

HOLOCAUST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE RUSSIAN RESEARCH
AND EDUCATIONAL HOLOCAUST CENTER

From the Editor

It was not easy to prepare this issue of the newsletter. In June of 2022 the Holocaust Center, one of the oldest public organizations in Russia, turned thirty. For obvious reasons, we decided not to celebrate this event. But at the beginning of the year there were other pleasant anniversaries and high awards. The past year has required us to be highly professional first of all. "We tried not to remain "bystanders", trying to defend the memory of the Holocaust in our country. With the help of members of the Center's Board of Trustees, International Holocaust Remembrance Day was returned to the Calendar of Educational Events of the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation. We held memorial events on the site of the execution of Holocaust victims in five cities of Russia. We held several seminars for teachers and students in Russia and Kazakhstan. Despite financial problems, the traditional summer school and seminar in Israel were very successful. More than 1,500 works from eight countries came to the annual International Competition in 2022. Three television channels broadcast a series of programs prepared by the Center's staff. At the Russian State University for the Humanities, the defense of master's dissertations of the first graduates of the program "Politics of Memory: History of the Holocaust and Genocide" was held. It is very important that our cooperation, participation in conferences and scientific publications with colleagues from Belarus, Bulgaria, Germany, Kazakhstan, Serbia, USA, Japan continued. We talk about this and more in this issue.

RUSSIAN HOLOCAUST CENTER - XXX YEARS!

June 26 the Russian Holocaust Center turned thirty. During these years, the Center has held dozens of seminars and conferences with teachers, college students, schoolchildren, and journalists - from Kaliningrad to Vladivostok. Every year, the Center, together with the Russian Jewish Congress (RJC), holds a Remembrance Week, timed to coincide with the International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Since 2000, the Center annually organizes an international contest. The best essays of schoolchildren and college students, were published in 18 collections "We Cannot Be Silent". Young scholars - the winners of the contest - for 15 years presented their work at the UNESCO.

The Archives Department of the Center actively collects personal letters, diaries, documents, photographs about the Holocaust and the participation of the Jews in the war. As a result of this work, six "Save my letters ..." collections have been released

and several unique documentary exhibitions have been prepared. One of them - "Holocaust: Annihilation, Resistance, Salvation" - was exhibited at the headquarters of leading international organizations, the parliaments of 8 countries, museums and universities in 15 countries.

The Holocaust Center has prepared and published about 100 books, manuals, and brochures in the Russian Library of the Holocaust series, of which the main one is the Encyclopedia "The Holocaust on the Territory of the USSR".

More than 90 memorials, monuments and plaques have been erected as part of the Return the Dignity project.

Internships for more than 400 Russian teachers have been organized and conducted in the world's leading museums on the topic of the Holocaust. Regional representatives of the Holocaust Center work effectively in various parts of Russia.



Employees of the Holocaust Center and their partners, 2019

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ANNIVERSARY PARTY
OF ALLA GERBER

On January 17, 2022, a warm, homey evening took place at the Helikon Opera Theater. Alla Gerber, writer and co-chair of the Holocaust Center, celebrated her 90th among close friends. She was greeted by Russia's Chief Rabbi Berl Lazar, Israel's Ambassador Alex Ben-Zvi, and Russia's Honored Teacher Yevgeny Yamburg. Singers Tamara Gverdtsiteli and Veronika Dolina, pianist Polina Osetinskaya, director Mark Rozovsky, poets Igor Irteniev and Vladimir Vishnevsky, and the Moscow Jewish Male Choir performed their creative congratulations. The Drinking Song from the opera La Traviata by G. Verdi was performed by leading artists of the Helikon Opera.

In 1955, Alla Gerber graduated from the faculty of law of the Moscow State University. In the following years she worked as a lawyer and a journalist. Since 1963 Alla has written over 1000 articles and 8 books. In 1990 she organized first anti-fascist process in the USSR, with the conviction of a functionary of the ultra-nationalist organization Pamyat ended. Since 1991 - leading member of the movement "Democratic Rus-



Alla Gerber



Alla Gerber with Polina Osetinskaya

sia" and founder of the Moscow Anti-Fascist Centre. In 1993-1995 - Member of the first State Duma of the Russian Federation.

The White Elephant
Prize

On February 6, 2022, Alla Gerber received the "White Elephant" honorary prize, named after award founder Miron Chernenko. "The White Elephant" is a Russian film award given by the Film Critics Guild of Russia. It was founded in 1998 by the President of the Guild, Miron Chernenko. From 1998 to 2005 it was awarded as the Golden Ram. Since February 25, 2021, the Prize has gained independence from the Guild of Film Critics of the Russian Union of Cinematographers.



Alexander Zeldovitch, film director, son of Alla Gerber's, addressing his mother

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AWARDS TO THE CENTER'S LEADERS

On January 26, in his residence, the German ambassador to Russia Geza Andreas von Geyr presented the Medal of the Order "for Services to the Federal Republic of Germany" to Dr. Ilya Altman, who is the co-chairman of the Research and Educational Holocaust Center Professor of the Russian State University for the Humanities. "For me - both as a German ambassador and personally - today's event means a lot, said Geza Andreas von Geyr. "This is a particularly important and valuable day," he continued. "The Holocaust is the most terrible crime we know by Nazi Germany, and it will forever be part of my country's historical responsibility."

