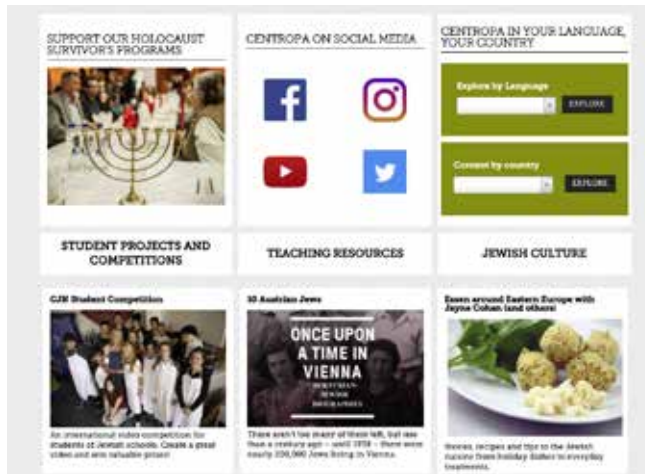
The term public history is relatively new and is meant to encompass programs, projects, and events that take history outside the university classroom and into the public sphere. It is because we spent a decade digitizing memory in ways no one ever did that makes us ideally placed to reach areas where Central Europe's Jewish history has simply been lost for far too long. This section of our annual report will highlight some of our programs.



On the web



Whether you are looking for stories from your ancestral shtetl or would like to access our award-winning multimedia films, you'll find them on our website and our YouTube channel, which together see more than 250,000 visitors annually.



CENTROPA CINEMA



Between 2000 and 2009, Centropa conducted 1,200 interviews in 15 European countries. We never used video in those interviews; we did not focus solely on the Holocaust. Instead, we digitized 22,000 family pictures and we asked each of our respondents to tell us stories about those pictures.

We then took the most compelling stories and began turning them into short films. All the words you'll hear in these films were taken directly from our interviews and we used some of the best actors in each country to narrate the stories.

We have also produced a series of short documentaries that explain the complexities of Central Europe, such as: how did Hungarian Jews fit into society, how did Bulgarian Jews escape deportation during the Second World War, and how did Europe's maps change over the last 200 years. We add at least two films each year, and if you have any comments on our films, please send a note to office@centropa.org.



Roaming around Eastern Europe/Eating around Eastern Europe: great travel tips and recipes from the old country

Roaming around Eastern Europe with Ruth Ellen Gruber (and others)



TRIESTE



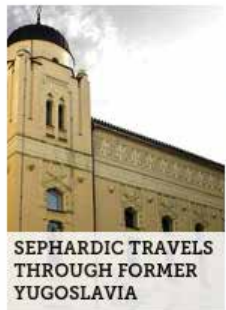
THE SHTETL ROUTE



THE POWER OF JEWISH TOMBSTONES



THE MAHLER TRAIL



SEPHARDIC TRAVELS THROUGH FORMER YUGOSLAVIA



PRAGUE



ON THE ROAD AND OFF THE BEATEN TRACK IN UKRAINE



LIPOT BAUMHORN TOUR

Ruth Ellen Gruber has been traveling the back roads and main streets of Jewish Europe for decades. With numerous books and articles behind her, Ruth occasionally contributes to Centropa and shares itineraries and guides to must-see places.

Jayne Cohen is a noted cookbook author and thanks to Jayne, as well as other contributors, you can now find more than sixty recipes on our site. We've even divided them into Ashkenazi and Sephardic recipes, and most of the Sephardic recipes hail from Greece and Turkey.

Essen around Eastern Europe with Jayne Cohen (and others)

The stomach, they say, assimilates last, and here's a page of great recipes and stories about the foods of Central and Eastern Europe. From recipes that were spawned by the short growing season and icy winters of northern Europe to our Sephardic recipes rich in eggplant and tomato sauces from southern Europe.

Sephardic Recipes

Askhenazi Recipes



Jayne Cohen
ALBONDIGAS DE PRASA KON MUEZ (LEEK MEATBALLS WITH WALNUTS)



Jayne Cohen
BRACIOLE DI TONNE (TUNA FRITTERS IN TOMATO-LEMON SAUCE)



Jayne Cohen
APPLESAUCE WITH ROSEMARY AND BROWN BUTTER



Jayne Cohen
AUNT MARY'S HONEY CAKE



Jayne Cohen
ETTY RUSSO'S LAMB MINA FROM IZMIR



Jayne Cohen
GATO DE MUEZ DE PESAH (WALNUT AND ORANGE PASSOVER CAKE)



Jayne Cohen
BASIC KASHA RECIPE AND VARIATIONS



Jayne Cohen
BRAISED BRISKET WITH MUSHROOMS



Jayne Cohen
JEWISH RED PEPPER PLATTER



Jayne Cohen
PETTI DI POLLO AL MELOGRANO E MIELE (CHICKEN BREASTS WITH POMEGRANATE AND HONEY)



Jayne Cohen
BROWN BUTTER



Jayne Cohen
BROWN BUTTER APPLE SCHALET

Centropa exhibitions in 2019

Jewish culture and history in the Polish city of Kielce

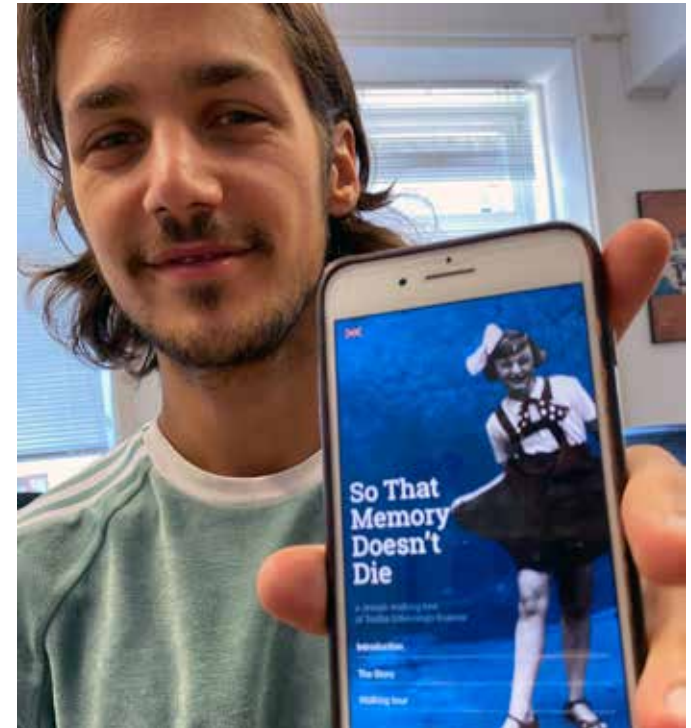


If you have heard of the Polish city of Kielce at all, it's to know of the horrid pogrom its citizens carried out in 1946, when forty-two Jews—Holocaust survivors all—were dragged out of the houses in which they were living and beaten to death.

Over the past twenty years, teachers, religious leaders, and politicians in Kielce have worked hard to educate teenagers in every school in the region about what happened then, and also to bring the history and culture of Polish Jews to life. Centropa has played an active role in this process and in the spring of 2019, cultural managers in Kielce came to Centropa to draw on our enormous archive of Polish pictures, stories, and films, from which they created their own exhibition, held a Jewish cultural night, and had well more than three thousand guests attend events over the course of a week.

