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JAN 09 1984

RECEIVED

**THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE**

**date** January 7, 1985  
**to** Irma Krents  
**from** Lorraine B. Meyer - (Philadelphia Chapter)  
**subject** "The Children of Izieu: A Jewish Tragedy"

We had a request from one of our members about the book noted above, published by the Association of the Sons and Daughters of Jews Deported From France, in Paris (see enclosed release).

Do you know if there are plans to publish it in English? Would Committee take such a project under consideration? Are there any plans to do so?

I look forward to your reply.

LBM:r

encl.



## An Archive Gives Faces To Nazis' Young Victims

By RICHARD BERNSTEIN  
Special to The New York Times

PARIS, Dec. 17 — It was just over 40 years ago, on the brilliant spring morning of April 6, 1944, that two trucks and two cars belonging to the Gestapo in Nazi-occupied France arrived unexpectedly at a children's home in the mountain village of Izieu, a few miles east of Lyons.

Within minutes, the Gestapo rounded up the 44 children and 7 adults who lived or worked in the home, sending them the next day to a deportation center in Drancy, on the outskirts of Paris, and then to the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz, where every one of the children perished in the gas chambers.

The story of the 44 children, how they came to Izieu, how they lived there, how they died, and most important, exactly who they were and what they were like, is the subject of a detailed and highly-personalized chronicle that was published here today.

Called "The Children of Izieu: A Jewish Tragedy," the 128-page, large-format book covers a tragic event that has been known in outline since the end of World War II. But it adds a richness of detail — photographs, letters, birth certificates, accounts of daily life — that gives each of the victims a concrete identity, removing their killing from the realm of abstract evil to that of the wrenchingly particular.

The document, for example, contains a letter found at Izieu from 11-year-old

Liliane Gerenstein. It was in the form of a prayer to God, who, Liliane avowed, embodied an infinite kindness that rewarded the good while punishing the wicked.

"It is thanks to you," her letter said, "that I had a good life before, that I was spoiled, that I had pretty things that others did not have."

"I only ask you one thing," Liliane wrote. "Let my parents be together again. Protect them (even more than me) so that I might see them again as soon as possible. Let them return one more time."

"I have so much confidence in you that I give you my thanks in advance," the letter concluded.

### Collected by Lawyer

The materials were compiled over a 12-year period by Serge Klarsfeld, a Paris lawyer, who said he timed the publishing of the book to coincide with the beginning of the Jewish festival of Hanukkah on Tuesday evening. Mr. Klarsfeld said the document was intended to fulfill several purposes, both moral and historical.

First, Mr. Klarsfeld said, the account is intended to provide evidence of one of the crimes against humanity attributed to Klaus Barbie, the Gestapo chief of Lyons, whom Mr. Klarsfeld and his wife, Beate, were instrumental in finding in refuge in Bolivia. Mr. Barbie was extradited in 1983 to France, where he is expected to stand trial within a few months. Mr. Klarsfeld accuses the former Nazi leader of direct and personal responsibility in the deportations and the deaths of the 44 children.

In addition, Mr. Klarsfeld said, the materials published today are intended to provide identities to the victims of Izieu, to give them faces and, where possible, personalities. In every case, the families of the children are identified; their places of birth, their ages, the fate of their immediate relatives are provided.

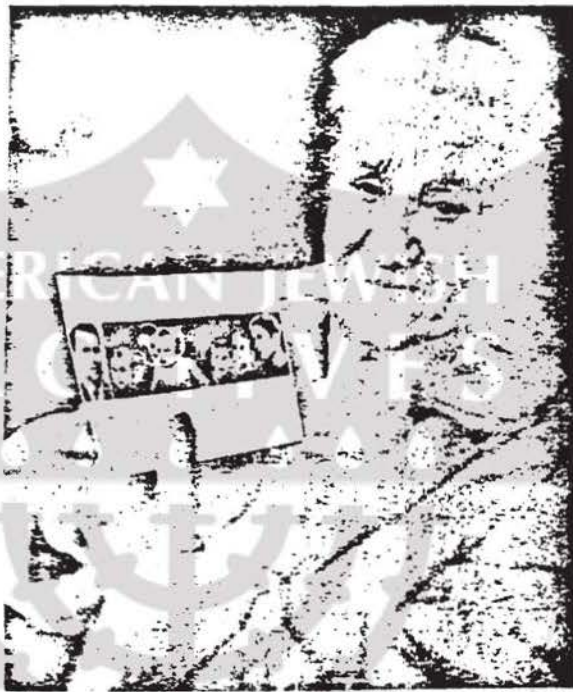
The photographs alone — most of them taken by a non-Jewish volunteer, Paulette Paillares, who often visited the home — are in themselves unusual. There are almost no photographs, for example, of the 4,000 Jewish children who were deported from Paris in 1942 at the roundup of Jews at the bicycle stadium known as the Vel d'Hiver.

