

Jewish Life

A Progressive Magazine



\$5

Spring/
Summer 2024

Voice of the United Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order



► Remembering the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising by Tyler Rosen

— Rebirth of Jewish Life Magazine

by Jacob Ginsberg

- Why Israel will not Defeat Hamas: The Illusion of Total Victory
by Israeli Hadash Electoral Front
- The Holocaust: Shared Experience Between Jews and the
LGBT+ Community
by Kamryn Stringfield
- Not in Our Name! Immediate Ceasefire Now!
Statement of United Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order
- The Rosenberg Case: Personal Story of a Campaign
Pages from our Past
by Ray Waterman

From the Four Corners

edited by Jacob Ginsberg

At Home

AS STUDENTS at universities throughout the country are holding protests against the War in Gaza, calling to end Netanyahu's genocide of the Palestinian population in the Gaza Strip, lawmakers are passing a bill to prosecute the protesters under a law that will expand the definition of the word "anti-semitism" to include the "targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity." Rep. Jerry Nadler, D-N.Y., said during a hearing Tuesday. "Speech that is critical of Israel alone does not constitute unlawful discrimination. By encompassing purely political speech about Israel into Title VI's ambit, the bill sweeps too broadly."

ABORTION LAWS, since the overturn of Roe V. Wade, the right to abortion is no longer protected by the Fourteenth Amendment. An Indiana court ruled that a Jewish group has a religious liberty right to abortion. The group that brought up the case, Hoosier Jews for Choice, claims that Indiana's very restrictive abortion law substantially restricts their ability to exercise their religion in violation of the state's Religious Freedom Restoration Act. This win for reproductive rights advocates suggests how the failure to treat religious conceptions of health as equal to secular conceptions is discrimination against religion.

Europe

ANTI-SEMITISM and ISLAMOPHOBIA have received a spike across the continent. The escalation in hostilities in Israel and Palestine has led to a surge in antisemitic and anti-Muslim crimes. Human Rights groups see a failure of European governments to effectively address antisemitism and all forms of racism. Almaz Taffera from Human Rights Watch Reports such hate started long before October 7. We have seen stark increases in attacks against Jews and Muslims, yet European governments have failed to adopt adequate policy responses.

(Continued on Page 3)

Jewish Life

Voice of the United Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order

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Jewish Life wishes a Happy Passover to all celebrating.

Chag Pesach Saneach

Next year, may we all meet in peace and freedom!



CONTENTS

Rebirth of Jewish Life Magazine . . .	3
Remembering the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising . . .	4
Why Israel will not Defeat Hamas . . .	6
Holocaust: Jews and LGBT+ . . .	8
Immediate Ceasefire Now . . .	12
Personal Story of a Campaign . . .	14
Language Section . . .	19

Editorial

Rebirth of Jewish Life

On behalf of the editorial board, I am proud to announce the restoration of Jewish Life under the auspices of the United Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order!

Jewish Life was established by the left-wing Yiddish newspaper Morgen Freiheit (Morning Freedom) in 1946. The journal was connected to the Jewish section of the International Workers Order (IWO), the Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order.

Our journal had a range of topics from the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, concern of the rearmament of West Germany, promotion of the Yiddish language, culture, and secular Judaism, to the creation of Israel from a non-Zionist perspective. During the arrest of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, progressive Jewish-Americans, Jewish Life carried articles defending their innocence. After the Rosenbergs were electrocuted, Jewish Life continued the campaign to exonerate them.

Jewish Life highlighted labor, peace, anti-racist news that was important to working class unity, opposition to fascism, and supporting union struggles against greedy of corporations.

One must mention the 1946 mission statement of Jewish Life's Editorial Board since it applies to today's situation: "Jewish Life is devoted to the scientific study of the political, economic, cultural and social development of the Jewish people, and the militant struggle for equality and democracy. It carries on a consistent struggle against anti-semitism and all other forms of discrimination in the United States. It fights for the building up of a progressive Jewish life in our country and throughout the world."

Shalom aleichem, may peace be upon you, whether you are from an orthodox, reform, Hasidic, or secular Jewish background. We welcome you, brothers, sisters, and friends.

From the Four Corners (Continued from page 2)

Palestine

THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY will reconsider bilateral relations with the US after Washington vetoed a Palestinian request for full United Nations membership this week, PA President Mahmoud Abbas criticized America, saying, "The United States has violated all international laws and abandoned all promises regarding the two-state solution and achieving peace in the region," The PA leader also accused the Biden administration of having "reneged on its promises and commitments... by remaining silent on [Israel's] theft of Palestinian funds" while saying there won't be regional stability without a "just" resolution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

200 DAYS since Israel launched its devastating military attack in Gaza. Since October 7, 2023. According to the Gaza Ministry of Health, at least 34,183 people have been killed and 77,084 have been wounded in Israeli attacks. Thousands remain missing under rubble or scattered on the roads, as ambulances and rescue teams continue to report their inability to reach them. The West Bank has seen 464 civilians killed and 4,800 others injured in the occupied West Bank. The October 7th Hamas-led attack kidnapped 240 people in southern Israel and 1,139 Israelis were killed.