What makes Centropa unique is that we bring personal stories to a level where everyone can access them, read them, study them, and watch them. This is how we make progress in cities and towns where Jews have not lived for decades.

The Galicia Jewish Museum in Krakow



Our first permanent exhibition will be in Krakow's Galicia Jewish Museum and will open in January 2021.

In *Ten Polish Cities/Ten Jewish Stories*, ten Polish Jews will share their pictures and stories of the entire twentieth century, and take us through history, just as they lived it.

There is no exhibition like this anywhere in Poland, and this won't just be backlit panels placed on the walls of the Galicia Jewish Museum—you will also be able to take a walking tour of Kazimierz, the city's old Jewish quarter, listening stories told by one of our best storytellers, Tosia Silberring.

Our traveling exhibition and catalogue in Moldova



With a grant from the German Foreign Office, we produced a multimedia film based on our Moldovan interviews, published a book in both Russian and Romanian (the two official languages of the country), and created an exhibition that has now been shown in twenty-one venues in seven cities since 2018.

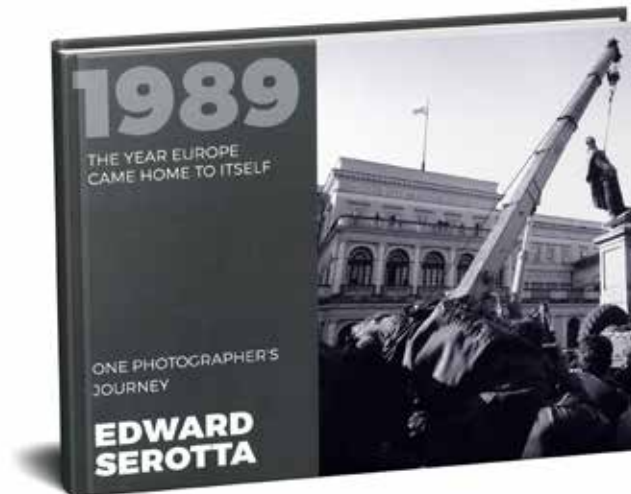
While most Jews left Moldova after the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, the community that remains is lively, committed, and passionate about its Jewish heritage and history, and the Jewish Museum of Moldova has helped us travel our exhibition and distribute our book throughout the country.

1989

reminding us about the overthrow of Communism and what democracy means

While Centropa focuses primarily on Jewish history and culture, we could not resist working with the US, German, and Austrian Embassies in Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania when it came time to reflect on how each of these countries stood up against Soviet rule and the one-party state.

Working with photographs our director, Ed Serotta, took during the revolutions of 1989 for *The Observer* and *The Independent* in the UK, the *Associated Press*, *Reuters* and *New York Newsday*, we created a traveling exhibition sponsored by Raiffeisen Bank International, then held opening events at Sofia University, Andrassy University in Budapest, and the City Museum of Bucharest.



From left: Austrian Ambassador to Romania Isabella Rauscher opening our 1989 exhibition in Bucharest; US Ambassador Herra Mustafa to Bulgaria opening the exhibition in Sofia University; German Deputy Chief of Mission to Hungary Klaus Streicher opening the exhibition in Andrassy University in Budapest. All events took place between November and December, 2019.



Press reaction to the 1989 exhibition in Bulgaria and Romania



ДНЕВНИК

Годишната 2020 0 Успех (8) Всичко от прес (33) 🔍 📄 🗨



1/6
Фотогалерия: По какъв начин видях един американец 1989 г. в Източна Европа

Докога в България за първи път през 1985 г. и си каза, че никога повече няма да се върна. Отпозволя смя и глган, тъй повече от 40 пъти. Това каза на откриването на изложбата "1989" годишната, в която Европа се казва на към себе си" със в Централното фойе на Софийския университет "Св. Климент Охридски" американският фотограф Едуард Серота.

Facebook share icons and a comment count of 17.

Филтър

Това е статията за това как се случва цялостната в историята



OBSERVATOR CULTURAL

Abonamente f 📧

Contul meu Cosul

ARHIVĂ - OBSERVATOR - AUTORI - CATEGORII - PUBLICIT

Hanukkah mea în iad

20-12-2019 Nr. 1000 Edward SEROTTA Focus 0 Comentarii

Tipărește pagina

Recomandă articolul 📧 📄 🗨

Instantanee ale libertății, realizate în România și în alte țări foste comuniste (Bulgaria, Germania de Est, Polonia, Cehoslovacia și Ungaria) de fotojurnalistul american Edward Serotta, compun tulburătoarea expoziție-mărturie 1989: Anul în care Europa a redevenit ea însăși, ce s-a deschis luni, 16 decembrie 2019, la Muzeul Municipiului București – Palatul Sutu, în prezența autorului. Evenimentul este organizat de Ambasada Austriei la București, Forumul Cultural Austriac București, Muzeul Municipiului București și Centropa, cu sprijinul Raiffeisen Bank România. Expoziția este deschisă între 16 decembrie 2019 și 19 ianuarie 2020.



Academic interns, university partnerships, digital humanities



Because of the Covid-19 crisis, universities everywhere have been re-forging relations between their students and teaching staff. And it is during these difficult times that Centropa has become even more attractive to universities and individual scholars.

Since 2016, Centropa has been partnering with the Centre for European and Russian Studies in the Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto. They have been sending us graduate students working on master's degrees in Eastern European history. During their internships in Centropa's offices in Vienna, Hamburg, and Budapest, these MA students research our archive, listen to original audio recordings in the original languages, and create MA theses based on their findings.

Now that all 1,230 of our interviews have been transferred from cassette to digital, these young scholars access our archive from home. Naturally, they would rather be interacting with our staff and working with us at our teachers' seminars here in Europe, but for the time being they continue to avail themselves of the largest archive of its kind, anywhere.

Pictured above: academics from Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh meeting with Centropa donors Jacques Preis, Evelyne Salama, and Allan Reich to discuss how their graduate students and professors have been using Centropa in their coursework.



Top row: Jesse Steinman, an undergraduate at Emory University in Atlanta, used the Centropa archive in 2019 to research our Bulgarian interviewees' life stories and their prewar relationship with Zionism.

Right: Nikola Bodic, from the Munk School in Toronto, spent his internship working on our Balkan family stories, focusing on our Serbian interviews. Callie Moss was an undergraduate in 2019, studying European history at Clemson University. Callie helped produce a Cold War quiz for the participants of our annual Summer Academy.

Bottom row: Dragos Parasca, a law student in Bucharest, created a website for us on Romanian synagogues and reviewed all 60 of our Romanian interviewees' rights contracts,

making suggestions about usage in Romania. Center: Tamar Aizenberg of Chicago was a Fulbright scholar in Vienna and worked for Centropa as she reviewed and edited our interviews with Jewish women in the Soviet Army. Right, Jessica Bush, also a history MA student at Toronto University, used her internship in our Vienna office to help create the content for a walking tour app of Ukrainian cities. Jakob Meinel from Vienna University, used his internship at Centropa to write a paper on our seventy Baltic interviewees and their post-war Jewish identities.

Education



Learning In Lockdown

In the vastly changed landscape we live in today, our children suffer from staying home from school. It isn't only the in-person, face-to-face learning they're missing out on, it's the socialization every child needs, the friendships they crave, not to mention checking out their peers to be sure the clothes they're wearing are as cool as everyone else's—and, if not, *mom's gonna hear about it!*

We snapped this picture on the tram in Vienna the day classes resumed in June. The lad here is, of course, wearing his face mask, and he is making sure he has everything he needs to show off and prove he's part of a community: the ultra-cool scooter; sneakers with sharks on them; appropriately ripped jeans; hand-made bracelet (made by his sister or brother?); and a backpack filled—well, we hope at least with some books. And yes, he promised mom he'd bring a coat in case it got cold, but no way he's wearing it.

