

New Cracow Friendship Society, Inc.

3905 Arthur Avenue North, Seaford, N.Y. 11783

CRACOW

FRIENDSHIP

A NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY



NEW YORK CITY

60th ANNIVERSARY YEAR MAY - JUNE 2025

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VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE: www.newcracow.org

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תחי מדינת ישראל ועם ישראל

LONG LIVE THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE

NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

President, Editor Bernice Slutzman

www.newcracow.org

Email: Newsletter@newcracow.org

EDITORIAL/PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Chances are you will receive this issue in hard copy after Shavuot so let us hope that you had an enjoyable observance and plenty of cheesecake, blintzes, and other dairy items to hold you until our next holiday.

In March, a number of our members were invited to a screening of a new motion picture, *Bau Artist At War*. Based on the book by the same name, it tells the story of Joseph Bau, a Cracovian, who was instrumental in saving the lives of his fellow Jews in the ghetto. It also tells of the love story between Joseph and Rebecca. [It was their wedding which was portrayed in *Schindler's List*, although in the latter movie the location was changed.] Following the screening there was a Q and A with the daughters of the Baus. They live in Israel and strive to keep the memory of their father's deeds alive by maintaining a museum in Tel Aviv. Right now they are having a difficult time as the building which houses his studio has been sold and may be demolished to make way for a high rise. No need to mention how much a new building would cost for the museum.

Those of us who were there thoroughly enjoyed the film and hope that it would have a theatrical release. That hope has been realized. September 26, 2025 is that date. We encourage our members and others to go see the film.

On April 27th, the annual Yom HaShoah observance took place at Temple Emanuel in New York City. It has been held under the auspices of the Museum Of Jewish Heritage: A Living Memorial to the Holocaust for a great many years now. The observance was begun by the WAGRO society/American Gathering under the leadership of Benjamin Meed. It started on a small scale at Temple Emanuel until, as the years went by, it could no longer be contained in that venue. As a result it was moved to Madison Square Garden.

In those years the number of survivors in attendance far outnumbered the second generation. I venture to say that there was no third generation yet. As time went by a shift in the population occurred and the second generation began to outnumber the survivors. At the most recent observance one could almost count the survivors on one hand. And, with the dwindling number of attendees, we are back at Temple Emanuel where it all began.

We heartily congratulate our member Arthur Spielman on his being selected to light one of the six candles at the memorial.



Many times over the recent years we have reached out to you, the membership, to let us know what kind of programs you would be interested in participating, whether in-person or webinars. We reach out to you again. Let us know so that we may provide that which interests you.

Bernice Slutzman

HELP WANTED

We are currently seeking a technologically knowledgeable person who can be of help with our website.

Please contact us at
Newsletter@newcracow.org or Brei513@aol.com

TENTATIVE CALENDAR 2025-2026

June	2-3	Shavuot
July	13	Fast of the 17 th of Tammuz
August	3	Tisha b'Av
September	23-24	Rosh Hashana
	28	Yizkor at Beth Moses Block 30
October	2	Yom Kippur
	7-8	Succot
	14	Shemini Atzeret
	15	Simchat Torah
December	14	Erev Chanukah Party
2026		
March	2	Fast of Esther
	3	Purim
	TBA	Commemoration
April	2-9	Pesach
	14	Yom HaShoah
	21	Yom HaZikaron
	22	Yom Ha'Atzmaut
May	10	Mother's Day
	10 or 17	Israel Day Parade
	22-23	Shavuot

Keep notice of these dates. As events become more solidified, the dates may change.