A SOCCER TOURNAMENT was held in April for youth and teens in Rafah through the American Friends Service Committee, an organization giving aid from inside Gaza since 1948. Nations are trying to penalize Israel through the world governing soccer body, FIFA. At its May 17 governing body meeting in Thailand, FIFA will debate whether to punish Israel. Despite the pressure, it appears doubtful FIFA will hold Israel accountable for their actions.

Israel

HEAVILY ARMED police force raided the Hadash branch in Nazareth and arrested two activists who were setting up displays and flags for the May Day rally. According to Hadash MK Ofer Cassif, "We won't let the fascists silence us! Come to the demonstration, to raise a loud and clear voice against the criminal massacre in Gaza, against the ethnic cleansing of the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem, against the raging tide of fascism, and in support of justice for all, before it's too late! The order of the day – unite against fascism!"

FAMILIES of Israeli hostages and their supporters have taken to the streets to pressure the far-right Netanyahu government to finalize a deal as soon as possible. At least five protesters were arrested following clashes with police.

Remembering the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

by Tyler Rosen

Proudly featured in the Muranow neighborhood of Warsaw, Poland is the Monument to Ghetto Heroes standing proudly at 36 feet tall. The monument stands in the same square as the Polin Museum which commemorates the Jewish Poles in the Warsaw Ghetto and in front of a Soviet Poland era apartment complex painting a picture rich with history and liberation. The statue depicts the defiant Jewish Partisans in the midst of their heroic uprising against the brutish Nazi occupiers that began on April 19th 1943. The monument was built by Nathan Rapoport under the direction of the Polish Communist government. The monument was built with the materials procured by Nazi architect Albert Speer who planned on the building of a monument celebrating the 3rd Reich. After the Red Army liberated Poland from the Nazis in 1945, the materials that were going to be used to build a Nazi monument were seized and used in the construction of the the Monument to Ghetto Heroes completed in 1948 which serves as further humiliation of Nazi Germany's defeat.

Before the fascist occupation, the history of Jewry was rich in Poland, dating back 1000 years. In Warsaw, Poland, the Jews comprised one third of the city population. In fact, the Jews made up the largest minority group. Whereas pre-WWII Warsaw was comprised of nearly 400,000 Jews, today in all of Poland, there are only a few thousand who remained. The Jewish population in the 1930s not only suffered under Nazi Germans but also faced fascist violence in the streets, faced poverty, and faced boycotting of Jewish business. Many of the Polish population sympathized and welcomed the Nazi invasion.

The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising began on April 19th 1943. The heroic resistance to the Nazis was fought as a last effort after knowledge leaked



that Jews being deported by Nazis and their collaborators, the Judenräte (Jewish Councils) and Jewish ghetto police, were being sent to Treblinka Concentration camp where they were being liquidated. The uprising lasted for three weeks and was led by the left-wing United Jewish Combat Organization which was led by Jewish Communists, Socialists, Left Zionists, and the Jewish Labor Bund against their fascist occupiers, tormentors, and murderers. Though only several hundred strong, the United Jewish Combat Organization partisans fought so bravely and fiercely the Nazis were forced to retreat on several occasions. The Nazis then cowardly resorted to the systematic burning of the ghetto block by block resulting in 13,000 inhabitant deaths. The uprising officially ended on May 16th 1943 after the Nazis completely destroyed the Great Synagogue of Warsaw.

Ever since the overthrow of socialism in Poland in 1989, the new capitalist government has battled

with communists, socialists, and other leftwing groups over claims to the history of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. The present government claims to represent the Jewish victims and martyrs all while being closely allied with the current fascist regime in Ukraine. This is in sharp contrast to the dreams of the Polish People's Republic which shared ideals with the Warsaw Ghetto partisans. Today, Fascism is draped in a xenophobic, ultra-nationalist, and anti-communist mask.

This year's memorial will be marked with the songs and readings of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising heroes at the Monument to Ghetto Heroes where the Jews were violently deported to their deaths at the hands of the Nazis. Notable are the words by Jewish, Socialist, and anti-Zionist Marek Edelman who is the last remaining survivor of the Jewish Combat Organization that resisted the Nazis. Edelman's statements contradicted the Zionist line that the uprising was a battle for "national honor" in order to justify the treatment of Palestinians by the Israeli far-right government. He instead asserted that the battle was "for dignity and freedom, not for territory, nor for a national identity."