Although things could very well change by the time you read this, at this writing, in 2020, most of the schools we work with in Europe have re-opened, albeit with social distancing in place, fewer desks per classroom, temperature checks at the front door, masks required, and frequent hand washing.

Many of our American schools, however, are still holding back, so our hearts and our thoughts go out to these kids, which is all the more reason we've been making great content for them.

The following sections will describe our 2019 programs in the US, Europe, and Israel.



Centropa in the United States



"I use Centropa resources because they allow students to make personal connections with history. I love the way Centropa sources weave primary sources—music, pictures, postcards—into recreating a world for the viewer. The students value that. They see the films as emotionally connecting—I have had students miss a screening, have to watch it at home, then come in and tell me how much they liked it; HOW RARE IS THAT, that a student liked doing make up work at home?"

ANTHONY LUDWIG, WEST ASHLEY HIGH SCHOOL,
CHARLESTON, SC



The pictures on the opposite page illustrate what makes Centropa unique. Our teachers' seminars are rarely frontal. We don't ask teachers to listen to lectures for hours on end, then hand them a boxed curriculum an historian wrote up. That kind of teacher training didn't work thirty years ago. It still doesn't.

We don't "train" teachers. We empower them as we gather around the table at our seminars, share best practices, watch Centropa's award-winning films and write up lesson plans right on the spot.

That way, our teachers have a project to use the minute they walk back into class, and they are apt to keep using it, simply because they created it. That also means we're building sustainability.

2019 proved a pivotal one for us, because we spent the year building partnerships with local school districts and state-accredited Holocaust education organizations. Teachers earn credits for taking part in Centropa seminars while students get involved in cross-border, high-tech projects that they love creating—on the tech toys they live on, with the social media they love.

For example: in Greensboro, students worked with their counterparts in the German city of Bonn to highlight Righteous Gentiles, while Belgrade and Akron students created a joint project on migration.

More than 70% of the American schools we work in are Title One, which means most of their students depend on free or reduced cost lunches every day. While some go on to university, others are keen to learn skills that will earn them decent jobs right after high school. As our teachers will tell you, a teenager who is curious about the world, works on

internet-based projects with Centropa students in other countries, and can show off the tech projects they have created, makes for a more attractive job candidate.

2019 was an especially busy year, in which we:

- presented Centropa to teachers at the annual Social Studies Resource Fair in Baltimore;
- met with SC teachers in an exploratory meeting, in partnership with the SC Council on the Holocaust, at the SC Council on the Social Studies conference;
- conducted a seminar in Greensboro, NC, for teachers from all over the state, in collaboration with the North Carolina Council on the Holocaust;
- presented Centropa to Holocaust educators in the Palm Beach County school district during one of their professional development events;
- held a day-long seminar at the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust for teachers in LA country.

Every year, we look for the most innovative teachers and, for our 2019 Centropa Summer Academy in Berlin, we flew over 26 American teachers from seven states. The Summer Academy experience is so powerful that seven participants now work part-time for Centropa as regional coordinators, committed to bringing Centropa to more teachers and students in their geographical areas.

"Holocaust information is easy to find on the web, but much of it is the same. It is archival in nature and very impersonal. Centropa takes the tack that each life lost—or impacted in any way—from the Holocaust was an individual with family and a home and loved ones. This makes it very much more personal to students."

CATHY TROUBLEFIELD, NORWOOD, NC

2019 Special Focus

Bavaria in the Carolinas/Teaching the Past in the Future: Holocaust Education and the Civil Rights Era in the Age of Social Media and New Technologies

Working with the Washington office of the Hanns-Seidel-Foundation, we received a grant from the Goethe Institute and German Embassy in Washington to bring Bavarian historians and educators together with their counterparts in South and North Carolina.

Our plan: to visit high schools, universities and Jewish community centers in Columbia, Charleston, and Charlotte all so we could hold public discussions about how countries face their pasts—and don't.

Special thanks to those who helped make this program possible: Doyle Stevick, Associate Professor in the Educational Leadership and Policies Department at the University of South Carolina, and Talli Dippold, the Director of Jewish Life and Associate Director of the Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice at Queen's College in Charlotte.

“Centropa is unique in that it creates a community that exists after the program. In addition, ALL of the Holocaust training seminars that I have attended only focused on teaching the Holocaust exclusively, where Centropa focuses with a wider lens on the human stories before, during, and after the Holocaust. I also felt that...the focus was on connecting students in a real way to the past.” TALLI DIPPOLD, CHARLOTTE, NC





Top row: at the Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte; Patricia Williams Lesane, then Executive Director of the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture at the College of Charleston at a discussion at the College of Charleston, with Robert Sigel of the Bavarian Education Ministry.

Bottom row: Doyle Stevick Of the University of South Carolina; seminar at the University of South Carolina in Columbia for Bavarian and South Carolina teachers.

How do you teach Holocaust and Jewish history in the lands where the Holocaust took place?

To study post-1918 Central and Eastern Europe is to learn of the ill-fated treaties of Versailles and Trianon in 1919; the population exchange between Greece and Turkey in 1923; Stalin's enforced famine in Ukraine that killed millions in 1932; the Second World War; the post-war expulsion of Poles from Ukraine and ethnic Germans from Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Romania; the Cold War itself; as well as the 1990s wars of Yugoslav secession. Few are the families in these countries that don't carry scars and traumas, yet looming over all these horrors is the Holocaust. Millions of Jews once lived between the Baltic and the Black Seas. Precious few remain.

As we have stated elsewhere, Centropa was founded to preserve Jewish memory in the lands where it has been all but wiped out and to disseminate our findings to the largest possible audience. Our task is to pay tribute to this destroyed world, and that's why we have been turning teachers and students into stakeholders: because, in the future, remembering Jewish life in their towns will be in their hands.

You can't accomplish that goal by beating 15-year-olds over the head with videos of dead bodies at concentration camps or stills of families about to be shot. Instilling horror and secondhand guilt was a bad idea when the first Holocaust education programs came to Eastern Europe 25 years ago. It didn't work then. It doesn't work now.

We can and do reach that goal when teachers and students see their town's Jewish history as something that belongs to them, something they should study, learn from, and preserve. After all, lessons of tolerance and civil society are baked into stories of Righteous Gentiles, and we at Centropa want every teenager to know where true north is, ethically and morally. And where it is not.

Once we began in this part of the world a decade ago, we developed four tools we knew teachers would need to reach their students and bring history alive for them.



1

We begin by turning our most compelling stories in each country into multimedia films. But we never make films for teenagers, we simply make the very best films we can, which is why they have now been selected for 19 film festivals around the world.



2

We develop websites in each language so teachers can direct their students to Centropa films and family stories in their language. Teachers also find classroom-tested lesson plans, as well as announcements for student competitions.



3

In each country, we create exhibitions from our interviews and photographs in the Centropa archive. From stories and pictures of going to school to snapshots of our elderly interviewees hugging grandchildren, students and teachers adore these traveling exhibitions.



4

The final tool we use is seminars, where we bring teachers together, fly in our veteran educators, and brainstorm on how best to use our films, website, and exhibitions—and how to motivate students to create their own projects.