### All of Victims Were Jews

Mr. Klarsfeld's book reveals that the single non-Jewish child in the Izieu home at the time of the Gestapo raid was quickly released.

"It was unthinkable," Mr. Klarsfeld said today, "to hold the trial of Barbie without having the names of his victims. It was unthinkable not to restore to them their identity as Jews."

Mr. Klarsfeld said that the book, which is in French, will not be distrib-



By Peter Turnley

At announcement in Paris of the publication of "Children of Izieu: A Jewish Tragedy," a woman displayed photos of her children, victims of the Nazis.

uted for sale in bookstores. Copies can be obtained from the Association of the Sons and Daughters of Jews Deported From France, whose address is B.P. 104, 75722 Paris, France.

The book contains a narrative history of efforts made by Jews and non-Jews alike to save children during the Nazi occupation of France, including the creation of homes in remote French villages that, it was hoped, would escape the attention of the Gestapo and their many French collaborators.

### Former Catholic Summer Camp

This was the case with Izieu, where in 1943 a former Catholic children's summer camp was converted into a home for Jewish children 5 to 17 years old. In most cases, their parents had been deported earlier, or the children had been sent from major towns and cities for safety.

At Izieu, as the reproduced photographs show, the children led something close to normal lives. But their letters, such as that of Liliane Gerenstein, also reveal an awareness of the enormous tragedy that, despite efforts to protect the children both physically and psychologically, was to engulf them.

"Mother, dear mother, I know how much you have suffered for me on this happy Mother's Day," Jacques Benguigui, who was deported to Auschwitz on April 13, 1944, his 13th birthday, wrote in one letter that has survived.

"I send you my best wishes from the

bottom of my small child's heart," Jacques wrote to his mother, who survived Auschwitz and today lives in France.

### Telex to Headquarters

Among the documents reproduced in "The Children of Izieu" is a telex to Gestapo headquarters in Paris declaring that the "children's colony at Izieu" had been removed and arrangements made for the deportation of its residents. It is signed Klaus Barbie.

The telex, which is expected to be introduced as evidence in the trial of the former Gestapo chief, existed only in photocopied form, the original, presented as evidence of Nazi crimes during the Nuremberg trials, having apparently been misplaced in 1946.

Declared a fraud by Mr. Barbie, the telex in its original form was rediscovered in 1982 after a long search by Mr. Klarsfeld.

The full text, which contains mistakes about the children's ages and apparently counted three of the oldest children among the adults arrested, reads:

"This morning, the Jewish children's home, 'children's colony,' at Izieu has been removed. 41 children in all, aged 3 to 13, have been captured. Beyond that, the arrest of all the Jewish personnel has taken place, namely 10 individuals, among them 5 women. It was not possible to secure any money or other valuables. Transportation to Drancy will take place on 4/7/44."



Serge Klarsfeld, who spent 12 years compiling book on Izieu.



1/15/85

TO: Lorraine B. Meyer  
FROM: Irma K. Krents

In reference to your inquiry about "The Children of Izieu" book, I am sending it along to International Affairs... It was a good question, but addressed to the wrong department.

The NEWOHL does not have a continuing assignment with the Holocaust and matters pertinent to it. We had an HEW funded major project to develop oral memoirs of Holocaust survivors in this country, which culminated with the book "Voices of the Holocaust".

However, I am sure that the I.A.D. will be able to give you all the information you are looking for.

IKK:rr

cc: IAD with encl.

Jerusalem  
10 January 1985

Dear Friends - *Marcie + family*

This between-semester trip again affords opportunity to celebrate the opening of the new year with friends - some in person and some by letter. This is the 5th year that I have written "from Jerusalem" to mark Hanukkah/Christmas/New Year's, and again I can report that spending even a few days in the Holy City is inspiring and energizing. If any reader has not yet made that pilgrimage, let me urge it upon you: there is simply nothing to compare with experiencing the Jerusalem of today and recollecting - in the City of David - the formative events of our Christian and Jewish faiths.