The United Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order condemns the Far right government of Poland today for paying lip service to the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising while continuing to crack down and outlawing the Communist Party, other opposition parties, and labor movements, pushing ultra-nationalism, and especially for their unrelenting support of the fascist regime in Ukraine that glorifies figures like Stepan Bandera. It is up to the progressive Jewish organizations to reclaim our history and not allow it to be exploited by people who share the ideology of those who committed these atrocities, the Nazis.

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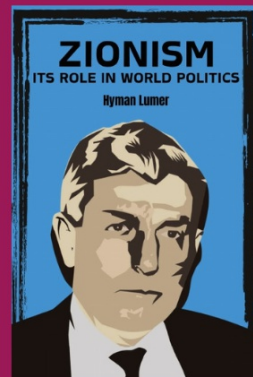
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Why Israel will not Defeat vcf Hamas: The Illusion of Total Victory

by the Israeli Hadash Electoral Front



On October 7, there was a murderous surprise attack by Hamas on the southern settlements of Israel. In response, Israel embarked, no less, on a murderous war, with mass killings of civilians, unprecedented destruction of the Gaza Strip and damage to hospitals, universities, mosques, historical monuments and more.

The war has been going on longer than anyone thought. Thousands of innocents were killed in Gaza and Israel, and hostages are still being held by Hamas. At best, these innocent hostages are not really of interest to Israel's right-wing government. In the worst case, the government abandons them, so they can establish the reoccupation of the Gaza Strip and to reestablish the Gush Katif settlements.

The continuation of the war raises difficult questions about Israel's policy towards Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip. The war has been going on for almost six months, and it is still unclear when and how it will end. Prime Minister Netanyahu and his spokespeople are talking about a "war until total victory", which is expected to

continue until, as they say, the "final victory". What will this "final victory" include? Does Netanyahu himself know?

Many people ask these days, "Why is Israel unable to defeat Hamas?" There are several possible answers to this, but I would like to offer the simplest answer - the Netanyahu government is frankly not interested in defeating Hamas.

Even before the outbreak of the war, Israel had the ability and if it wanted to eliminate the leaders of Hamas and neutralize its military capabilities, they could have done it. In my opinion, the Israeli government is not interested in the complete elimination of Hamas because this organization serves the interests of Israel and the US in the Middle East. It continues the intra-Palestinian division and the perpetuation of the occupation.

As far as Israel is concerned, the main benefit of Hamas rule in the Gaza Strip is preventing the establishment of a Palestinian state. The rule of Hamas allows Israel to claim that the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state in the territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will lead to terrorist attacks on its territory, and therefore there is no solution other than

Hadash is the electoral Front in Israeli politics (the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality) and has representation in the Israeli Knesset (parliament)

Israeli control of these territories. In other words, the continuation of the occupation. The Israeli right has tried, is trying, and will continue to try to bury the two-state solution in this way.

Instead of a political solution, the Israeli right-wing is marketing the illusion to the public, as if the conflict can be ended through a "defeat". That is, using force to defeat the Palestinians as an alternative to negotiation and compromise. The idea of this decision has several faces. One of them is the strengthening of the Palestinian forces that support an uncompromising armed struggle. To achieve this, Israel strengthened Islamist organizations such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad, with the aim of weakening Fatah and the PLO and pushing them from the leadership position. Israel preferred to strengthen Hamas, which aspires avowedly to establish an Islamic state in the entire area between the Jordan River and the [Mediterranean] Sea, and not negotiate with the PLO.

The concept that ruled Israel until October 7 was a strategy that "silence will be met with silence." Israel would condemn Hamas but it would not launch an all-out rocket attack on the Gaza Strip. Also, much has been said about Netanyahu implementing a policy of transferring Qatari money to the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip. This money was ostensibly intended for humanitarian purposes and improving the lives of the citizens in the Strip, but in fact strengthened the Hamas organization. Netanyahu believed that if he transferred millions of dollars to the Gaza Strip, he would receive long-term political and military peace in return. But the huge sums that Netanyahu authorized Qatar to transfer through it allowed Hamas to equip itself with many weapons, with which the murderous terrorist attack on October 7 was carried out.

The policy of strengthening the radical Islamist organizations at the expense of progressive national forces is not unique to Israel. This policy characterized colonial projects in the past and characterizes them today, and it always blows up

in the face of its perpetrators. A well-known example of this is the cooperation of the USA with the Taliban and Al-Qaeda against the government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and against the Soviet Union. From this cooperation, one of the darkest Islamist regimes in history and a global terrorist organization became a reality, which on September 11, 2001 carried out the deadliest attack in the history of the United States.