Impact, outcomes, and sustainability



To build sustainability, we encourage our teachers to form networks with each other, and we strengthen those networks by turning our website into portals that allow them to upload classroom-tested lesson plans and share them with each other.

Since we don't believe in passive learning when it comes to Jewish heritage, we offer competitions so that students band together, carry out projects they can be proud of, and share them with others.

Because we send exhibitions around to schools in nine countries, students study the exhibition before they arrive, and then guide visitors on parents' night and/or younger students.

That means students see themselves as stakeholders in their town's Jewish history. It works for them. It works for us. And it honors our commitment: *zahor*—the Hebrew word to remember.

We mark our success, our impact, by what students do themselves—not how well they score on a test. In the top row you see students from a Budapest school acting as guides to our Hungarian exhibition, and this is after they video interviewed one of the people whose story we tell in the exhibition. On the right, a teacher and her students are using our new walking tour app of Krakow, which we use to bring Jewish history to life through personal stories.

Bottom row: on the left, a group of older students in the Ukrainian city of Kyiv guides younger students through the exhibition, while on the right students in the North Macedonian city of Skopje are showing off a project they made on their country's Jewish history.

Centropa's Hamburg Office in 2019 – Centropa's programs in Poland



The 67 interviews we conducted in Poland in are some of the most poignant and heart-rending in our archive. These stories bring to life the troubled 20th century, as told through the life stories of those Jews who chose to stay in Poland after the war.

With a website in Polish, downloadable family stories to read, and films to watch, we offer teachers one-stop shopping when it comes to Jewish history.

Little wonder that when we announce a seminar, well more than 200 teachers apply, though we rarely have room for more than forty. In May 2019, for instance, 210 teachers applied to attend our three-day seminar in Lublin at the Grodska Gate Theater, which combined history, digital storytelling, and Jewish tours of the city.

We could accomplish very little in Poland without the dedicated staff of Krakow's Galicija Jewish Museum, where its education department not only recruits for our seminars, but follows up afterwards to see how we can continue to help seminar participants.



“The Centropa project allows you to cross borders and get to know people and their stories. I never thought I would spend the weekend with teachers from Ukraine, Moldova, and Germany, so we could discuss ways of commemorating our towns’ Jewish stories. The experience of sharing thoughts, projects, and the sense of belonging with a community of like-minded people is invaluable for a teacher.”

KATARZYNA DOBRZANSKA, JELENIA GÓRA

“I heard about Centropa from another teacher so I wanted to attend your seminar. I liked it so much because you offer us just what we need: films and easy locatable biographies of Polish Jews and, most important, a network of teachers to work with. I also liked the fact we weren’t lectured to for two days and that we got to write our own lesson plans.”

IWONA KRYCZKA, LUBLIN

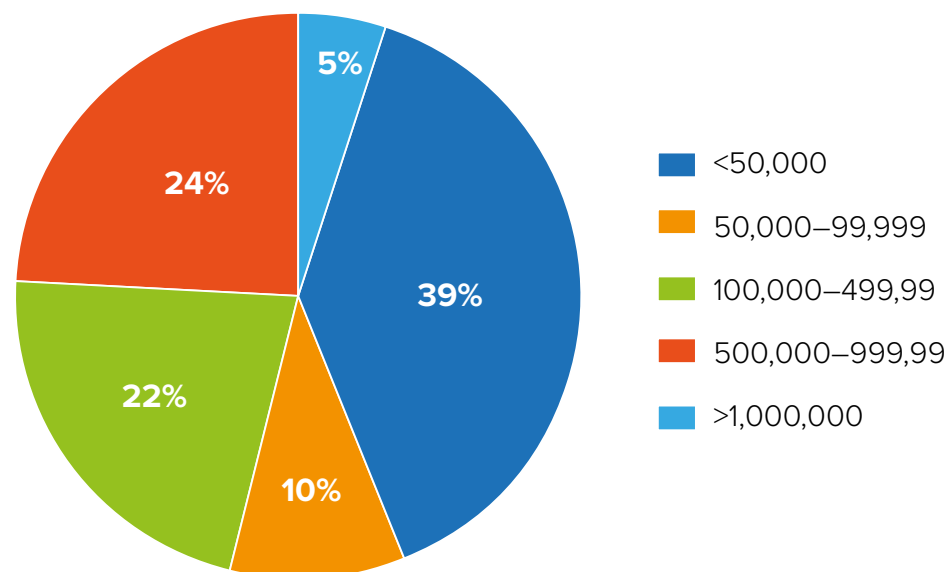
“Using Centropa in my classroom and attending your seminars is different from other seminars. And it is unique. We even get to use a film and exhibition on how Jews and Muslims worked together in Bosnia during the 1990s war. And that really fascinated my students.”

ALEKSANDRA RADECKA, KALISZ POMORSKI

“As a teacher, I can say that this is an especially effective way to teach history to today’s teenagers, because I get to present short films to them about our country, and then have them explore Polish Jewish biographies online, and then get involved in competitions on civil society. All this means the kids gets involved, and they really do learn!”

MARCIN URBĄŃSKI, ŁÓDŹ

Our 236 Polish teachers and the towns they teach in, by population



Ukraine/Moldova/Germany



The Centropa Trans.History program is now in its fourth year. Supported primarily by the German Foreign Office, our original mandate was to bring Holocaust education to Ukraine and Moldova.

We then added a group of our most innovative German and Polish teachers and we now meet regularly in Bonn, Mannheim, Krakow, Lviv, and Chisinau.

In April 2019, we held our first seminar in Odessa. Nearly two hundred Ukrainian teachers applied but we could only accommodate fifty. We then invited another fifty teachers from all four countries to Chisinau in October 2019.





“The Centropa Trans.History website is a practical tool to work with in history classes. I use the biographies and films for an emotion-based approach to topics like Jewish history and the Holocaust. The website provides a lot of inspiring didactic material for classes and extracurricular activities. It is all there for the teacher!”
ANZHELA KARIMOVA, CHERNIVTSI, UKRAINE

“Centropa’s films have a strong moral message. You don’t shove it on us but it’s there. By showing these films to my students they walk away with sympathy, kindness, and a stronger idea of what tolerance looks like. These movies are a real find for me and I will use them with my students for a long time to come.”
ALISA ANDRUSHCHAK, SAMBIR, UKRAINE

“This project enriched my lessons, gave me the opportunity to share experiences with teachers from other countries, deepened my knowledge and skills. I have attended many seminars, but this was the most interesting so far. You have combined so many activities, visits, and methodologies in a relatively short time. And thank you for providing us with films to use, a website to show them on, and even an exhibition we can order for our schools.”
NATALIA SINCU, DROCHIA, MOLDOVA



Photos taken during our walking tour and presentations in Odessa, along with winners of the best lesson plans.

Southeastern Europe **Slovenia**



Slovenia had but a small Jewish population in the decades before the Holocaust, and more than eighty-seven percent of its fifteen hundred Jews were murdered during the Shoah.

The synagogue in Maribor now serves as a cultural center and Jewish museum. Run by a state-supported foundation, it maintains an educational program, and in June 2019 we held a seminar for 30 teachers from Slovenia, Bosnia, and Croatia. We toured Jewish sites, engaged with synagogue director Marjetka Bedrac and historian Vojko Kunaver, and Centropa's Slovene Coordinator, Damjan Snoj, followed up with teachers to help them write up lesson plans and bring Holocaust education to students in each of their schools.