Addressing Ilya Altman, the ambassador said: It is largely to your credit that the Holocaust has been given more prominence in high school and university curricula. After all, it is the younger generation that must be well informed about the Holocaust, so that the motto "This must never happen again!" can be made a reality. You make a unique, important contribution to the contact between people in our two countries." In his speech, Dr. Ilya Altman thanks to his colleagues for the strongly support of his activities.

On January 27, Ilya Altman was awarded the "Guardian of Memory" award at the Helikon Opera Theater, at a memorial evening dedicated to International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The 2022 prize established by the Russian Jewish Congress was awarded to Sergei Sobyenin, mayor of Moscow; poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko (posthumously); Rimas Tuminas, theater director and artistic director of the Vakhtangov State Academic Theater; Governor Andrey Bocharov of the Volgograd Region



Ilya Altman and Ambassador of Germany Dr. Geza Andreas von Geyr



Awarding Ilya Altman with the Russian Jewish Congress award.

The Golden Pegasus Award ceremony was held in Moscow on November 19 to mark the 30th anniversary of the World Arts Committee (WAC). This organization brings together artists, scientists, and teachers from 45 countries across the world. Among the awardees are Ilya Altman. The award was presented by the Vice-President of the World Art Committee, a member of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Dr. Aues Betuganov.



The Golden Pegasus award

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The International Competition
«Holocaust: Remembrance and Prevention»

In 2021, at the XXI International Competition “Holocaust: Remembrance and Prevention,” 2,244 works were received. The competition consisted of two stages: regional and federal. The regional stage of the contest was held in 17 subjects of the Russian Federation. The international stage of the competition received works from 54 subjects of the Russian Federation and 5 foreign countries: Belarus, Israel, Moldova, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine. On January 18, 2022, the final of the contest “The Holocaust: Remembrance and Prevention” in the category “Methodological developments” took place. Nine teachers from Russia and Belarus presented their competitive methodological developments, shared their experience of teaching the history of the Holocaust in history, literature, and fine arts classes, class hours, and extracurricular activities. More than 40 participants were given the opportunity to not only hear their colleagues, but also ask questions.

On January 21-23 in Moscow as part of the annual “Holocaust Remembrance Week,” the XVI International Conference of Students



Presenting the award to Larisa Prokudina

and Young scientists “Holocaust: Remembrance and Prevention” was held. Nineteen students, undergraduates and graduate students from Austria, Kazakhstan and 6 regions of Russia participated in the conference. At the end of the conference, the winners and runners-up of the XXI International Competition of Works on the Holocaust were determined in the category “Student Works.”

On the first day, the participants were introduced, and the programs of the Holocaust Center were presented. Participants received the Center’s publications

from the Russian Holocaust Library series. At the end of the conference, there was an award ceremony for the winner and runners-up of the XXI International Competition of works “Holocaust: Remembrance and Prevention.”

On January 23, the conference ended with a round table on the preservation of the memory of the Holocaust in modern Russia. The results of the conference were summed up and the certificates were presented to the participants.

On January 27, at the evening “the Guardian of Memory” in the Moscow Helikon-Opera theater, Ilya Altman held an award ceremony for the winners of the contest. They include Larisa Prokudina, a teacher from Engels, Saratov Region; Maria Kolacheva, a student from Nevel, Pskov Region; and Anastasia Krovitskaya, a student at the Higher School of Economics in Kazakhstan. Svetlana Fedosova from the Spassky School of the Kostroma Region (winner of the category “Creative Work”) and the teacher Tatiana Schumel (Molodechno, Republic of Belarus) could not take part in the ceremony.



Participants of the conference

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XXII Summer Session for Teachers of Russia

In August 2022, in Rostov-on-Don and Taganrog, the XXII summer session for teachers in Russia "Lessons of the Holocaust — The Path to Tolerance" was held by the Holocaust Center (Moscow) and the International Scientific and Educational Center for the History of the Holocaust and Genocides of the Russian State University for the Humanities. Traditionally, summer seminars are held in Moscow and the Moscow Region, but every five years (since 2012) they are held in Rostov-on-Don.

Here, on August 11-12, 1942, on the outskirts of the city, in Zmievsкая Ravine, the mass extermination of the Jews began. In total, during the occupation, about 27,000 people were executed in this place, most of them were Jews.

Despite all the difficulties (lack of air travel, hot weather, vacation time, etc.) 40 schoolteachers, methodologists of educational institutes, higher education teachers, and museum staff from 19 regions of Russia came to Rostov.

We are confident that the combination of theory (lectures), practice (workshops, exchange of experience, interactive lessons) and visits to memorials have given

en the effect for which the Holocaust Center has been inviting teachers to educational seminars for more than twenty years.

There are many myths around the history of the Great Patriotic War, the occupying regime, and the Holocaust. Ilya Altman's lecture on working with sources and terms about the mass extermination of civilians focused on the methodology of interpreting historical facts.