To those who support the continuation of the war until "total victory" I say: such a victory will never be achieved. It will not be achieved because the Netanyahu government does not want an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Hamas aspires to continue to control the Gaza Strip, and official Israel needs Hamas to continue to gain ground in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The price of the war is paid by them and by us - the members of both nations. Until an independent Palestinian state is established on the side of Israel, we will continue to kill, be killed and bleed in the name of the Zionist vision of Jewish supremacy from Jordan to the sea.

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The Holocaust: Shared Experiences Between Jews and the LGBT+ Community

By Kamryn Stringfield,
National Director of Peoples LGBT+ United Society (PLUS)

The Holocaust was one of the most egregious and murderous crimes against humanity in history. It was a monstrous genocide of around 17 million people, including nearly 6 million Jews, around 7.8 million Soviet civilians and POWs, around 1.8 million Poles, 100's of thousands of Serbs, Romani and Disabled People, around 80,000 freemasons, around 25,000 Slovenes, nearly 15,000 homosexuals, 3,500 Spanish Republicans and over one thousand Jehovahs Witnesses, among many, many others. While the worst killings of the Holocaust began in 1941 with the invasion of the USSR and the Babi Yar massacre of 34,000 jews in Kiev, the fascist ideologies and policies that led to these killings and facilitated them began far before 1941.

The Nazi ideology was developed by leaders of the Nazi party borrowing from false racial ideology of both Germans from the German Empire, the "Second Reich" that preceded the "Third Reich", and from false racial theories of Europeans and Americans alike. The so-called "Aryan" race was the supreme race and the Jews, Slavs, Romani, African and many other peoples were inherently inferior. Other characteristics were considered too. Homosexuality was already criminalized under the Kaiser-era "Paragraph 175" law that banned "unnatural sexual acts between men", and the Nazis of course kept this law, but amended it to remove "unnatural" to make the law more vague so it could be applied more widely. Nazis believed male homosexuality to be a "public scourge" that corrupted men and made them degenerates, and Nazis amended Paragraph 175 to take aim at lesbians as well, who they saw as refusing their duty to have Aryan children and carry on the Aryan race.

Transgender people were often either punished alongside male and female homosexuals as their sexual and romantic relations were not seen the same way as the Nazis, and a transgender woman having relations with a cisgender man was just seen as male-to-male homosexuality, and vice-versa.

While homosexuals only made up a few thousand deaths in the Holocaust, they made up about 100,000 arrests and were some of the first targets of Nazi Violence.

In January of 1933, Adolf Hitler came to power and in March of 1933, passed the Enabling Act which allowed the chancellor and his cabinet to act and make laws without approval of the Reichstag. Only less than 2 months later, on May 6th, 1933, Nazi book burnings began. Most people today have seen videos of the book burnings and heard of them in school, but many do not know that the very first target. It was the Institut für Sexualwissenschaft (Institute of Sex Research). Thousands of volumes of sexual research by the leading LGBT+ rights organization at the time were looted, thrown into the street and burned purposefully by the Nazis. Jewish, Slavic, Communist, Trade Unionist and other books were to follow. Poland lost nearly 80% of all school libraries. Soviet libraries were absolutely destroyed in many cases. A genocide of not only murder, but cultural erasure had begun.

Joseph Goebbels spoke to a crowd in Berlin, and stated "No to decadence and moral corruption!...Yes to decency and morality in family and state!" As the Nazis cracked down harder and harder on their scapegoats, they began to open and deport people to concentration camps.

By 1938, the Nazis were giving prisoners color-

coded triangles on their clothes to mark which “undesirable” group they were from. Jews were given yellow triangles that overlapped a triangle inverted in the other direction, making a Star of David. Homosexuals were given pink triangles that faced down with the point of the triangle. Political prisoners were given red triangles, “asocial” people were given black triangles (which encompassed disabled people, romani people, addicts, pacifists, sex workers and even lesbians), Jehovah’s witnesses were given purple triangles, emigrants were given blue triangles, criminals were given green triangles. Poles and Hungarians were given special markings. Many Soviets were simply thrown in with other groups or executed before they could even reach camps. For years, these groups were forced to be slaves together, be abused together and be exterminated together. Homosexuals were especially sent to Buchenwald, Sachsenhausen, Mauthausen, Flossenbug, and Dora-Mittelbau concentration camps.

