



Holocaust Remembrance Day



MDAOnLine

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Picture of the week



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interesting story?
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The MDA Wish Ambulance was Crowned "Person of the Year" by the Lions "Almog" Organization in Kiryat Ono

Every year the Lions clubs choose a project or a person who does above and beyond for the community. This year, the Lions "Almog" Club in Kiryat Ono chose MDA's "Wish Ambulance" project. Paramedic Noam Twig, a volunteer of the project who often serves as the driver, received the award on behalf of MDA.

Photo: MDA Spokesmen



At the Right Place and the Right Moment

On Saturday, April 27, 19-year-old gunman opened fire inside the full to brimming synagogue near San Diego as worshippers celebrated the last day of Pesach, killing a woman and wounding the rabbi and two others.

Shimon Abutbul, a senior paramedic and Deputy Director of MDA Yarden Region was amongst the worshippers: "I was attending the synagogue services with my family and friends when all of a sudden we heard gunshots. We grabbed the grandchildren and ran out of a side door to a house at the back of the synagogue. I returned to the synagogue and assessed the injured. One of the women was on the ground in critical condition, and her husband, a doctor and myself, an MDA

Paramedic, started with resuscitation attempts until emergency teams arrived. Unfortunately, she was declared deceased at the hospital. The Rabbi suffered from gun shots wounds to his hands, one of the man, that grabbed two of the children (one of them is my granddaughter) was shot in the leg, while one of the girls he carried suffers from mild shrapnel wounds.

During the past afternoon - evening hours, I'm assisting the members of the community focusing on my family and grandchildren, trying to overcome the shock."



“Seeing it, but not being able to comprehend” – MDA youth delegation to Poland

“Seeing, but not being able to comprehend, that is the main feeling accompanying us here.

We cannot understand why, nor how it was possible. But we do understand that if we do not come here, if we do not hear about and see the atrocities, no one else will do so for us. This is our obligation as a people; this is our obligation as a society.

We came on this trip to see and not only to know. To hope that if we are there we shall feel more, connect more and understand more.

There is no doubt that we learn, get stronger, fall and most important – arise again!

This cruelty that is impossible to comprehend, which occurred during the Holocaust and accompanies us now during the trip, puts everything into proportion for us. It causes us to give thanks for what we have, that nothing should be taken for granted.

If we connect this trip to our volunteer activities in Magen David Adom, we can better understand the meaning of the sanctity of life, the will to live, to endure and survive, which connects directly to our volunteering. The most obvious thing is our wish to sanctify life and to give as much time as we can for those who need help.

In the Holocaust, the Germans did not value life, and caused millions of people to lose their lives just because they were different. Just because they were Jews! This knowledge strengthens our contribution to MDA in the State of Israel, a State that was built despite the anger of the Nazi oppressors.

Our ability to stand in these places in an MDA uniform, without fear, without being afraid of being persecuted as our grandparents were, is difficult to believe. An ability that cannot be described in words, and which can only be felt

We stand here and around us there is a utopian scenery and pastoral feeling we cannot digest the fact that the place on which we are walking was the scene of such atrocity, and despite all the atrocities we are standing here and showing our enemies that the people of Israel are alive, with the symbol of Magen David Adom on our chests and the sounds of the Hatikva and we promise to continue the sanctity of life in our country and to be the humanitarian organization which was so lacking during the period of the Holocaust! “To be a free people in our own land”.



Tracing Services at Magen David Adom

Magen David Adom is the national rescue organization of the State of Israel by virtue of law and a full member of the International Red Cross Society since 2006. As is customary in most Red Cross societies around the world, Magen David Adom operates the unit for tracing relatives and renewing family ties. The service is given to people who have been separated from their families unwillingly, due to wars or disasters and done in partnership with national Red Cross societies around the world, the International Tracing Service (ITS), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The Unit handles hundreds of applications, most of them descendants of Holocaust survivors, and succeeded in connecting hundreds of relatives, locating numerous documents over the years, helping to locate graves, and more. During the last year, from 2018 Holocaust Memorial Day to the present, MDA has received and processed 45 applications for locating families of Holocaust survivors and dozens of family members whose treatment began several years ago. Over the years, the department has been working to locate relatives and renew family ties

in MDA or the fate of the family members and in six of the cases, pairs of brothers and sisters were united, some of whom did not know about each other.