The seminar discussed topics related to children and the profession of teaching during the Holocaust. These are the ones that are of most interest to teachers and students. The seminar enriched participants with important knowledge and emotional experiences. Most of them for the first time saw the monument to 1,500 Jewish children shot in Petrushinskaya Ravine near Taganrog on October 26, 1941; they heard the stories of survivors, who were children at the time of shooting; they learned about the Righteous Among the Nations, who included the Taganrog school teacher Alla Pokrovskaya and physical education teacher Igor Polgorodnik, who now lives in Taganrog.

The seminar participants were given the opportunity not

only to take part in memorial ceremonies on the memorial sites, but also to hear the stories of eyewitnesses who survived the tragedy, to learn how the memorials were created, how the memory of the victims of the tragedy is preserved.

The visit to the memorial ceremony in Zmievsкая Ravine was also memorable because the teachers learned about the history of the memorial and about the "memory wars" in connection with the mention of Jewish victims.

The seminar culminated in a meeting with Svetlana Ovchinnikova (Veselaya), a resident of Rostov. During the war, the doctor Lyudmila Nazarevich saved her and her mother and sister from the shooting. Svetlana Ovchinnikova is 84 years old today, a PhD of physical and mathematical sciences and a former teacher at Southern Federal University. At a meeting with the seminar participants, she told her story publicly for the first time and asked the Holocaust Center to give a written testimony about her being saved to Yad Vashem.

This meeting was made possible thanks to the search work of the lawyer from Armavir, Viktoria Khilkevich. After participating in a summer seminar in 2019, she became serious about searching for archival documents, writing articles, participating in conferences, and discovering new names and stories.

The "Liberators" project, which Olga Shalagina, a history teacher from Vologda, has been taking part in since 2015, also turned out to be very popular. She and her students established the names and fates of more than 600 Red Army soldiers who par-



The memorial ceremony at Zmievsкая Ravine

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ticipated in the liberation of Auschwitz; she developed a search method.

During the seminar, teachers talked a lot about preserving the memory of the victims of the Holocaust.

They learned about the activities of Tankhi Otershtein, whose efforts resulted in a monument to children in the Petrushinskaya Ravine. During the seminar his daughter Natalia Smorodina transferred her father's personal archive to the Holocaust Center. Also, they heard about Anatoly Karnaukh, a local historian from Arzgir who initiated installation of more than 20 monuments to Holocaust victims; Alexander Kozhin, a historian, who achieved installation of four memorial boards at the gathering places of Jews of Rostov-on-Don before they were sent to Zmievskaia Ravine.

Teachers thought a great deal about the place of the Holocaust in the educational process. The group's work in finalizing the textbook “War, Football, and the Holocaust” broke new ground in the study of the tragedy through the personal fates of the athletes.

Being familiar with the cooperation between Chekhov Taganrog Central City Public Library and educational organizations of the city showed the possibility of different organizations working together in the preparation and holding of memorial events.

Svetlana Tikhankina

Seminar «Child Victims of Terror and the Holocaust: Culture of Memory»

On September 3, 2022, participants of this seminar — teachers from Moscow, Mordovia, Udmurtia, Bryansk, Saratov and Chelyabinsk regions — visited the Alexander Pechersky Museum



Participants of the seminar at the Alexander Pechersky Museum

in Vladikavkaz, School No. 1 in Beslan, and the cemetery “City of Angels.”

On September 4, the Institute for Professional Development of Educators (SORIPKRO) held an educational seminar “Child Victims of Terror and the Holocaust: Culture of Memory.”

Teachers of history, Russian language and literature, and elementary classes of the republic, as well as guests from five regions of the Russian Federation took part in the seminar.



At the memorial, opened in 2017, within the context of the project “Regain Dignity”

Seminar at Kislovodsk

On September 5, teachers of the city, employees of the Holocaust Center and its regional representatives from several subjects of the Russian Federation, as well as heads of the Kislovodsk administration, gathered at school No. 2 in Kislovodsk.

At the end of the day, a memorial ceremony and a memorial prayer were held at the monuments to the victims of fascism.

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Seminar at Pyatigorsk

On September 6, the seminar participants from Jewish schools and communities as well as Regional representatives of the Holocaust Center — teachers from Stavropol Krai, Saratov, Mordovia, and Bryansk Oblast visited the Holocaust sites in Pyatigorsk.

Ilya Altman introduced the topic "Crime against humanity, war crimes, genocide: terms and categories of victims" to the teachers and students.

Svetlana Tikhankina, head of the educational programs of the Holocaust Center, presented a report on the topic "The Holocaust's Place in School Education."

Participants of the seminar held a ceremony (together with members of regional Jewish organizations and the city's public) at the memorial to executed Jews at Mineralnye Vody. It was opened by Russian Jewish Congress and Russian Holocaust Center in 2019, within the context of the project "Regain Dignity".

SEMINARS AND LECTURES IN KAZAKHSTAN

On September 18, Astana hosted the first specialized seminar on the Holocaust. Ilya Altman and Svetlana Tikhankina talked about the causes and lessons of the Holocaust. The seminar was attended by 17 teachers from four cities of Kazakhstan and several dozen high school students.