Homosexuals who thought they were being freed were often transported to Columbia-Haus, Lichtenburg, or Dachau concentration camps. Richard Plant, who wrote the most popular account of the homosexual experience in the Holocaust “The Pink Triangle: The Nazi War Against Homosexuals”, writes “After a homosexual arrived in camp, he underwent the first experience of all newcomers; he was seized by a profound trauma. He was battered, kicked, slapped and reviled. At least according to one witness, homosexuals and jews were not only given the worst beatings, but their public hair was shorn; others lost only their head hair.” He describes homosexuals being separated from the rest of the concentrated population and treated with increased brutality and terror.

Of course, the Holocaust in large part was brought to an end by the Soviet and American armies liberating the concentration camps and bringing Nazi Germany to defeat, and we owe it to the brave soldiers of these armies for saving us from the fascist scourge, but the shared experience of the Holocaust remains a grave reminder of the

horrific results of hateful scapegoating of people, pseudo-scientific theories about groups of people and of fascism to all life it deems “undesirable” or “degenerate”. It stands all the more relevant today as anti-semitism and anti-LGBT+ sentiment are on the rise again, as well as islamophobia, xenophobia, russophobia and racism against people of color. Whether we like it or not, history has united us in our common survival against the forces of reaction. The Peoples LGBT+ United Society and United Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order stand side-by-side in denouncing this rising hatred and resisting the forces that are trying to push policies and ideologies similar to that of the Nazi killers of the past. We say Never Again!

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PARTISANS, moving
through the forest toward
Warsaw,
Smelled the stench of death
and saw the glow of burning,
Said, comrade, fear not, fear
not,
Tomorrow, we will be at thy
side,
The red flag by the blue,
The six-pointed star by the
five-pointed star,
Fear not, dear comrade,
And sang the partisan song:
*We strike like the wolf strikes,
We come like the wind and
are gone,
And the fascist feels our
clenched fist,
Our clenched fist, our
clenched fist!*

NEVER TO



THE AUTHOR - With the poem *Never to Forget*, HOWARD FAST, as a Jewish citizen artist, adds his eloquent pen to the arsenal of moral might which has ultimately triumphed over fascism. Among Howard Fast's well-known works are – *Citizen Tom Paine* and *The Unvanquished*.

FORGET: The Battle of the Warsaw Ghetto



THE ARTIST

WILLIAM GROPPER ranks as one of the greatest anti-fascist artists in the world. His work can be found in previous issues of Jewish Life magazine. His paintings were hung in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum and others. Published by Book League of Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order, I.W.O. April 1946

Not in Our Name! Immediate Ceasefire in Gaza!



Americans are watching in horror as the violence in Israel-Palestine has escalated towards an all-out war.

Since October 7, thousands have been killed following Hamas' attack and the Israeli government's response.

On October 17th, the bombing of the Anglican Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza City killed hundreds of people, mostly children. Over **5,000 people** had been sheltered at the hospital. This was an atrocity, a war crime – no matter who did it. It would never have happened if there was no war-like situation in the first place.

United Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order (UJPFO) unequivocally condemns the targeting of innocent Palestinian and Israeli civilians.

Gaza City is facing a “complete siege” as food, water, electricity, fuel, hospitals cannot save lives, the internet, landline phones, and mobile communications with the outside world have been cut off. Gaza's last functioning seawater desalination plant had been shut down recently after totally running out of fuel. Water and sanitation services have collapsed in the wake of widespread bombing.

UJPFO mourns deeply for the over 1,200 civilian Israelis killed and fears for the lives of Israelis taken hostage. According to all estimates, over 36,000 Palestinians have lost their lives by this senseless slaughter. We

wholeheartedly agree with leading Palestinian rights groups that the killings committed by Hamas against Israeli civilians are crimes against humanity. There is no justification in international law for the indiscriminate killing of civilians or the holding of civilian hostages.

Gaza has been plunged into darkness as Netanyahu's government has turned Gaza neighborhoods, one after another into rubble, leaving tens of thousands homeless. Despite the October 27th United Nations General Assembly overwhelming vote to halt all hostilities in Gaza, the present Israeli rulers declared “No” to a ceasefire.

In effect, the current military drive has become a genocidal war against the people in Gaza. **United Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order works for a future where Palestinians and Israelis and all people live side by side in equality and security.** We call on all people of conscience to stop the imminent genocide of Palestinians.

United Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order calls for an immediate cessation of military hostilities by the Israeli authorities.

As was done several times in the past, we call for the creation of a UN peacekeeping force, under the jurisdiction of the United Nations Security Council which according to the UN Charter has the capacity and authority to militarily intervene in war-torn situations.