Official business on this trip included the annual meeting of the International Council of Yad Vashem - the memorial to the martyrs and heroes (including righteous gentiles) during the Holocaust period (1933-34). After being the only Christian Council member for several years, I was delighted to be joined again by Prof. Harry James Cargas of Webster University. I also had the privilege of presenting a paper on "American Protestantism and Antisemitism" to the President's Circle - an occasional meeting of 60 members of parliament, professors and other public leaders that hears and discusses a scientific paper. Our colleagues at Hebrew University, Moshe Davis and Yehuda Bauer, have been instrumental in the development of this significant intellectual forum. President Herzog was a cordial host.

Quite independently, Marcie was invited to participate in an awards ceremony memorializing the Yarzeit of Rabbanit Sarah Herzog, the President's mother. The ceremony, at which young women came from all over Israel to receive citations and scholarships and Marcie was made an honorary member, was held at the Jerusalem college sponsored by Emunah Women of America.

Marcie also met with our colleagues on the staff at Yad Vashem to talk over plans for the summer Teachers Institute, where both of us have taught for several years.

Among other special events to be singled out for 1984 I would mention just three of general interest. First, the National Institute on the Holocaust has been given a new name: the Anne Frank Institute of Philadelphia. The Institute has taken on a growing load of education aimed at the children of middle and high school age. Also, the Second Generation (sons and daughters of survivors) is taking an increasing role in Institute affairs. The Institute is Marcie's chief professional responsibility, and in recent weeks she has been very busy with committee meetings of lawyers and architects and sponsors to get it permanently located near the other Freedom Shrines of Philadelphia. She has also been actively working with various programs associated with the National Memorial Museum being prepared in Washington, D. C. under the U. S. Holocaust Memorial Council; a few weeks ago she gave the opening address at a meeting of directors of Holocaust Centers gathered at Yale.



Second, I celebrated with old friends - by mail - the 50th anniversary of the founding of the National Council of Methodist Youth. Founded as an independent youth movement in Evanston in 1934, NCMY lasted (1934-40) until the youth work of 3 branches of Methodism - Methodist Episcopal Church, M. E. Church, South and Methodist Protestant Church - came under the control of the Board of Education of the new church. "The Methodist Church" was the union founded at Kansas City Uniting Conference in 1939, at which Harriet Lewis and Richard Baker were the two youth delegates and Herman Will an alternate. ("The United Methodist Church" was formed out of a later union with the Evangelical and United Brethren Church.) The NCMY worked in harness with other youth and student movements - both denominational and political - during the Depression years on such issues as peace, racial justice, economic justice, educational and job opportunities for youth, etc. Hayes Beall (an early President) - now retired in Salem, Oregon - suggested the "reunion," and Herman Will (President 1938-40), now retired in Seattle, and Tom Pendell (sometime Executive Secretary of NCMY), now retired in Santa Monica, helped to make the contacts with "old-timers."

We also celebrated in 1984, on the initiative of Dean Locke of the University of Washington, the 50th anniversary of the Synod and Declaration in which the German Protestant resisters (at Barmen/Ruhr, 29-31 May 1934) drew up their battleline of opposition to Nazism as an expression of heresy and idolatry. Hubert Locke was my partner in founding in 1970 the Annual Scholars Conference on the Holocaust and the Church Struggle, which will celebrate its 15th Anniversary in Philadelphia on 10-12 March 1985. The 1985 theme will be "Forty Years After" - after the liberation, after the opening of the camps, after the end of the Third Reich, after the Stuttgart Declaration of Guilt, after the martyrdom of Anne Frank and Dietrich Bonhoeffer and so many others... In Seattle in 1984 we were fortunate to have several hundred colleagues who have specialized in one way or another in the story and lessons to be learned from the Holocaust and the Church Struggle - including some German colleagues of the resistance like Heinrich Vogel, Franz Hildebrandt, Eberhard Bethge, Wolf-Dieter Zimmermann. We also had as one of our chief public speakers an impressive churchman, Bishop Desmond Tutu, who shortly thereafter was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Events and interviews were put on film by a crew from Hollywood commanded by the son of my old colleague from post-war years in Germany, Richard Solberg - himself an authority on the church struggle with both Nazism and Communism. How the wheel does turn!