LISTING OF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Cemetery	Bernice Slutzman brei513@aol.com Leon Hilfstein Leonh74d@gmail.com
Commemoration	Bernice Slutzman brei513@aol.com
Membership	Ida Lewis Membership@newcracow.org
Newsletter	Bernice Slutzman Newsletter@newcracow.org brei513@aol.com
Social Action	Anna Gallegos socialaction@newcracow.org
Social Committee	
Sunshine	Ida Lewis Idale747@gmail.com Eva Pfau Pfaueva@gmail.com
Telephone Tree	Leon Hilfstein leonh74d@gmail.com
Website	Simone Scheumann info@newcracow.org
Welfare	Renata Farahnik Teacherspet130@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Dear Members,

As of this writing, nineteen months have passed since October 7, 2023 when Israel was viciously attacked by Hamas and Gazan supporters, killing more than 1,200 civilians. Much gratitude is felt that most of the 251 hostages have been returned, although, to our dismay, 58 still remain in captivity by Hamas. We, in the USA, cannot become complacent over time. We must work in any way possible to secure their release.

Every murder on and since October 7th has been a stab wound in the hearts of Israelis and the Jewish nation. For our survivors, 2G's, and most Jews in general, the events of October 7th were clear reminders of a role the Jewish People have unfortunately had to play for more than 2,600 years. We are required to fight for our survival against hostile powers attempting to destroy the Jewish nation. Unfortunately, we are witnessing the rise of antisemitism again on our American soil from university, state, and city college campuses. Young students who have no real understanding of Middle Eastern history are banding together with evil forces determined to destroy the Jewish nation. Little do they know that protests in the name of "freedom of speech" would be squashed in most any Arab country.

"Jewish Lives Matter!" At this time, I'd like to make an appeal for your generous contributions to be earmarked towards IRGUN Nechei Zahal (formerly known as Beit Halochem and FIDV- Friends of Israel Disabled Veterans). Beit Halochem was an organization fervently supported by my father, Victor Lewis, z'l, who

served as Membership Committee Chairman of the NCFS since it's founding in 1965. For many years, he rallied within our Society with great success to support the rehabilitation of Israeli war veterans. More than ever before, Beit Halochem is now in need of monetary support while it is committed to provide lifelong support for Israel's wounded warriors and their families as they rebuild their lives. There are 65,000 total wounded warriors in Israel, including 16,500 newly wounded since October 7th, 1,120 female wounded warriors. 7,300 warriors are diagnosed with PTSD. These are precious lives, not merely numbers. Beit Halochem, a non-profit organization with a national responsibility has 4 (soon to be 5) rehabilitation centers within Israel. They treat both the visible wounds and the invisible scars of war (PTSD, trauma, and mental health) through their hundreds of programs, helping to rebuild lives. If you are thinking of how you can support our brothers and sisters who are fighting every day for the survival of Israel, please donate to BEIT HALOCHEM-IRGUN. You can send your checks made out to "Beit Halochem-Irgun" to me at the address below...or place your donation online: [www. the-Irgun.org](http://www.the-Irgun.org).

At this time, I would like to remind any members who still haven't paid this year's dues... This can be done online at www.newcracow.org or by check (\$25 single, \$40 couple) sent to my address below. Any additional contributions are always appreciated.

Please inform us of any change of address or status.

A Reminder: All owners of plots at Beth Moses must remain members in good standing. Please inform your offspring or others who are handling your financial affairs regarding your yearly dues arrangement with us.

Wishing you all well, and an enjoyable spring into summer.
Sincerely,

Ida Lewis
NCFS Membership Committee Chair.
membership@newcracow.org
147-17 78th Road
Flushing NY11367
(718)380-3574.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO OUR MEMBERS

Please inform us via email [info@newcracow.org or brei513@aol.com] if you have moved and changed your address. The forwarding of mail stops after a year and then your correspondence returns to us, hopefully with the yellow label with your new address. When this happens, we must resend to the new address, incurring a new expense for the organization. This also prevents you from receiving certain information in a timely manner.

Thank you.

URGENT: SUPPLIES FOR THE IDF

Supplies are still being sent to assist the IDF. Specific supplies can be ordered on Amazon and shipped directly to the location where duffel bags are packed for shipment to Israel.