"Centropa films bring the Holocaust closer to students. With high school students these films work well as they are serious and hold their attention. However, they are extremely useful for younger students, especially when reflecting on values such as friendship, sacrifice, perseverance."

PETRA ŠTAMPFL, LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA



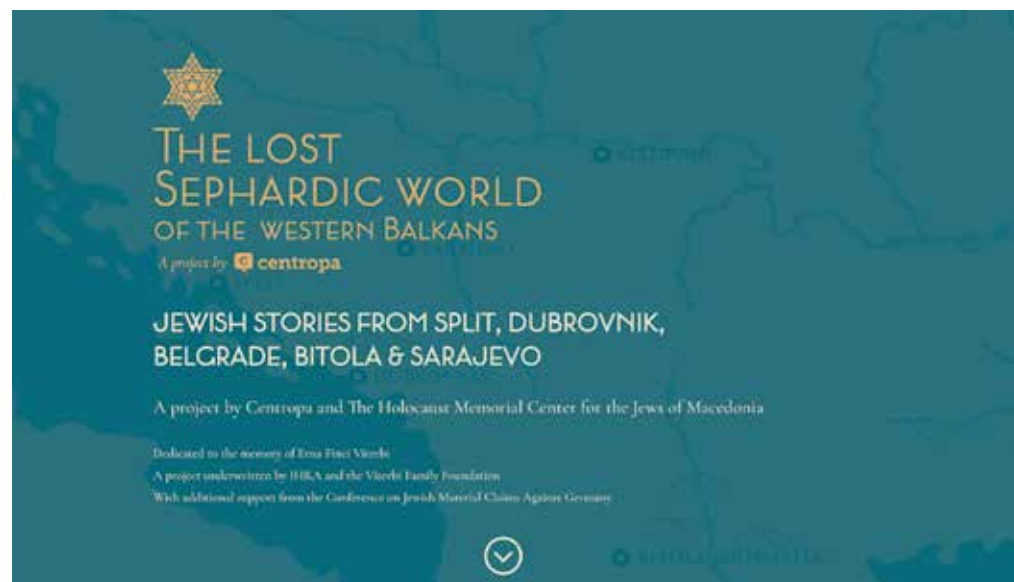
"A colleague from Croatia and I agreed that at the end of the next year I would bring my students to Koprivnica and visit the Jasenovac concentration camp with her students. Also, a colleague from Macedonia and I agreed that we will exchange historical material—I'll send her material about the Jewish history of Slovenia, and she'll do the same about Macedonia. That is how we will connect our students. We hope to meet at the Centropa seminar in Skopje in the fall. We discussed the possibility of Serbian students participating in the project and connecting students via Skype, with a visit exchange of students."

BERNARDKA AVSENIK, LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA

"During this seminar, what I liked most—aside from the lecture by the historian, and the film, and visit to the cemetery—was the fact that Centropa teachers shared their best lesson plans with us. This made the learning real for me, as I am now busy adapting some of those ideas for my students in Bosnia."

MAJA PANDZA, ZENICA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

North Macedonia and our all-Balkan network



Our partnership with the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Skopje goes far beyond the borders of North Macedonia. The largest Holocaust museum in southern Europe, this Museum has its own impressive educational program and once each year we invite teachers and education ministry officials from Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, and Serbia to join our Macedonian cohort to share lesson plans and best practices on how best to teach Balkan Sephardic Jewish history.

Simply put, even though there are still ethnic tensions in this region, one of the few things everyone is fascinated with is the region's Sephardic heritage, and we have produced a traveling exhibition and an entire website on Balkan Sephardic stories that captivates teachers, students, and the general public alike.

In 2019, we held our annual seminar in Skopje in October, which was attended by 50 teachers from all five ex-Yugoslav successor states.

"After your seminar, I presented Centropa at an afternoon meeting of the teachers in our school. I explained that Centropa is preserving Jewish history and that we, as teachers, can use these stories, thus: 1. providing students with access to primary sources; 2. individualizing history by translating statistics into personal stories; 3. using witness testimony to make history more 'real' to teenagers."
IZABELA UZUNOSKA CRNESKA, PRILEP, NORTH MACEDONIA

"Biljana Stojanovic presented a fascinating Centropa film, *"El Otro Camino"* [A Spanish language film with Serbian subtitles about the history of the Balkan Sephardim] which reminded me that teaching about the Holocaust is not just learning about the suffering of the Jews in occupied Europe during World War II, but that it is also about teaching culture, our rich and complex history, and also, at the end of the film, about helping your neighbors and about tolerance."
ALEKSANDRA SEKULIĆ KULA, SERBIA



Greece

The city of Salonika, or as it has been known since 1912, Thessaloniki, was once the largest Sephardic Jewish community in the world. With ninety thousand Jews at the turn of the last century, they made up more than forty percent of the population.

In the three decades after Salonika was taken into Greece, thirty thousand Jews left the city. That left nearly sixty thousand for the Germans to send to their deaths in 1943. Few returned alive and around twelve hundred live in the city today.

We conducted a dozen interviews in Salonika in the early 2000s and we have been holding teachers' seminars since 2013 in Athens. Thanks to the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation and the European Jewish Cemeteries Initiative, we held our first seminar in Salonika in December 2019, attended by 35 participants from throughout the country.

We toured the heart of the city, where once every other business had once been Jewish, and met with community leaders as well as Nina Molho, who narrated her mother's Centropa's film, which has now been shown in six international film festivals.

"Centropa films work because they don't use Jewish family stories to subtly criticize non-Jewish Greeks for not having saved them; they present the lives of Jewish families in ways that raise the students' interest and capture their attention. The films express the drama of the Holocaust without including violent scenes. Without excessive sentimentalism your films offer students the space they need to develop their thoughts so as to overcome the stereotypes that have been built up in their minds. As a teacher, my main aim is to teach anti-fascism, of which antisemitism is an integral part. You help me do this."

KATERINA EFRAIMIDOU, THESSALONIKI



Hungary



We spent much of 2019 in Hungary working on a special program called Common Ground, in which we brought together students from some of Budapest's highest achieving schools with students from schools in eastern Hungary, most of them living in towns with predominantly Roma populations.

The Roma in Central and Eastern Europe have been persecuted and marginalized for centuries, and the trauma of these experiences has been handed down from one generation to another.

With support from the Soros Foundation and the US Embassy, we designed programs to bring teenagers from these disparate groups together to create musical projects, all based on Hungarian Jewish folk songs.

This is how we build confidence in our Roma students, especially when we arrange for public performances in which they play with kids from our top-achieving schools.



“This Common Ground program was really effective because you gave our students the opportunity to meet with and create alongside other children they would never have met. This kind of out-of-the-box thinking took our high achieving students out of their comfort zone and they responded with enthusiasm and passion. That translates into a strong impact on our kids and how they see themselves and their society.” VIRÁG ESZTER MAJSAI, JÁNOS WESLEY SCHOOL – MÁV GROUNDS, BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Visegrad: a program for schools in Slovakia, Czechia, Hungary, and Poland



Back in 1991, the four regional countries of the Visegrad Region—all of which had recently overthrown Communism—created a foundation to support both business and civil society projects that would bring their citizens closer together.

Centropa has an exceptionally strong presence in all four countries, and we have been receiving grants from the Visegrad Foundation since 2014 for our educational programs, all of which have to do with Jewish history and Holocaust.