Of family news I shall report only briefly. 1984 was a year of graduations. Marcie's two sons both graduated from professional schools in 1984, Jonathan in Medicine and Robert in Law. Sarah, my oldest grandchild, graduated at the top of her class of 734 in Las Vegas and opted to stay in the West to study. This was the year, too, that my grandson Steve at 16 years of age "graduated" above his uncle Steve (6'4" over 6'2" - and both grandson and son towering over "Opa"!)

Thus retired colleagues and youthful prodigies alike remind me to be thankful for the gift of life, for colleagues and students I yet enjoy in teaching religious history, and for friends who will read this epistle.

Franklin H. Littell  
USA address: POB 172, Merion PA 19066



Attending the ceremony proclaiming "Anne Frank Day" (from left) are Miriam Novitch, representing Israel; City Councilman David Cohen; Aaron A. Gold, treasurer of the Anne Frank Institute; and Dr. Franklin Littell, founder and honorary chairman of the institute.

## Institute name change to honor Anne Frank

By STEVE FELDMAN  
Of the Exponent Staff

As the number of Holocaust survivors dwindles, so do the first-hand accounts and lessons of the nightmare they shared. Many people believe that the younger generations must be educated about what happened and why — so that this tragic history will not be repeated.

This was the theme of a ceremony Monday afternoon in City Council chambers as Mayor Wilson Goode proclaimed "Anne Frank Day," marking the birthday of the girl who hid with her family from the Nazis for two years in the attic of an Amsterdam warehouse.

Representing the martyred Holocaust heroine at the ceremony was the National Institute on the Holocaust, which later announced a name change to the Anne Frank Institute of Philadelphia.

"The faith and words of a 12-year-old girl, living through one of history's darkest periods . . . moves us because she had the strength to see, to remember, to hope," read part of the proclamation.

"It is this hope, this optimism, that the National Institute on the Holocaust wishes to convey in the creation of an Anne-Frank House, as an interfaith Holocaust learning center."

Marcene Mattleman, executive director of the Mayor's Commission on Literacy, presented the proclamation on behalf of Goode to Mark Cuker, president-elect of the Sons and Daughters of Philadelphia Holocaust Survivors.

"This city has reached out to survivors and their children, and that's important to us," Cuker said.

In 1975, Philadelphia became the first major school district in the nation to include Holocaust studies in its educational curriculum.

Aaron A. Gold, treasurer of the institute, stressed that the theme of the program was "remembering through education. Only through proper education can we eradicate bigotry and injustice . . . and ensure that such a tragedy will never happen again — to any people anywhere."

"As time runs out on our older generation, we look increasingly to our children and grandchildren to relate the story and the lessons of our darkest years," Gold said.

Gold also paid tribute to Dr. Franklin H. Littell, founder and honorary chairman of the institute, calling him "the father of Holocaust education in America."

Frank's diary, found by her father after the war and published, has been read by millions around the world, providing lessons of the Holocaust and optimism in the presence of horror.

Littell founded the ecumenical institute here in 1975 to teach all people and future generations about the events of the Holocaust and to provide educational services.

The group has made Philadelphia the major center of Holocaust education in North America. The institute also holds an annual conference on teaching the Holocaust.

After the proclamation was made, Gold announced that the institute's name had been changed to the Anne Frank Institute of Philadelphia, in order to stress the lesson of the Holocaust to children.

Students from a Pitman, N.J., elementary school closed the program by reciting poems written by children who, like Frank, perished at the hands of the Nazis.

Also participating in the ceremony were Marcia Sachs Littell, executive director of the institute; Sister Carol Rittner, representing the U.S. Holocaust Council; Sondra Meyers, chairwoman of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council; Miriam Novitch of the Ghetto Fighter's House and representing Israel; Dr. George French Jr., director of Social Studies Education for the School District of Philadelphia; and Dr. Irene Shur, secretary of the institute.

The Rev. Wilfred Pashley of St. Rose of Lima Parish gave the invocation, and Rabbi David Wortman, executive director of the Philadelphia Board of Rabbis, delivered the benediction.