Among the items most requested by IDF commanders both in Gaza and in the North are:

- WETSOLS Multitools \$23.99 each
- Risen Israeli Bandage Vacuum Sterile Compression Bandages \$12.99 EACH
- JUSAID Tourniquet, \$19.99/3 pack, or other similar brand
- NOOLA 3-liter Hydration Backpack \$35.99 each
- DURACLEANSE Shower Alternative Body Wipes 100 (2-pack of 50) \$30.99
- RHINO-RESCUE Hemostatic Gauze 4" x 35" \$19.99 each
- WADEO 7200w Windproof Camping Stove \$37.99

You can open the link

[https://www.amazon.com/](https://www.amazon.com/registries/g/guest-view/12ZQ2DVTVIQPK)

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Just be sure that you have any items ordered shipped to:

Duffel Bags for Israel

c/o Terry Ackerman

SYJCC

74 Hauppauge Road

Commack, BY 11725

There are many other items on the Amazon registry as well, so I encourage you to refer to the list. I realize that many of these items are costly, but they will make it for our soldiers and for some of the items, they will save precious lives.

Bernice Slutzman

CEMETERY INFORMATION

Periodically I make a run to Beth Moses Cemetery. On my visits there I check on all three of our sections. I regret to inform members whose family is there that their graves are not being maintained. I have noticed that some don't even have any plantings on the site.

Please understand that it is not the responsibility of the Society to care for these graves. Arrangements can be made with the cemetery for perpetual care or maintenance on a per year basis.

The cemetery does offer cleaning services, power washing for monuments. Contact them for prices. Eternal Memorials also offers cleaning services: 631 755-1200

RECALLING A SUMMER CAMP FOR NAZIS

[The following is an article which appeared in Newsday, November 16, 2022 by Randi F. Marshall, on the Opinion page.]

A turnoff into a private road in Yaphank leads to a large grassy area surrounded by home, some bungalow style, dotted with landscaped yards and American and Trump flags. The nearby lake and woods complete the idyllic setting.

The only nod to the neighborhood's past; some German street names including one called German Boulevard, and a sign still marking the German Gardens community.

Absent from the scene: any indication that 85 years ago this slice of Yaphank was home to a summer camp where children and adults spent time boating, singing, enjoying campfires—and immersing themselves in Nazi ideology.

It was called Camp Siegfried. Nazi youth took a Long Island Rail Road train—the Camp Siegfried Special—from Penn Station to Yaphank, marched through the hamlet carrying American and Nazi flags, and arrived at Adolf Hitler Strasse, a street that marked the property, then managed by the German-American Bund.. Amid seemingly benign activities like learning German, the young Americans, wearing brown shirts and surrounded by swastikas, would sing Nazi song, hold rallies, declare “Heil Hitler” to one another, and lean the same ugly tropes Hitler was using to indoctrinate a nation nearly 4,000 miles away.

On Tuesday [November 15, 2022], a play called “Camp Siegfried” opened off-Broadway, bringing that little-known piece of Long Island’s history to the stage. While living on Long Island during the pandemic, playwright Bess Wohl learned about the camp and began writing the story of a young man and woman—un-named, perhaps because they could be any of us. A pair of troubled teens, seduced by one another, by the community they found themselves in, by an ideology that blamed someone else for their problems.

The set looks like a piece of suburban beauty, a tree hanging over a rolling hill. But underneath the tranquility, it’s a disturbing portrayal of extremism, violence, and the hate that bubbles beneath the surface, only to boil over as the young girl finds her voice, shouting to an unseen crown in a German speech where the audience might only understand the word “Juden”. As she throws her arm into a Sieg Heil salute, the crowd cheers and the play’s audience gasps.

“Camp Siegfried” comes as state officials complete a survey of how the Holocaust is taught in schools. The survey results hopefully will be made public and provide a road map for how we can better teach our children to reject the seductive traps of hate.

But the play also comes at a particularly fraught time, as antisemitism pervades our communities, college campuses and social media. The recent destructive remarks and posts from Kanye “Ye” Westad Kyrie Irving, which comedian Dave Chappelle then tried to normalize, are only the most public examples of the always-bubbling

hate, and the latest evidence that we still aren't doing enough.

"We need to stay aware, to not be seduced," Wohl said. "To use theses moments in history as a bulwark against making these same mistakes again."