We call for the **reconvening of the 2003 Geneva Accords** which, among other things, supports UNSC Resolutions 242 (yr 1967), 338 (yr 1973), and 2334 (yr 2016) which calls for the cessation of military operations, and peace negotiations between all parties of the conflict. Most importantly, they call for **the creation of an independent Palestinian State with pre-1967 borders with its capital in East Jerusalem.**

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Activists occupy the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty on November 6, 2023 in New York City. [Stephanie Keith/Getty Images/AFP]

THE ROSENBERG CASE: Personal Story of a Campaign

By Ray Waterman

Pages from Our Past – Jewish Life June 1954

BEHIND the heavy wire netting the face of the woman was proud and terribly calm; there was strength, but also sadness, in the face of the man. In a Sunday paper, in the middle of 1952, a photograph and accompanying article were my first introduction to the Rosenberg story.

At first, I thought, as so many people did, that they were guilty. But as I learned more about the case, and all its ramifications, and in particular, about the character of the Rosenbergs, I gradually became convinced of their innocence. However, I would have acted similarly had I believed in their guilt because the sentence was monstrous in relation to the supposed crime. British lawyers assured me their maximum punishment, in this country, would have been two years imprisonment. World famous British and American scientists demonstrated that the data that was presumed to have been stolen was insignificant, if not worthless.

It was Howard Fast's telegram to the London **Daily Worker** which first prodded me into action. Mr. Fast appealed for clemency petitions to be rushed to President Truman.

A Holborn [London borough] Defense Committee, which had come into existence after the Howard Fast telegram, rapidly developed into the National Rosenberg Defense Committee. An office was lent free of charge, volunteers gave their labor and things began to move.

The first time I saw the office I was taken



Ethel and Julius Rosenberg: from a woodcut poster issued by the Taller de Grafica Popular of Mexico.

aback at its smallness. Two desks and chairs took up a good deal of the space. The shelves and cupboards were almost filled by the office possessions, which included publicity material, stationery, a spare typewriter and so on. But that is often the way campaigns have to be carried out in the labor movement and I have always felt proud of what is achieved in spite of such conditions.

I took home a pile of literature and after supper the whole family sat around the table reading. It was our first world picture of the Rosenberg case. The appeal for clemency was being supported in France and Belgium, in Italy and Israel, in England and America, by people of all professions,

all religions and all classes.

There was one small pamphlet which did more than any other single factor to determine my understanding of the case. It contained selections from the Rosenbergs' letters to each other, their children, their relatives, and their lawyers.

At the end of May 1953, Eisenhower finally refused the clemency pleas and the execution was fixed for the week of June 15th. Upon returning to London on June 12th, I was met by the news of the upsurge of activity in the surrounding English provinces and in practically every country in the world. In France and Italy, all political parties, Left, Right, and Center were united for the Rosenbergs. In the French newspaper **Le Monde** someone wrote, "The Rosenbergs have united Europe."

In America, what seemed to be the last desperate legal moves, were being made for a retrial to take into count recently acquired evidence. The Rosenberg lawyers were calling for a further stay of execution and/or a commutation of the death sentence. One after another, they were rejected.

Again, crowds flocked to Hyde Park for meetings. Poster parades marched through the West End Jewish section of London. Deputations and telegrams flowed anew into the United States Embassy. The executive committees of the most powerful trade unions in Great Britain registered their support of the appeal for money. On June 11th the British Chief Rabbi caught up with the rest of the world.

On Sunday, June 13th, the mass meeting in Hyde Park was the biggest I had ever seen in the open air. Over 5,000 people came. Most of the National Committee members spoke,

some with emotion, others with cold facts, together building up a damning indictment of this latest item in the long list of America's legal frameups. Burning anger appeared on people's faces. Two demands were written, one to the US Embassy in the name of the Hyde Park gathering. The other demand was to lay a wreath on President FDR's statue in the garden of Grosvenor Square. I saw this wreath later. It was inscribed: "That Roosevelt's ideals shall live, the Rosenbergs must not die."

The meeting was closing when there were calls from all parts of the crowd for a demonstration in support of the demands. I was afraid the police would deny the demonstrations since the police had tried to prevent demonstrations in the past few months. In January, a fine of 50 pounds had been imposed on one youngster for standing outside the U.S. Embassy with a Rosenberg poster.

Perhaps, we were too many. Perhaps, we were too determined to be stopped. Had the police intervened at that moment, I feel certain there would have been serious clashes. Perhaps too, it was a result of the heightened anti-American feeling in the country generally whatever the reason. There was no attempt to interfere when the multitude of crowds marched rapidly out of the park with a single banner at the head—a charcoal drawing of the Rosenberg family in prison, the children held in the mother's embrace.

As the crowd left Hyde Park, the cry, "They Must Not Die," rose up from every part of that dense mass. I have never heard people cry so consistently with such passion. Traffic was held up for half an hour as we marched down Oxford Street, six to eight abreast and poured into Grosvenor Square, filling all four sides.