The next day Ilya Altman gave a lecture for students of the Lev Gumilev Eurasian National University, telling about the problems of falsification of history. Svetlana Tikhankina introduced students of the largest university in Kazakhstan to scientific and educational activities on the Holocaust in Russia and the international youth contest "Holocaust: Remembrance and Prevention."

The trip to Kazakhstan by employees of the Russian State University for the Humanities and the Holocaust Center, which took place from September 19 to 21, ended in Almaty with a lecture for 1st to 3rd year students of the University of International Relations (KUMO). Professor Salavat Azerbaev introduced the Moscow teachers. Ilya Altman spoke about the Righteous Among the Peoples of the World: diplomats, using the example of his research on the Japanese vice-consul in Kaunas, Chiune Sugihara.

After the lecture, negotiations were held on collaboration with the teachers of the Universi-



At a lecture at the University of International Relations

ty. Also, there were meetings and negotiations with the heads of Rossotrudnichestvo representa-

tive office in Kazakhstan, Associations of Peace and Accord, and the Jewish organization Mitsva.



The lecture at Russian House for schoolchildren (Astana)

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Seminar in Israel

From December 3 to December 10, 2022, a week-long seminar for Russian teachers was held in Israel. It was attended by teachers of schools and universities from 9 regions of Russia. The seminar opened with a meeting with Yuri Dombrovsky, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Holocaust Center and the project "Regain Dignity."

The first morning in Jerusalem began with a trip to Yad Vashem. The two-hour tour given by Dr. Tatiana Manusova made a very strong impression.

The culmination of the second tour was the Children's Memorial. After the tour, Dr. Aron Shneer presented his study on anti-Semitism in the Red Army during wartime.

On the second day, Russian teachers visited the first Holocaust museum in the history of Israel, Lohamei HaGetaot (Ghetto Fighters Museum). Here Ilya Altman presented Dr. Yigal Cohen, director of the museum, with the documentary collection "Chiune Sugihara and the Soviet Union." Negotiations were held on further joint educational projects.

The director of teaching programs of the museum, Yaron Tser, told the seminar participants about the approaches to teaching the history of the Holocaust, including the history of the Holocaust in the USSR. Teachers also familiarized themselves with the archive, appreciating the unique style of working with authentic artifacts. Using the example of the Eichmann Trial the methodology of working with children on the topic of

the Holocaust was presented. The day culminated in an open dialogue between Yaron Tsera and educators about the forms and methods of the museum center's work.

The third day of the seminar was held in Jerusalem at the Ben-Zvi Institute. Russian teachers listened with interest to the speech of Leonid Sherman, history teacher of the secondary school Maale Adumim on the topic "Teaching the Shoah in Israel: Experience and Problems." The author of the main school textbooks on the history of Russia, Professor Alexander Danilov, talked about how the theme of the Holocaust and the Nazi occupation regime is reflected in Russian school textbooks. Dr. Zeev Levin presented the results of the research on the topic: "The evacuation and flight of Jews to Central Asia during the Holocaust."

The fourth day of the workshop was again held at Yad Vashem. With the support of the Chairman of Yad Vashem, Yossi Gevir, the participants were able to get acquainted with the work of the three departments of this

memorial: the Library, the Archives and the Department of the Righteous. The work was presented by archivist Bella Noham and the head of the Department of the Righteous, Dr. Yael Zisenwein.

The fifth day of the seminar, held at the Ben-Zvi Institute, was the most memorable. The teachers met, got to know each other, and listened to the story of Holocaust survivor Viktor Gin (Ginzburgsky), author of many Soviet hits. He told the story of how he was saved based on his mother's letter to Ilya Erenburg. It tells how 26-year-old German teacher with two little sons, two and four years old, were saved.

Ilya Altman's speech on the Holocaust's place in the ideology of the "Genocide of the Soviet people" continued with a discussion with the participation of Dr. Aron Shneer, Dr. Leonid Praisman (Tel-Aviv), a researcher at the Hebrew University, introduced listeners to the problems of the domestic politics of modern Israel. Senior fellow at the Diaspora Center at Tel Aviv University, Dr. Leonid Smilovitsky.



Tour of Yad Vashem with Dr. Aron Shneer

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New Documents on the Japanese Diplomat - The Righteous among the Nations of the World

Hokkaido University (Sapporo, Japan) together with the Russian Holocaust Center published in English and Russian a collection of documents "Chiune Sugihara and the Soviet Union: New Documents and New Perspectives." It opens with research articles by co-editors Ilya Altman, professor at Hokkaido University Dr. David Wolff, and Professor Chizuko Takao. The collection includes documents from the leading state and departmental archives of Russia, as well as Japan, Lithuania, Israel and Finland, most of which are being published for the first time. They are not just about the well-known activity of Chiune Sugihara on the issuance of visas to Jewish refugees in Kaunas in 1940, but above all - the role of the USSR in their transit through Vladivostok to Japan in the context of Soviet-Japanese relations. According to one of the editors, Ilya Altman, "We managed to clarify the number of refugees with Sugihara visas

through archive documents of In-tourist and People's Commissariat of Railway Transport who were on their way from Moscow to Far East by the Transiberian Railway (there were no more than 2,500; not 6,000 as it was earlier estimated) and through investigation cases we revealed a detective story of making fake visas for refugees after the departure of Japanese diplomat from Lithuania and revealed details of Sugihara's internment on Soviet territory in 1945-1947 and his activities as a representative of Japanese trading firms in Moscow in 1960-1977."