It's been five [8] years since a restrictive housing covenant allowing only German home-buyers on Camp Siegfried's property was lifted. And Wohl was struck by what she called "the erasure" of the camp's existence. Holocaust education on Long Island should include a nod to what happened in the students' backyards, and Yaphank should add a historic marker to the site.

Then Camp Siegfried would be more than just a story told on stage, by an ugly reality Long Island cannot forget.

[It's been almost three years since this article appeared. We, have seen that conditions here have gotten worse.]

DIFFICULT TIMES

The week between Yom HaShoah and Yom Hazikaron (Memorial Day) has always been one for deep reflection. This year was no different. The pain I always feel during these days was intensified this year due to the loss of my father-in-law, Ben Roisman, who passed away just several days earlier. My father-in-law was a wonderful man and I had the privilege of knowing him for more than forty years. He will be missed.

The period before his passing and the harrowing experience of the death of a loved one coupled with the fact that my mother-in-law is also not well, has created a very difficult situation, especially for my wife, but also for me. These powerful memorial days, for the Shoah and then for the soldiers killed in Israeli wars, were added melancholy. The fact that the war we are currently involved in still rages on with no end in sight, with additional soldiers being killed daily, only makes it more difficult. That Yom Haazmaut follows Yom Hazikaron and creates the sudden transition from the depths of despair to the peaks of hope and joy, didn't really work for me this year. I should note that for as long as I can remember I always found the transition between the two extremes these days represent to be a very powerful experience. One that, in general, symbolizes the Jewish historical experience. We see this in so many ways but so poignantly when looking at the fact that the State of Israel was founded right after the Holocaust and that at a wedding, at a time of our greatest joy, we break the glass to recall the destruction of the Temple, one of the worst events in Jewish history and one that symbolized the beginning of the Diaspora which has led to such historic tragedy.

But this year, like last year, current events are just too strong to look at the larger picture (which I'm sure exists). We are too deep into the morass of the day to day to look beyond it. That will have to wait to a future time. And, as if on cue, just to ensure that no one really enjoyed Yom Haazmaut, countless fires were set (some by accident and then deliberately as an act of terrorism), mostly in the Jerusalem area, causing unprecedented damage, requiring assistance from a bunch of countries

including some like Spain, who haven't been very good friends of late (a silver lining perhaps?), forced the cancelation of most of the day's celebrations and in general just added to the foul mood most of us find ourselves in.

The foul mood is only partly due to the war. Most of what I write here relates to the changing dynamics of the war with Gaza and the accompanying theaters such as Lebanon, Syria, Yemen and Iran. But that isn't the most depressing part. I'll get to that in a minute.

The war in Gaza drags on with no end in sight. And while I can understand the government's unwillingness to reach any settlement that leaves Hamas in power, it is harder to understand the strategy that calls for "complete victory". At least to the public, the plan to do now what hasn't been done in the last year and a half is not very clear. What is clear is that the lives of those hostages who remain alive, some say 24, others like Sara Netanyahu and President Trump, say less than that – are very much in danger. Ideas have been floated around by Egypt (at least as far as the media is concerned, so I should caveat that I honestly have no idea how true the report is) calling for a long-term ceasefire, which would release the hostages, Hamas would not stay in power and would disarm. If that were a true proposal, is it realistic to assume we can achieve more than that? But whether it is true or not, over the past week or so, Israel has rejected everything put on the table and Netanyahu has opened a new front against Qatar, with escalating rhetoric. Now don't get me wrong, these guys are no angels, but they have been at the center of the negotiations, and if they are out, that leaves only Egypt -who claims we rejected the above proposal. And keep in mind that Trump at least, thinks highly of Qatar and visited that country. So, we are set for another collision course.