In October, 2019, we brought 44 teachers from all four countries to Budapest to share lesson plans and joint projects.

“It’s so important that teachers from our four countries can share with each other their experiences and ideas. We are all looking for better ways to make Jewish history in this region relevant and these cross border meetings show us how much we have in common.”

ZSUZSANNA TEMESI, SZOLNOK, HUNGARY

“The most important thing I learned during our seminar is how to talk about this difficult topic in a personal, relatable way, and how many modern methods and tools you have for me to use.”

MÓNIKA TILLMAN, BUDAPEST



CJN – The Centropa Jewish Network

When Communism fell in Central Europe in 1989, there was exactly one Jewish school in what had been the Soviet satellite states. It was in Budapest and had twelve students. Two years later, when the Soviet Union collapsed, there was but one Jewish school in Vilnius, which had opened only a few months before the end of the Soviet Union.

Over the next three decades, as well over one hundred and fifty thousand Jews left the former Soviet Union and moved to Germany, Jewish parents throughout the region insisted their communities open Jewish schools once again: and they did. Today, well over five thousand children attend more than thirty-five Jewish schools in the region, and in 2012 we established the Centropa Jewish Network.

We now bring teachers from these schools to work alongside their counterparts in cities where Jewish schools date back decades, such as in Amsterdam, London, Athens, and Istanbul.

Pictured here are photographs taken during our eighth international CJN seminar, which we held in Istanbul's Ulus Jewish School in February, and for which we partnered with the National Library of Israel, with whom we've been working steadily for the past five years. Thirty-four teachers from 18 schools in 16 European countries attended.



“To say it simply: you give us what no one else does. Being able to build networks for our students with other Jewish colleagues and their schools is what I appreciate the most. And I love these CJN seminars because we get to share our best ideas with each other and figure out what works.”

DOROTHEA FECSKE, I. E. LICHTIGFELD SCHULE, FRANKFURT AM MAIN



“Centropa is important because you give us exactly what we need for our students—personal stories they can read online in Ukrainian, and some really strong short films that our students love. It’s also great we can hold seminars with teachers from other Jewish schools in Europe. This cross-fertilization of ideas is so stimulating for educators.”

RUSLANA BERNATSKA, EDUCATIONAL COMPLEX 141 ORT, KYIV

Israel

Thanks to the hard work of Ettie Abraham, our resident Coordinator for Israeli schools, thirty-two teachers in fourteen municipalities are using Centropa at least once each year.

Thanks to the Nevzlin Foundation, we produced an exhibition based on our Polish interviews, and it traveled to three schools in Israeli in 2019.

In addition, in 2019, ten powerhouse Israeli teachers attended our international Summer Academy in Berlin where they all formed partnerships with teachers and students in other countries.

We also draw on our Israeli teachers to take part in European seminars, as they bring out-of-the-box thinking to our teachers and help build partnerships with Israeli schools.

“I spend a lot of time lecturing without using visual materials. In fact, frontal lecturing is alive and well in Israel. The Centropa method has opened the door to extend these didactic methods to include our own creativity in our lessons, including the videos you make and the audio presentations. And students respond!” NOA COOPER, HADERA

“Centropa makes history interesting and brings it to life. Mention Holocaust to my students and they are going to say, ‘oh no, teacher, not again!’ But your wonderful short films make students watch and listen and they end up showing empathy to the people in them. The films are a trigger to make important discussions with the students and for them to make unique projects afterwards.” VICTOR GUREVICH, ASHDOD





A tall, vertical display panel stands on a wooden floor. It features two main images: a black and white portrait of a man in a suit and tie (likely a historical figure) in the upper half, and a black and white group photograph of many people in the lower half. Below the group photo, there is a section of text in Hebrew. The text is arranged in two columns and appears to be a historical account or a list of names. The top of the panel has a dark background with some faint text.



The Centropa Summer Academy

turning the city into a classroom—for teachers

Back in 2007, we brought nine teachers from the US to Vienna and Budapest so we could ask for their input on how to improve our outreach to teachers and enrich the content on our website.

During those eight days together, Austrian and Hungarian teachers stopped by to take part and all during the school year, these Americans and Europeans stayed in touch, shared lesson plans and formed partnerships.

Who else was doing this? No one.

Since then, over seven hundred teachers from nineteen countries have joined us as we've toured cities such as Belgrade, Sarajevo, Zagreb, Budapest, Prague, Krakow, Warsaw, Vienna, and Berlin.

"This Summer Academy was a completely different experience for me. It was way more dynamic--not just the amazing lectures, but the entire experience of learning on the spot while you are walking around and brainstorming with teachers from a dozen other countries! Furthermore, the Centropa team is totally enthusiastic, committed, and willing to help us any time. These are the things that make this seminar a unique experience for me."
ANDREA SERTIC, CROATIA

They have worked together to write lesson plans they then share internationally, all while meeting journalists, historians, community activists and diplomats.

Our most popular destination is Berlin, as there is no city in which so much of the twentieth century played out so vividly, so tragically.

Whether it is gathering around the place where the Nazis burned Jewish-written books in 1933 (see photo here), or standing alongside the Berlin Wall, which fell fifty-six years later, this is where history is writ large and our teachers bring back the stories, images, and lesson plans they develop in the very city where that history took place.

Our 2019 Summer Academy brought seventy teachers from fifteen countries to Berlin.

"Participating in this program was one of the highlights of my professional development. A true teacher is always learning. Centropa knows that, and you gave us an invaluable opportunity to exchange experiences, learn new knowledge, techniques, and teaching materials."

MARINA KONSTANTINOVA, ODESSA, UKRAINE



The places we saw

Jewish Berlin



Walking tour of Berlin's Jewish quarter
The Oranienburgerstrasse synagogue
Attending Friday evening services in the Pestlozzistrasse synagogue

Third Reich Berlin



In the Topography of Terror: former SS headquarters
In the Wannsee Conference Center
The Information Center of the Memorial to Europe's Murdered Jews

Cold War Berlin



Soviet war memorial in Treptow
The last segment of the Berlin Wall, on Bernauer Strasse
At the Bornholmer Bridge, site of where East Berliners raced through to West Berlin on November 9, 1989

The people we met



Top row, from left: Michel Auga of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation discussing the challenges democracy faces in Eastern Europe today. Katja Plate of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation spoke on how the same historical subjects are taught in different countries. On the right, Guy Chazan, Bureau Chief of *The Financial Times*, led a historical panel on problems facing Germany today.

Bottom: our own Fabian Ruehle speaking of what it was like growing up in Communist East Berlin and moving to West Berlin just before the fall of the Wall. Historian Mischa Gaborwitsch describes the final battle for Berlin in 1945, and Carmen Smiatcz of the Institute for German Jewry in Hamburg provided our teachers with an overview of a tragic century.

The Kindertransport refugees we spoke with



“Every teacher attending your summer program will say that meeting these Kindertransport refugees was the highlight of our seven days together. It was unforgettable. First we watched a film with no narration at all, just twelve German and Austrian Jews talking of what it was like to leave their parents. And then we engaged with these three people, all in their nineties! I am so grateful for having met them, and I will use your film with my students.”

ESZTER MINICH, BUDAPEST

“Meeting Eli Abt, Alice Alexander and Kurt Marx floored me. No book, no text, can convey what I felt in that room. But then you screened your film of a dozen other “Kinder” speaking of leaving home, and coming to England. You can be sure I will use this film with my students.”