This book is the result of a joint international project, which started in 2012. The first presentation of the book took place on September 14 in New York, at the Harriman Institute, where it was presented by Dr. David Wolff.

Medical and Sanitary Service in the Ghetto and the Fate of Doctors During the Holocaust

The article with this title was published in the September issue of the Military Historical Journal (No. 9/2022). Its authors are Ilya Altman and Maria Gilyova, coordinator of international and scientific programs of the Holocaust Center, analyst of the International Scientific and Educational Center for the History of the Holocaust and Genocide of the Russian State University for the Humanities in 2014-2022. "The fate of medical workers (victims, rescuers, and Resistance participants) is a little-studied part of the history of the Holocaust and the Nazi occupation regime in the USSR. Meanwhile, it was the medical profession during the war that was especially valuable — not only at the front, behind

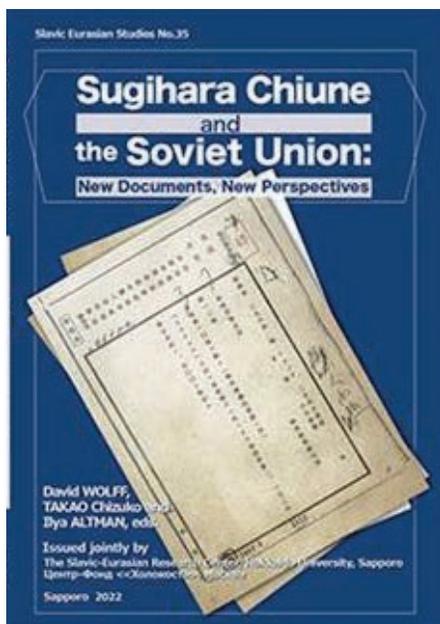
the lines, and in prisoners of war camps, but also in the occupation — the article says.

The paper falls back on materials from the RF MoD Central Archives, the State Archives of the Kaluga Region, the Extraordinary State Commission for Establishing and Investigating Atrocities Committed by German Nazi Invaders, The Black Book, and The Unknown Black Book to look at the destinies of Jewish doctors who found themselves on the occupied Soviet territory during the Great Patriotic War and the Holocaust.

Participation in the Scientific Council on the History of the Great Patriotic War

The resolution of the Bureau of the Department of Historical and Philological Sciences of the Russian Academy of Sciences approved the composition of the Scientific Council of the Russian Academy of Sciences on the History of the Great Patriotic War. It includes the director of the International Scientific and Educational Center for the History of the Holocaust and Genocide, professor of the Russian State University for the Humanities, co-chairman of the Holocaust Center, Ilya Altman.

The Council was formed as a matter of fulfilling the order of the President of Russia to create a National Center for the Study of the History of the Great Patriotic War. According to the vice-president of the Russian Academy of Sciences Nikolai Makarov, "This topic is being developed in various institutes, universities and the functions of the council are to coordinate this diverse activity and form new directions in this field."



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In Memory of the Leaders and Members
of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee

On May 20, in the building of the Soviet Peace Foundation, where the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee was located from August 1943 to November 20, 1948, the international scientific conference "Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee in the USSR: History, Remembrance, Lessons" took place. The conference was organized by the Holocaust Center, the International Scientific and Educational Center of the History of Holocaust and Genocides of the Russian State University for the Humanities, and the Solomon Mikhoels International Center with the support of the Soviet Peace Foundation.

Alexander Ben-Zvi, Israeli Ambassador to the Russian Federation; Olga Pavlenko, first pro-rector of the Russian State University for the Humanities; and Alla Zuskin-Perelman (Israel), who spoke about her father — one of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee leaders, the famous actor Veniamin Zuskin, all addressed the conference participants.

Authors of monographs and articles, compilers of collections of documents on the Jewish An-



Participants of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee conference

ti-Fascist Committee activities: Doctor of History Gennady Kostyrchenko (Institute of Russian History Russian Academy of Sciences); writer Joshua Rubinshtein (USA); artistic director of the Solomon Mikhoels International Center, Lomonosov Moscow State University professor Irina Goryunova all made speeches.

Alexander Engels (France), author of a biographical book about a member of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee Presidium,

Gen. Ya. Kreizer, spoke about his ties with the Committee. Olga Selitskaya (Russian State Archive of Economy) and independent researcher Yulia Volokhova, based on documents from Russian and Bulgarian archives, spoke about the history of the "Black Book" and Vasily Grossman's role in its preparation. Svetlana Tikhankina drew attention to the information potential of this publication, analyzing the fate of teachers during the Holocaust years according to the text of the Black Book.

An interesting block of reports was based on the collections of the Holocaust Center. Lyubov Lavrova presented for the first time the unique personal archive of the poet Itzik Fefer, and the head of the archive Leonid Terushkin talked about the correspondence of front-line soldiers with Ilya Erenburg.