While Lebanon looks stable – that is, Hezbollah tries to rehabilitate itself and move weapons from one place to another, we bomb them and take out their operatives and they don't respond – and the government of Lebanon is pushing Hezbollah into a corner, (all good news) – Syria is looking more and more like another powder keg. While the new government there has done almost everything in its power to try and prove they are reformed, and not fundamental Islamists, and have been relatively successful in doing so, Israel continues to view them with extreme caution and skepticism. That boiled over the other day when a fabricated video clip went viral on social media in which a Druze Sheik ridiculed the prophet Mohammed and the fundamental Islamists of the new Syrian government started butchering people in the Druze community in Syria. Israel, pressured heavily by the large, loyal, and IDF serving Druze community in Israel which had started demonstrating and putting pressure on the Israeli government to intervene to protect its brethren in Syria, did intervene and attacked close to the Presidential palace in Damascus, warning the new regime of the consequences if it continued to go after the Druze. As I write this, things seem to have calmed down a bit. But this is a powder keg that can easily explode.

Then you have Yemen. It was all pretty much normal until today. That is they send a ballistic missile at

Israel every other day which the IDF shoots down, the US Army pounds the Huttis with the might of the US military, Israel lets the US respond in its place because we have better things to do than send planes 2,000 km to handle this nuisance that won't go away. But this morning, one of those ballistic missiles was not shot down (no one knows why yet) and it landed within the borders of Ben Gurion International Airport. Thankfully, only a handful of people sustained minor injuries but scores of airlines promptly canceled flights to Israel. Just when you thought things were back to normal.... Expect Israel to hit the Huttis hard on our own in the coming days. Don't expect it to make much of a difference.

And finally, Iran. Iran is Israel's worst nightmare recurring again, this time with Trump at the helm? The recent negotiations with the leaks so far is that the deal being discussed is more or less a revised version of the original deal that Israel detested and Trump pulled out of. I'm sure we don't have all the information and a deal may or may not be imminent but this is beginning to cause no small discomfort in Jerusalem and the fact that it is Trump, is making it a whole lot worse.

And oh yeah, in case I forgot, we aren't far from direct confrontation with Turkey. Both countries are operating in Syria and the room for miscalculation is high. There were talks to create a deconfliction mechanism, but today the news reported that there was a close call in the skies over Syria between the two air forces. And on a much less serious but still depressing note, Turkish Airlines has said it will no longer fly to Israel. That's not only till the dust settles, that's for good. Turkish Airlines a few years ago used to have the most flights to Israel.

So, the military/strategic situation is depressing. But as I noted above, that's not what bothers me the most, and I venture it's not only me. We have dueling issues tearing the country apart from within. This situation is personified by what President Herzog said on Memorial Day. He spoke from the heart calling for unity and that we can't allow ourselves to be torn apart. The new Chief of Staff of the IDF called for all Israelis to do their share and help in the war effort. But is anyone really listening? On the one hand, we are back to the point where everything that happens – trying to release hostages – Judicial reform – the government attacks on the head of the Shin Bet, Attorney General and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and many other things – are all seen in the context of those who support the government and those who don't. There is no longer a group of people taken seriously who support or oppose any of these issues because of the merits or faults of the issues themselves. Taken together, the gap between the government and its supporters and those who oppose the government is dangerously widening, potentially violently. But add to that the truly combustible issue of the government trying to pass a law which would appease the ultra-orthodox parties and allow their young male population to stay out of the IDF at a time when the IDF desperately needs them, is bringing things to a boil. As the government expands the war in Gaza, it is sending out fresh draft orders to people who have already served for 150 days or more (my kids included). This population is no longer

responding with the enthusiasm it did in the early days while others are getting a free ride. The potential for a real disaster here on many levels, is very high....

It is these last points, the disunity in the country and the fact that people would actively try to avoid serving the country when it so badly needs them (I'm sparing you the dialogue of some of the Haredi demonstrators who claim they prefer to die than be drafted in the IDF... no joke...) that is so painful, so disillusioning. I may not be as "religious" in the eyes of these ultra-orthodox people, but I'm religious enough to know that serving your country in time of need or fighting a Mitzvah war is something central in the Torah. Preserving Jewish learning (much of which was destroyed in the Shoah) is critical to the survival of the Jewish people but so is being part of the community and doing your share, or as we say in Israel – joining everyone under the stretcher (taken from when in the IDF in training soldiers help each other in carrying others on stretchers).