NAME WITHHELD ON REQUEST. HAMBURG

Surely one of the most remarkable chapters in the history of the Holocaust is the story of the Kindertransport, when, between November 1938 and June 1940, some 10,000 Jewish children were given refuge in the United Kingdom, so long as they arrived unaccompanied.

That means all of them left their parents behind, and by war’s end, most of those parents had been deported and murdered.

Yet most teachers cannot access content on this topic they can easily use in their classrooms, which is why Centropa created a website, an archive of first-hand stories and a film that interviews a dozen Kindertransport refugees.

Thanks to the Association of Jewish Refugees in England, the German Embassy in London, and the Claims Conference, we brought three Kindertransport refugees to our Summer Academy, screened our film, and then had our teachers engage the “Kinder” in conversation.



Pictured above is Alice Alexander. To the left, Eli Abt. Not pictured, Kurt Marx.

And the teachers we brainstormed and formed partnerships with



If there is another Jewish historical institute that brings together teachers from over a dozen countries so they can write lesson plans together and share best practices, we've not heard of it.

Naturally, we understand that history will have a different emphasis in each country; few of us escape our national narratives. But it is by exchanging ideas and learning how other educators teach complex subjects like Kristallnacht, the origins of the Second World War, and The Final Solution that help us find common ground. That, in turn, allows our teachers to develop platforms so their students can then share their work with each other across borders.



"We have a saying in Ukraine: the human mind is like an umbrella; it works best when open. And to quote Vasily Grossman in his magnificent novel *Life and Fate*, if you want to get to a person's head, then go through his heart. This applies, 100%, to both to educators and students and this entire summer program understood this. And I thank you for it."

ANASTASIIA BELYAEVA,
ZAPORIZHIA, UKRAINE

Centropa's best friends 2019

A huge thank you to all those friends and supporters who have made calls and connections for us in 2019

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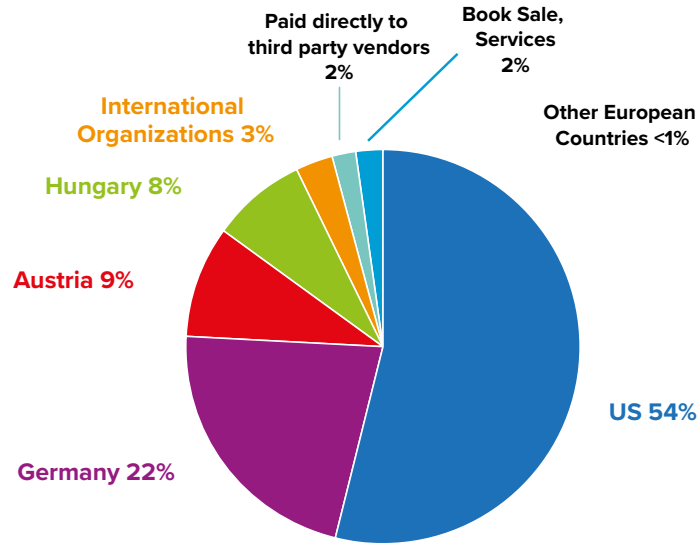
Financials 2019

| Expenses 2019 | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| <i>Part I Educational programs</i> | | |
| European schools | | |
| Staff | € 112.830 | \$126,370 |
| Honoraria for part-time coordinators in LT, PL, UA, MD, SRB, HR, BIH, SI, MK | € 14.182 | \$15,884 |
| Website development--spent on all European programs | € 6.668 | \$7,468 |
| Multimedia films for European education | € 14.777 | \$16,551 |
| App for European education | € 21.543 | \$24,129 |
| Traveling exhibitions for EU educational programs: PL, HU, LT and Sarajevo | € 21.211 | \$23,756 |
| Seminar costs, meals, seminar room, travel, hotel | € 48.757 | \$54,608 |
| European public schools | € 239.968 | \$268,766 |
| | | |
| European Jewish schools | | |
| Staff | € 28.209 | \$31,594 |
| Part-time assistants | € 20.490 | \$22,949 |
| Salary: Vienna team's time devoted to EU Jewish programs | € 44.655 | \$50,014 |
| Website development | € 3.779 | \$4,232 |
| Multimedia films for EU Jewish schools program | € 8.374 | \$9,379 |
| Traveling exhibitions | € 6.020 | \$6,742 |
| Seminar costs | € 55.898 | \$62,606 |
| European Jewish schools | € 167.425 | \$187,516 |
| | | |
| US educational programs | | |
| Staff | € 53.757 | \$60,209 |
| Salary: Vienna team's time devoted to our US educational program | € 95.757 | \$107,248 |
| Website development--spent on all US programs | € 10.002 | \$11,203 |
| Multimedia films for US Education | € 22.165 | \$24,826 |
| Seminar costs, meals, seminar room, travel, hotel, materials, preparation | € 14.589 | \$16,339 |
| US Public schools | € 196.270 | \$219,825 |

| Expenses 2019 | | |
|--|------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Part I Educational programs</i> | | |
| Israel | | |
| Staff | € 9.436 | \$10,569 |
| Website development - spent on Hebrew languages programs | € 1.778 | \$1,992 |
| Multimedia films for Israeli schools | € 3.940 | \$4,413 |
| Seminar costs | € 534 | \$598 |
| Israel educational programs | € 15.688 | \$17,572 |
| | | |
| International Summer Academy 2019 | | |
| Centropa International Summer Academy transport, hotel, meals | € 97.558 | \$109,285 |
| Publications | € 24.347 | \$27,269 |
| Website / server hosting English and German languages sites | € 5.364 | \$6,008 |
| International Summer Academy 2019 | € 127.269 | \$142,561 |
| | | |
| Total PART I Educational Program | € 746.106 | \$836,240 |
| | | |
| Part II: Community activities | | |
| Receptions, lunches, in-house conferences | € 1.100 | \$1,232 |
| Cafe Centropa: monthly events for Holocaust survivors, Vienna & Budapest | € 59.639 | \$66,796 |
| Social programs for Holocaust survivors | € 60.739 | \$68,028 |
| | | |
| Part III: making Centropa work | | |
| Vienna administrative expenses | | |
| Rent and operating costs | € 77.834 | \$87,182 |
| Legal and accounting | € 33.951 | \$38,117 |
| Administrative salaries | € 34.876 | \$39,061 |
| Capital investments | € 40.401 | \$45,249 |
| Administration | € 187.063 | \$209,610 |
| Total expenses | € 993.908 | \$1,113,878 |