This MDA department, which works within Israeli society where so many Holocaust

Survivors, their families and their descendants are found, is of special importance.



Photo:
left to right- Marina Chernina and
her niece Odile Eisenstein that was found
by Tracing Services of MDA -
a family album



Employees and Volunteers Get Together for Holocaust Survivors in Holon

The employees and volunteers from the Holon MDA station are holding the annual ceremony to commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day and are inviting Holocaust survivors to join them.

MDA Holon were approached two years ago by "Bayit Lihyot", a meeting place under the auspices of Holon community and leisure network where survivors can meet and seek assistance. Since then, they join in not only remembrance ceremonies but in happier occasions too, and enjoy meeting with both the younger and older members of MDA Holon around the Chagim (Festivals).

On Saturday night after the holiday of Passover ended, local Holocaust survivors were invited to celebrate Mimouna at the MDA Holon Station. Together with the employees and volunteers, they partook in traditional holiday treats.





We Remember

This is the second year that Magen David Adom has been holding testimony sessions between Holocaust survivors and MDA youth volunteers in the framework of the “Memory at the Station” project, which was inspired by the “Memory in the Living Room” project operating throughout the country. The Holocaust survivor Mr. Israel Lazar spoke to dozens of youth and volunteers who volunteered at the Carmel region station. Israel Lazar (89), who now lives in Kiryat Motzkin, was born in northern Transylvania, Romania, in January 1930. During the Second World War, Israel was taken to the ghetto in the city of Oradia in Romania for a month. He was later transferred to Auschwitz in Poland and then to the Buchenwald concentration camp in Germany. He worked with 4,000 Hungarian prisoners in the rebuilding of a bombed factory. During the Holocaust, Israel managed to escape from Mengele, suffered hardships, and carried chilling memories and stories. In April 1945, Israel was liberated by the Russian army when he was 15 years old. In 1951, he immigrated to Israel where he studied at the Ulpan. In 1952 he joined the IDF and served as

an aircraft technician for 31 years until his release in 1983. During the Holocaust, Israel lost 23 members of his family, including his parents, his younger brother, his uncles and cousins. Only he, his aunt and uncle survived. Israel married Esther and together they raised a family in Israel with 4 children and 7 grandchildren.

A similar evening was held at MDA station in Nazareth.





The MDA Special Fund for the Welfare of Holocaust Survivors

The special fund is used to cover ambulance evacuation costs for Holocaust survivors

About six years ago, a special fund was set up in MDA to assist Holocaust survivors in funding evacuation expenses in cases where the HMO does not cover the expenses. The unique fund was initiated by MDA in order to facilitate the tens of thousands of survivors from World War II living in Israel today who suffer from physical and mental difficulties and severe economic distress, and from time to time need medical assistance and urgent evacuation of MDA ambulances and MICUs. The Foundation works in light of these difficult and out of a sense of joint responsibility and mutual responsibility for the generation saved from the inferno. Every year, MDA receives inquiries from Holocaust survivors who are not entitled to refunds for evacuation in an ambulance from external bodies such as the National Insurance Institute, insurance companies, etc., and the financial burden was placed on their shoulders. MDA, which is obligated by the Magen David Adom regulations to charge each patient a fee

for evacuation in an ambulance, has devised and found a creative solution to the problem, which will make it easier to alleviate the burden of Holocaust survivors.

MDA Director-General Eli Bin said: "The MDA organization is obligated by law to collect a fee for ambulance evacuation from any person who is evacuated, but in certain cases it is necessary to consider and find a solution for the needs of the individual in Israeli society, first and foremost the Holocaust survivors. Holocaust survivors who immigrated to Israel after the end of the war were full partners in the establishment and development of the country and therefore we set a goal to assist them and worked hard to establish a special fund to cover the costs of evacuation by ambulance and the get get a professional medical service from MDA teams. We will continue to do everything possible to help the tens of thousands of Holocaust survivors living today among us.