With all this going on, it honestly is hard to keep a positive outlook. I know there is a bigger picture and I know the clouds will clear up eventually, but for now, these are difficult times. But like every other period in Jewish history, we need to look to a brighter future. We don't really have a choice, do we?

Here's continuing to hope for better times.

Barry Spielman
Oranit, Israel
May 4, 2025



SUNSHINE COMMITTEE REPORT

HAPPY EVENTS

Anniveraries

May

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Spielman 32

Mr. & Mrs. Steven Winchester 38

June

Mr., & Mrs. Thomas Apple 37

Mr. Mrs. Martin Leitzes

Dr. & Ms. Arnold Berlin 54

Mr. & Mrs. Avin Schein 12

Mr. & Mrs. Abe Dortheimer 50

Mr. & Mrs. Lee Scheumann 44

Mr. & Mrs. David Edell 48

Mr. & Mrs. William Schnyzer 67

Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Kaminsky 44

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Steinig 58

Mr. & Mrs. Jake Landers 64

A big Mazal Tov to all members and families celebrating simchas. Please inform us at membership@newcracow.org of your anniversary dates, and all happy events, so we can share your joy with our membership and congratulate you in future Newsletters.

REFUAH SHELAYMAH: A complete healing soon.

To any of our members presently in need of healing, blessings are extended for a complete recovery. For members who are in recovery, "May you go from strength to strength!"

Condolences:

Our deepest condolences are extended to Mindy and Barry Spielman, on the loss of Mindy's father, Ben Roisman. May you be comforted by family, friends, and all the mourners of Zion.

Our Society sends its most heartfelt condolences to the families of members who have recently passed. (If our members do not own plots at Beth Moses we would appreciate being informed of the loss.)

DONATIONS:

Annette Indorf—\$200 in memory of her parents, Dr. Cecile and Michael Indorf

Cindy Patrych- - \$18

We wish to thank all our members and friends for their generous contributions. Our Society survives on your dues and donations. Please donate to NCFS to memorialize the yahrzeits of relatives and friends, to celebrate a birth, bar/bat mitzvah, engagement, wedding, anniversary, to honor a friend, well wishes for recovery, or simply to fulfill the mitzvah of giving tzedaka.

Donations by check should be payable to "New Cracow Friendship Society" and mailed to the address below...or online through PayPal payment on our website www.newcracow.org (donation tab). Please be sure to earmark what your contribution is for and also consider that PayPal charges a fee which reduces your amount to us. (Donations received after submission of Committee Report will be posted in the next issue.)

We love to share good news with our members. Please send us your news.

Chairperson Ida Lewis
147-17 78th Rd
Flushing NY 11367
membership@newcracow.org
(718)380-3574

Co-chairperson Eva Pfau (718)464-0932

COMMEMORATION 2025

Bernice Slutzman welcoming all



Rabbi Birnbaum addressing the audience

Candle lighting in remembrance of the Six Million



PAST AND PRESENT BOARD MEMBERS AT THE
GALA 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
MAY 17, 2015



Bottom, left to right: Marian Keren, *zl*; Eva Silberstein; Larry Zellner, *zl*; Elias Friedman, *zl*; Arthur Spielman

Top, left to right: Maria Helfman; Jack Gingold; Henry Erlich, *zl*; Fryderyk Silberstein, *zl*; Rachele Zuckerman; Leon Hilfstein; Susan Krul Caren; Sione Hilfstein-Scheumann; Steven Radwan; Bernice Slutzman Ida Lewis

Ten years sure do make a difference!



QUEENS COLLEGE CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES PRESENTS

SHIREINU CHOIR OF LONG ISLAND

ANNUAL YEAR END CONCERT

SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 2025
3:00 PM

DEBORAH TARTELL, CONDUCTOR
GUY BREWER, ACCOMPANIST

Premiere Performance of *Beautiful Child (Gili's Song)*
David Burger, Composer

*Concert presented in memory of Gili Adar
and all the victims of the October 7 massacre*

Limited VIP Reserved Seating: \$100

General Seating: \$30

To purchase tickets, visit:

www.shireinuchoirli.org or scan:



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