An excellent illustration of these reports was an exhibition of authentic documents and rare books from the collections of the State Archives of the Russian Federation and the archive of the Holocaust Center.



Discussion at the conference

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Round Table at Russian State University for the Humanities

On May 21 in the main auditorium of the Russian State University for the Humanities History and Archives Institute, an offline and online roundtable on "Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes in the Occupied Territory of the USSR: Categories of Victims and Strategies of Extermination" took place. It was organized by the Russian State University for the Humanities International Center for Holocaust and Genocide History and the Holocaust Center as part of the International Conference marking the 80th anniversary of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee in the USSR. Ilya Altman and Konstantin Pakhalyuk, associate professor of Moscow City Pedagogical University, in their reports criticized the modern terminology of the occupying regime.

At the round table, which was attended by researchers, university teachers, heads of public organizations from Moscow, St. Petersburg, Veliky Novgorod, and the University of Rutgers (USA) discussed the problems of terminology and conceptual models used in the comprehension of the Nazi terror in the occupied territory of the USSR.

Egor Yakovlev, Director of the Scientific and Educational Project "Digital History" (St. Petersburg) raised the question of the fate of famine in the plans and extermination policy of the Nazis; Stanislav Aristov, Doctor of History, leading researcher of the Center for the History of the Great Patriotic War of the Institute of Russian History of the Russian Academy of Sciences paid special attention to historiographical aspects of the topic; Alexander Dyukov, Director of the "Historical Memory" Foundation, dwelt on legal aspects of the application of the term "genocide" in international law and judicial practice; Vladimir Simindei, editor-in-chief of the Journal of Russian and East European Historical Studies, continued the discussion on terminological aspects of the topic.

Dr. Igor Kotler of Rutgers University (USA) delved into on the same problem using American historiography and journalism as an example. Boris Kovalev, doctor of historical sciences, professor, and leading researcher at the St. Petersburg Institute of History of the Russian Academy of Sciences, shared his experience of expert participation in the investigation

of crimes committed by the occupiers in Northwest Russia. Svetlana Tikhankina dwelt on the use of the concepts "genocide" and "Generplan Ost" in textbooks for schools and universities.

The peculiarities of the Romanian occupation, the fate of the Roma and Sinti, and the extermination of children were discussed by Ivan Gribkov, PhD in history, associate professor at the National University of Science and Technology; Dmitry Astashkin, PhD in history, associate professor, senior researcher at the Institute of History of the Russian Academy of Sciences, senior researcher of the Institute of the Defense and Siege of Leningrad; and Ivan Kulakov, graduate student at the Center for the Military History of Russia of the Institute of Russian History of the Russian Academy of Sciences, head of the Department for Student Services of the Russian State University for the Humanities.

Distance Courses for Teachers in Russia

On November 15, 2022, the first training course on the topic "Nazi occupying regime — crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the Holocaust" was held. The courses are organized and conducted by the International Scientific and Educational Center for the History of the Holocaust and Genocide of the Russian State University for the Humanities.

27 people from 19 subjects of the Russian Federation are enrolled in the courses. In November and December, the first two sessions took place. The lectures and seminars are completed in May 2023 with a defense of the attendees' final works.



Participants of the discussion at the Russian State University for the Humanities

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Discussion about the Term «Genocide of the Soviet People»

On October 13 at St. Petersburg State University in the framework of the Second Historical Forum, the section "Nazi crimes on the territory of the USSR during World War II" was held. It ended with a public one-hour discussion with the co-chairman of the Holocaust Center, professor of the Russian State University for the Humanities Ilya Altman and the director of the research fund "Digital History," the author of the recently published monograph "War of Extermination. Genocide of the Soviet People" Egor Yakovlev. Ilya Altman argued that the term "Soviet people" appeared only in the 1970s, while during the war, all official documents referred to "the peoples of the USSR"; the interpretation of the term "genocide" emphasizes the national, ethnic, religious group "as such," so that the term "genocide" cannot be interpreted according to territorial principle or citizenship; the term "Russians" in Nazi documents usually referred to the entire population of the USSR, while the term "Slavs" referred not only to Soviet citizens.

He also did not agree with the statements in Yakovlev's book about the "plan of famine" being one of the elements in the genesis of the "final solution of the Jewish question" plan. After all, the initiator of this plan, State Secretary of the Ministry of Food Backe was not even invited to the Wannsee conference.

The arguments of Egor Yakovlev were as follows: the decisions of the International Nuremberg Tribunal spoke about the peoples of the USSR, as did certain orders and statements of the leaders of the

Third Reich, all of which should be taken as a whole and fairly assessed according to Ilya Altman.

It was agreed to continue the discussion in other auditoriums.

Conference in Berlin

On May 29-30, an international conference was held in Berlin on the history of Ashkenazi Jews in Germany, their fate during the second World War, modern anti-Semitism and emigration problems. About half of all Jews today are identified as Ashkenazi, meaning that they originate from Jews living in Central or Eastern Europe. The term was initially used to define a distinct cultural group of Jews who settled in the 10th century in Germany's Rhineland. Ilya Altman, co-chairman of the Holocaust Center, Professor of the Russian State University for the Humanities, made a report on "The Holocaust in the Occupied Territory of the USSR and the Stages of its Memorialization."