"They Must Not Die!" Twice we marched round the square, the slogan ringing out ceaselessly. Unsuspected reserves of strength kept us going—I, who usually tire easily, felt as if I had just begun and I heard others say the same.

Suddenly, with some difficulty, the police prevented the crowd from making a third march around the park. So we gathered in the garden opposite the Embassy. For still another hour the Americans inside the embassy had to listen to that cry. At last, the police decided to attack the crowd. A member of the committee jumped on to a bench and appealed to us to leave peaceably.

My husband and I caught sight of Peter, our younger son, who had been at the head of the demonstration and who remained some way behind us with his friends. We were about to turn into Oxford Street when there was some sort of skirmish with the police. I had been too far away to be clearly seen. We stopped, and as a black police van passed us, I said to my husband half-jokingly, "Suppose our Peter's in there!" We spent the evening with friends and not until we arrived home at midnight did we hear that our Peter had indeed been "in there." Believing a

friend unjustly arrested, he had demanded the inspector's name and number, and was forthwith hauled in to the van for "obstruction."

The next day I opened the newspapers with some eagerness. I was convinced that this time we'd be in the news. There were plenty of press photographers on the route. Of course, I thought, that once the public was aware of what was happening, the movement to save the Rosenbergs was certain to be strengthened.

I should have known better. Beyond the simple announcement of arrests, there was not a word about that huge demonstration either in any of the newspapers except in the **Daily Worker**. Also, all that went on in the following week was to be similarly ignored by the news media. Wasn't it news that night after night, the largest outdoor meetings that London had ever seen for years were gathering in Hyde Park? Wasn't it news that big demonstrations held up traffic and had blocked off Oxford Street and gathered in front of the U.S. Embassy?

On June 20th, the Rosenbergs were safely dead.

Again and again, that week I asked myself the question: Why did people care so much about the Rosenbergs? Why did I? What was it that brought us on the streets night after night—not for an hour or two but for four, five and six hours at a time? What was it about this one issue which "as uniting in common activity people of diverse political and religious beliefs?

In those same six days terrible things were happening all over the world—in Malaya, in Kenya, in Germany, in Korea—things which involved not one family, but



RAY WATERMAN was assistant secretary of the British Rosenberg Defense Committee. Miss Waterman was also the treasurer of a fund for the sons of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, Michael and Robert. Miss Waterman, a mother of two sons, was the neice of Oiser Wassawski, author of the widely read and translated Yiddish novel "Smugglers," was killed in a nazi death camp in 1944.

Ray Waterman

countless families, in loss and calamity, and many of us taking part in the Rosenberg campaign were keenly aware of these events. Yet, it was the Rosenbergs who at this time dominated our thoughts and actions. Why was it?

An artist friend explained to me the peculiar Rosenberg phenomena in these words: "That in this one struggle between the Rosenbergs and the American government we saw all at once. We saw all at once the life and death struggles being fought out everywhere between the privileged and the deprived.

But more than that. In their persons, in their bearing, in their sane and tender writings, Ethel and Julius Rosenberg symbolized for us the greatness of little people. I think this above all, was why we worked so hard for their release.



**Ethel and Julius Rosenberg
Memorial, 1983
by José Delarra
Havana, Cuba**

Campaign to Exonerate Ethel Rosenberg Led by her Two Sons

In 2016, Michael and Robert Rosenberg, (the sons of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg) in conjunction with the Rosenberg Fund for Children, had launched the Exonerate Ethel Campaign, asking then-President Obama to issue a proclamation declaring that our mother's conviction and execution were wrongful. Though disappointed that Obama left office without honoring their request, the sons never stopped pursuing justice and working to clear their mother's name.

In 2022, the sons filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of the National Security Agency (NSA) asking for the declassification and release of the agency's files relating to their mother. Earlier this year, NSA personnel identified 88 key documents and are in the process of recommending declassification.

While there is still a lot of uncertainty, it is possible that within months or even weeks the RFC will have breaking news about the release of powerfully exculpatory evidence relating to Ethel Rosenberg. This new information to restart the Exonerate Ethel Campaign by asking President Biden to issue a Presidential Proclamation stating that Ethel Rosenberg was wrongfully convicted and executed.

As soon as updates arrive, it will be shared with the public.

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Final Letter from Ethel and Julius Rosenberg to their Sons

Dearest Sweethearts, my most precious children,

Only this morning it looked like we might be together again after all. Now that this cannot be, I want so much for you to know all that I have come to know. Unfortunately, I may write only a few simple words; the rest your own lives must teach you, even as mine taught me.

At first, of course, you will grieve bitterly for us, but you will not grieve alone. That is our consolation and it must eventually be yours.