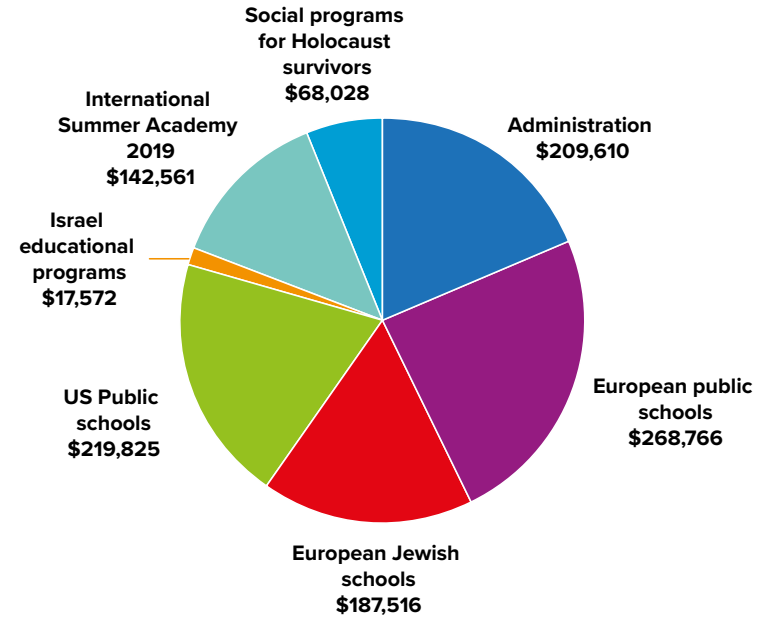
Income 2019: \$1,202,108

Where it came from



Expenses 2019: \$1,113,878

How we spent it



| | | |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| Donations to our US account | € 578.503 | \$647,965 |
| Donations to our account in Germany | € 233.611 | \$261,644 |
| Austrian contributions | € 96.520 | \$108,080 |
| Donatons paid directly to our Hungarian account | € 85.486 | \$95,744 |
| Internatonal organizations | € 34.722 | \$38,889 |
| Paid directly to third parties (hotels, restaurants, etc) | € 24.694 | \$27,160 |
| Book sales and service income | € 18.671 | \$20,920 |
| Other donations | € 1.170 | \$1,310 |
| Interest | € 354 | \$396 |
| Total income 2019 | € 1.073.731 | \$1,202,108 |

Staff Vienna Office



Edward Serotta

Edward is a journalist, photographer, and filmmaker specializing in Jewish life in Central and Eastern Europe. Born in Savannah, Georgia, Edward has worked in Central Europe since 1985. Between 1996 and 1999, he produced three films for ABC News Nightline. Edward has published three books - *Out of the Shadows*, *Survival in Sarajevo*, and *Jews, Germany, Memory*.



Tanja Eckstein

Tanja, our chief interviewer, grew up in East Germany and moved to Vienna in 1984. Tanja joined Centropa as an interviewer in 2002, and since then she has conducted more than 70 interviews in Austria, and another three in Israel. In 2006, she started our Vienna Café Centropa social club, which brings together our elderly interviewees monthly to enjoy a lecture, social program, or a festive Jewish holiday meal.



Wolfgang Els

Wolfgang hails from a small wine village in the Wienerwald, Austria, where for years he played bass in a rock band we could not bear to listen to. Wolfgang studied filmmaking in university, and has now been working for us for more than a decade as our filmmaker, sound designer, and graphic designer.



Veronika Doppelreiter

Veronika has been Centropa's stalwart bookkeeper since 2002 and we can barely get by a day without her. Veronika was born in Brazil and worked as a bookkeeper for El Al Airlines and other companies before coming to work with us.



Anna Domnich

Anna hails from a small town in the heart of the Russian Ural mountains. When she was 7 she moved to Ukraine where she finished high school. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a Master's degree in Management and Leadership from Lauder Business School, Vienna. At Centropa she is responsible for administrative tasks and assists the director, Edward Serotta.



Jonathan Schwerts

Jonathan was born in Germany and received his Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Sociology in 2018 at the University of Trier. Jonathan began as an intern at Centropa in 2018 and we asked him to stay on. He has been carrying out research in our archive, as well as helping with our teachers' seminars.



Denis Karalic

Denis Karalic was born in Munich to a Bosnian father and a Polish mother, went to elementary school in Croatia and Bosnia, finished high school in Israel, and has lived in Vienna since 1999. Denis spent more than a decade at the Austrian National Fund for Victims of National Socialism, as well as the Vienna Jewish Museum. Denis joined our team in 2017 and is now our chief archivist.



Fabio Gschweidl

As Centropa's newest colleague, Fabio supports the team as our tech director. Fabio studies computer science as well as sociology at the University of Vienna. Born in Austria, Fabio is responsible for solving technical issues and operating our internal network, as well as administrating and fixing the Centropa website. Fabio has also been designing and programming our specialty websites.

Budapest Office



Marcell Kenesei

Marcell learned he was Jewish when his parents brought him, age 14, to the Lauder Foundation school in Budapest. Since then he's been a camper and counselor at Jewish camp, graduated from Paideia, the prestigious Jewish Studies Institute in Stockholm, and holds a Master's Degree in political science from the ELTE University. Marcell is Centropa's deputy director, overseeing our Hungarian public school program, our Israel program, and the CJN, our network for European Jewish schools.



Szilvia Czingel

Szilvia Czingel holds a PhD in Ethnography and has been working for Centropa since 2006. Szilvi conducted many of our interviews in Hungary, and now runs our Hungarian programs, including seminars, the Common Ground Educational Program, and Café Centropa, which brings together our interviewees, often to meet Hungarian high school students.



Borbála Pál

Borbála Pál studied sociology at ELTE (Hungary) and later received her Master's Degree in Nationalism Studies at Central European University. Her main research interests are Jewish identification and prejudices. She also volunteers for Haver Foundation, an organization that aims to combat antisemitism among Hungarian secondary school students. At Centropa, she coordinates the Centropa Jewish Network.



Bence Lukács

Bence Lukács worked as a web developer and programmer before joining our Budapest team. He keeps Centropa's technical equipment and online infrastructure checked, and comes up with solutions where there is space for improvement.



Valentina Hemera

Tina graduated with an Events Management degree from the Manchester Metropolitan University, focusing on cultural festivals and celebration events. As part of her degree, Tina organised charity events for the university and as a member of the Jewish Society she organised balls and educational events. After completing her degree, Tina spent a year in Tallinn, Estonia, as a JDC Entwine Yesod fellow. At Centropa she is responsible for the Centropa Jewish Network, and our Hungarian and Israeli programs.

Washington Office



Lauren Granite

Lauren has been directing our US educational programs since 2010. Prior to joining our team she spent more than a dozen years teaching Jewish history in colleges, Jewish day schools, and congregational schools. Lauren runs our US programs, expanding our network of schools, coordinating with public school administrators to bring Centropa to local, state, and national professional development programs, and conducting workshops and seminars.

Hamburg Office



Fabian Ruehle

As Centropa's Director of European Education Programs, Fabian develops programs and runs seminars for schools all over Europe. Fabian joined Centropa in 2008, and worked in Vienna until 2014 before opening Centropa's Germany office. Together with Marcell, he is in charge of writing our European grant proposals. Fabian emigrated from East Berlin to West Berlin in 1988. He studied American History at Rutgers and the Free University of Berlin and earned a Master's degree. Before joining Centropa in Vienna, Fabian worked for the American Jewish Committee in Berlin.



Maximilian von Schoeler

Max studied Social Science at Humboldt University of Berlin, and earned his Master's Degree in Holocaust Communication and Tolerance at Touro College, Berlin. From 2009 until 2015, he worked at the Center for Digital Systems (CeDiS) for the online oral history archives „Forced Labor 1939-1945“ and „Witnesses to the Shoah“ at Free University of Berlin. Max coordinates Centropa's Trans.History project, and is responsible for social media and website content.



Magdaléna Farnesi

Magda Farnesi studied English and Polish philology and Jewish Studies in Olomouc, Czech Republic and Central European History at the CEU in Budapest. She joined Centropa Germany in 2018 as Logistics Coordinator, and helps organize our TransHistory seminars in Ukraine, Germany, and Moldova, as well as our annual Centropa Summer Academy. Prior to Centropa, Magda organized exhibitions, concerts, and cultural events.