Two interesting lectures were read by one of the most famous specialists in the history of Soviet Jews, honorary professor of the University of Ann Arbor Zvi Gitelman. The conference, which took place at the Heinrich Böll Foundation and was organized by the Tikvah Institute, was attended by scientists from a number of universities in Germany and representatives of public organizations and Jewish communities.

Conference in Almaty

On September 20 in the Archives of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan the 11th International Scientific and Practical Historical Conference "History. Memory. People" took place. Its organizers are the Assembly of the people of Kazakhstan, the Archive of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Association "Mitzva," at the invitation of which employees of the Holocaust Center took part in the conference.

Svetlana Tikhankina presented the documentary exhibition "Holocaust: Destruction, Resistance, Salvation." Ilya Altman made a comparative analysis of the organization of receiving evacuated people and refugees in Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan. In early December, the organizers published a collection of reports of the participants of the conference. It included an article by Ilya Altman "Jews — refugees in the Azerbaijan SSR (1941-1942)"



Ilya Altman and Zvi Gitelman

THE NEWSLETTER "HOLOCAUST"

What Did the Jews Thank Marshal Zhukov For?

On May 6, the Russian State Military Archives held a meeting with the Ambassador of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay to the Russian Federation Daniel Castiglos Gomez. The director of the Russian State Military Archives Vladimir Tarasov gave the ambassador a copy of a unique document made on parchment with text in Spanish and Yiddish. This colorful letter from the Jewish Committee for Assistance to Refugees from Bukovina was addressed to Marshal G.K. Zhukov and sent from the capital of Uruguay, Montevideo.

It expressed gratitude to the Marshal for saving the Jews of the city of Chernivtsi from fascist Germany: "Your courage and strategy in leading the glorious Red Army in the liberation of Bukovina and its capital, Chernivtsi, evokes our gratitude... Please accept the respect and sincere greetings of those who are proud of this magnificent victory over fascism."

"The letter was recently discovered in the Marshal's personal funds of Victory by Igor Nagaev, a member of Russian State Military Archives and employee of the

Holocaust Center," said Ilya Altman, the initiator of the meeting. "We suggested that the archives management invite the Ambassador of Uruguay to present this unique historical source to the Jewish community of Uruguay.

Romanian and German forces occupied the city on 5 July 1941. Following a wave of assassinations, a series of repressive measures was instituted, depriving Jews of civil and economic rights. On 11 October 1941, a ghetto was established that concentrated approximately 5,000 people in the former Jewish district of the city, serving as a transit point before their deportation across the Dniester River. From October 1941 to May-June 1942, more than 32,000 people were deported to various camps and ghettos in Transnistria. Mayor Traian Popovici, managed to obtain approval for 17,000 Jews to remain in Cernăuți, where they were to



The letter to Marshal Georgy Zukov

perform compulsory labor. It is estimated that after the city was liberated by the Soviet army in 1944, approximately 30 percent of the Jewish population had survived.

The letter does not have a date, but most likely it was sent in the spring of 1944 when the troops of the 1st Ukrainian Front under the command of Marshal G.K. Zhukov liberated Chernivtsi and saved more than 14,000 Jews from extermination by the retreating Wehrmacht troops. We hope that further study of the history of this document will mark a new important milestone in the cooperation of our countries in preserving the memory of the Holocaust and the role of the Red Army in saving the Jewish people, initiated by the screening of the Holocaust Center's documentary exhibition at the Uruguayan Parliament in 2019

Publications on the find were published in the leading media of Uruguay. We are searching for relatives of the authors of the letter.



(from left to right): Vladimir Tarasov, Daniel Gomez, Ilya Altman

THE NEWSLETTER "HOLOCAUST"

The archive department of the Center is preparing the next release of the collection "Save my letters ...". It will include the letter of the major of the medical service Yakov Voiskunsky dated late July 1944. He specially came to his hometown of Sventsyany (now Švenčionys, Lithuanian Republic) to learn about the fate of his relatives. Almost all of them died. In a letter to his brother in Baku, he describes in detail -- on the basis of the testimony of three miraculous survivors -- life in the occupation and the death of 3,000 Jews. The childbirth of one of those who survived in the forest, her daughter rescued by a Polish family (the author did not yet know about the similar fate of his rescued nephew), participation in the executions of local residents -- memorable pages of the chronicle of the Holocaust in the hometown of Itkshak Rudnitsky (Arad), a Soviet partisan, General of the Israeli army and director of Yad Vashem from 1977-1993.

In 2022, the Archival Department held many events in Russia

and abroad. Demonstrations and presentations of the exhibition "Holocaust: Destruction, Liberation, Rescue" (versions 2018-2020), including online presentations were held in 40 regions, including 9 "Russia-My History" parks in Krasnodar, Novosibirsk, Pyatigorsk, Samara, Saint Petersburg, Stavropol, Tyumen, Chelyabinsk, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk and in 16 museums and exhibition venues of the Russian Federation in Vladikavkaz, Yekaterinburg, Makhachkala, Murmansk, Moscow, and Moscow Region, (Lyubertsy, Mytishchi, Noginsk, Reutov), Orel, Pskov, Rostov-on-Don, Taganrog, Tver, Tyumen, Yamal-Nenets Autonomous District. Plus 1 in the Republic of Belarus (Minsk) and 1 in Kazakhstan (Nur-Sultan). The number of visitors and listeners is about 15,000. The search for new fund creators, their cataloging and additions to the list is 123 people. At the same time, 32 Internet resources were used.