15TH INTERNATIONAL ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

10-12 March 1984

"Forty Years After"

Sunday, March 10th

- 2:00 Registration, Book Display and Film
- 4:00 "THE CONTINUING TASK" (co-sponsored with the National Association of Holocaust Educators) - Prof. Saul Friedman (Kent State University) author of The Oberammergau Passion Play: A Lance at Civilization
- 6:00 15th ANNIVERSARY DINNER - Prof. Hubert G. Locke (U of Washington), presiding speaker, Prof. Franklin H. Littell (Temple U) "Holocaust Education After "Forty Years in the Wilderness"
- 8:00 CONFERENCE KEYNOTE (Richard Gingold Memorial Address, co-sponsored by the Sons and Daughters of Holocaust Survivors) - Elie Wiesel

Monday, March 11th

- 9:00 "FORTY YEARS AGO: WHAT WERE THE AMERICANS DOING?" - Jewish Agencies/ The Goldberg Commission Report (Marc Tanenbaum), The American Churches (Robert Ross, author of So It Was True), "Pacifism and Isolationism in Retrospect"
- 11:30 SEMINAR I - TEACHING THE HOLOCAUST AND ITS LESSONS - Middle School, Secondary Schools, Colleges, Graduate Studies, Congregations
- 1:00 CONFERENCE LUNCHEON - Speaker - Prof. David S. Wyman (U of Massachusetts) author of The Abandonment of the Jews
- 2:30 THE CHURCH STRUGGLE AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE: LESSONS LEARNED ACROSS FOUR DECADES (co-sponsored by the North American Section of the International Bonhoeffer Society) - "The Witness of Dietrich Bonhoeffer" "A Reappraisal of the Church Resistance"
- 4:30 LESSONS FOR THE PROFESSIONS - Clergy, Journalists, Lawyers, Doctors & Nurses, Teachers
- 6:30 WALLENBERG DINNER - (co-sponsored by the Wallenberg Committee of Greater Philadelphia) - Dr. Harvey Rosenfeld (Pace University), author of Wallenberg: Angel of Rescue
- 8:00 PUBLIC LECTURE - Prof. Jan Karski (Georgetown U) messenger from Auschwitz

Registration Form

Enclosed is a check (payable to THE INSTITUTE) for \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20 prior to 31 January 1985),  
\_\_\_\_\_ (\$30 after 1 February 1985)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (\$10 for Students or Retired)

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(toll free 800:325-3535)  
Ask for Scholars Conference Rate



Tuesday, March 12

- 9:00 **LOOKING AHEAD** - "To the Year 2024..." - Prof. **Harry James Cargas** (Webster U)  
10:00 **HOLOCAUST EDUCATION** (parallel sessions) - The Work of the Holocaust Centers  
Co-Chairmen: Williams Parsons ("Facing History and Ourselves"), Marcia Littell  
(Anne Frank Institute of Philadelphia) (Introducing the U. S. Holocaust  
Memorial Council's Report on American Centers of Holocaust Education)  
General Educational Developments: Israel, Germany, Denmark, Czechoslovakia...  
12:30 **BERNARD E OLSON MEMORIAL CONFERENCE LUNCHEON**, with Awards Ceremony;  
Speaker: Prof. **Jaffe Eliach**, author of Hasidic Tales of the Holocaust

An International Conference with the above and other outstanding scholars and leaders:  
James Wolf, Konnilyn Feig, Margot Stern Strom, Geoffrey Hartman, Irene Shur, Marvin  
Wolfgang, Michael Ryan, John Conway, Burton Nelson, Emil Fackenheim, Leonard Swidler,  
Henry Friedlander, Wolfgang Gerlach, Elliott Wright, Alan Berger, Robert Wolfe, David  
Kirk, Richard Libowitz, Ruth Zerner, Wolfgang Gerlach, Willard O'Brien, Rutus Cornelsen,  
David Rosenberg, Henry Thompson, Berel Lang, Deborah Lipstadt, David Rausch, Walter Renn  
and many more - from Israel, Europe and America.....

AMERICAN JEWISH  
THE 15TH INTERNATIONAL ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE  
ARCHIVES

10-12 March 1985  
Philadelphia

"Forty Years After"

(Commemorating the 40th anniversary of the end of the Third Reich...  
the martyrdom of Anne Frank and Dietrich Bonhoeffer...  
the opening of the camps...  
the joyous Second Life for the survivors)

Co-sponsored by the U. S. Holocaust Memorial Council, National Conference of  
Christians and Jews, Hamlin Institute, William O. Douglas Institute, Anne Frank  
Institute of Philadelphia, National Association of Holocaust Educators et alia

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