Eventually, too you must come to believe that life is worth the living. Be comforted that even now, with the end of ours slowly approaching, that we know this with a conviction that defeats the executioner!

Your lives must teach you, too, that good cannot flourish in the midst of evil; that freedom and all the things that go to make up a truly satisfying and worthwhile life, must sometime be purchased very dearly. Be comforted then that we were serene and understood with the deepest kind of understanding, that civilization had not as yet progressed to the point where life did not have to be lost for the sake of life; and that we were comforted in the sure knowledge that others would carry on after us.

We wish we might have had the tremendous joy and gratification of living our lives out with you. Your Daddy who is with me in the last momentous hours, sends his heart and all the love that is in it for his dearest boys. Always remember that we were innocent and could not wrong our conscience.

We press you close and kiss you with all our strength.

Lovingly,
Daddy and Mommy
Julie Ethel

P.S. to Manny: The Ten Commandments religious medal and chain and my wedding ring—I wish you to present to our children as a token of our undying love.

P.S.—to Manny

Please be certain to give my best wishes to _____. Tell him I love and honor him with all my heart— Tell him I want him to know that I feel he shares my triumph— For I have no fear and no regrets— Only that the release from the trap was not completely effectuated and the qualities I possessed could not expand to their fullest capacities— I want him to have the pleasure of knowing how much he meant to me, how much he did to help me grow up— All our love to all our dear ones.

Love you so much—
Ethel

* Emanuel Hirsch Bloch, also known as "Manny," defended the Rosenbergs in the courtroom.



Yiddish

mother tongue
mameloshn

Two Languages of the Jewish People

Hebrew

religious tradition

Two languages spoken by Jewish communities are modern Hebrew and Yiddish. Since both languages are read right-to-left and use characters derived from biblical Hebrew, at a glance, the two languages look identical, but linguistically they are very different and therefore, a Yiddish speaker would not be able to understand a Hebrew speaker and vice versa. Some words are shared between the two languages, such as the greetings for meeting someone for the first time "shalom aleichem."

ז	ו	ו	ה	ד	ג	ב	א	א	א
zayen (z)	melupm vov (u)	vov (u)	hey (h)	daled (d)	giml (g)	beyz (b)	kometz alef (o)	pasekh alef (a)	Shtumer alef (silent)
ן	נ	ם	מ	ל	ך	כ	י	י	ט
langer nun (n)	nun (n)	shlos mem (m)	mem (m)	lamed (l)	langer khof (kh)	khof (kh)	khirek yud (i)	yud (y, i)	tes (t)
ש	ר	ק	ץ	צ	ף	פ	ע	ס	
shin (sh)	reysh (r)	kuf (k)	langer tsadek (ts)	tsadek (ts)	langer fey (f)	fey (f)	pey (p)	ayen (e)	samekt (s)

Yiddish - Reading and speaking Hebrew was meant only for holy activities. Ashkenazi Jews living in and around Germany developed a new language for every day life and to conduct business. Yiddish is taken from several different languages including biblical Hebrew, German, Aramaic, and various other languages. Today, it's spoken by Hasidic community in New York and Israel. It is the official language of the Jewish Autonomous Republic and its capital city of Birobidjan in Russia.

Hebrew - Ancient Hebrew is a Middle Eastern (Semitic) language that traces back to over 3,000 years ago. Modern Hebrew, which is primarily spoken in Israel today, became the official language along with the founding of Israel. The vowels of Hebrew, like ancient Semitic languages, are often omitted in writing. They are usually written for students beginning to learn Hebrew. Native speakers of Hebrew, infer the vowel sounds, which do exist, they are just not written.

ט	ח	ז	ו	ה	ד	ג	ב	א
Teit (T)	Cheit (Ch)	Zayin (Z)	Vav (V/O/U)	Hei (H)	Dalet (D)	Gimel (G)	Beit (B/V)	Alef (Silent)
ס	ן	נ	ם	מ	ל	ך	כ	י
Samekh (S)	Nun (N)	Nun (N)	Mem (M)	Mem (M)	Lamed (L)	Khaf (Kh)	Kaf (K/Kh)	Yod (Y)
ת	ש	ר	ק	ץ	צ	ף	פ	ע
Tav (T/S)	Shin (Sh/S)	Reish (R)	Qof (Q)	Tzadei (Tz)	Tzadei (Tz)	Fe (F)	Pei (P/F)	Ayin (Silent)

Imagine a German and an Israeli are looking at a book written in Yiddish. The Israeli could read it out loud but would not understand what he was saying. The German could not read the text but understood what it meant when it was read out loud. That's because Yiddish sounds more like German and is written more like Hebrew.

There are other Jewish languages, but Yiddish and Hebrew are the two most common.



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