The department's employees presented at two international and 4 Russian conferences in Moscow),

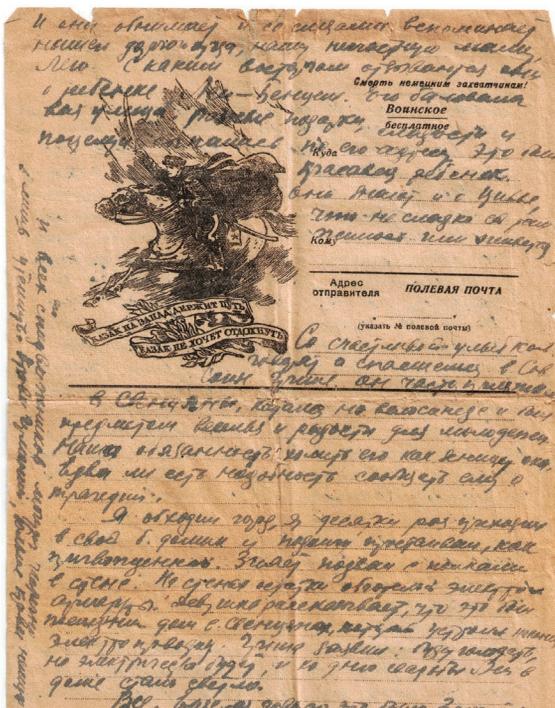
Rostov-on-Don, Pskov, and Yaroslavl. On October 7, Leonid Terushkin, head of the archive department of the Holocaust Center, presented (on Zoom) the message

"Search, Study and Use of Testimonials of Crimes of the Nazi Occupying Regime in the Territory of the USSR from Personal and Family Archives" at the Russian-Serbian International Conference "Death of Civilians during the Second World War (1939-1945)" in Kragujevac, Serbia.

November 17 (on Zoom) at the International Academic and Practical Conference "Nazi policy of genocide in the occupied territories of the USSR", was organized by the A.S. Pushkin Brest State University (Republic of Belarus) The topic of the report was: "Testimonials of Survivors and Eyewitnesses about the Destruction of the Jewish Population of the USSR. Searches in Personal and Family Archives. "Employees of the Center's archive published 131 pieces of information (articles, interviews, comments), as well as prepared summaries using the documents of the Center's archive (printed and electronic) in the mass media of 7 states (Russia, Germany, Israel, Kazakhstan, Latvia, USA, France). Leonid Terushkin took part in 24 programs from the series "Path to Victory" (January-November 2022). Negotiations (correspondence) were held with the owners about the receipt for storage of documents (originals and copies) of personal origin and artifacts with 77 potential fund-creators in Russia and Israel. 5 new personal (family) funds were formed. M. L. Zlatogorov (Goldberg), O.A. Velchinskaya (Aizenberg-Dantsig-Firleevich family), the Velikson family (handed over by I. Sh. Pishchulina), E. L. Voiskunsky, Ch. Sugihara (an inventory of 135 cases and a preface to it were compiled).

Leonid Terushkin

P.S. The Archive of the Center was established in 1997. It is the only archive in Russia that collects documents from the personal archives on the Holocaust and Jewish Resistance during the World War 2. The Archive consists of 15 collections and 46 sections (documents received from Russia and abroad). The archive collection comprises the following type of sources written, audiovisual, personal wartime items. The total number of them is about 20 thousand.



The letter of Yakov Voiskunsky

THE NEWSLETTER "HOLOCAUST"

A Textbook for Universities in Russia on the Topic of Genocide

Next textbook for universities "THE HISTORY OF THE HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDES. XX century." prepared by the International Scientific and Educational Center of the History of Holocaust and Genocides of the Russian State University for the Humanities. Ilya Altman edited the publication.

The authors of the textbook — researchers and teachers from Russia and Armenia, tried for the first time to generalize their experience of studying the topic and give recommendations on its use in the educational process. The book consists of eight chapters. The first of these reviews the problems of terminology and gives reviews of sources and the historiography of the development of the history of the Holocaust and genocides. The second section covers the approaches of the UN and international tribunals to the interpretation of the concept of "genocide." Four chapters of the textbook talk about the Armenian genocide, the Holocaust, the genocide of Gypsies, and the tragic events in Srebrenica and Rwanda. The final chapter is devoted to the reflection of genocides in artistic and aesthetic discourse. Each section contains lists of recommended sources, questions and assignments for students to independently work on.

The first presentation of the textbook was held on April 11, 2022, at the Historical and Archival Institute of the Russian State University for the Humanities. The authors of the textbook spoke at the presentation: I.A. Altman and S.A. Tikhankina, long-time director of the UN Information Center in Moscow A.S. Gorelik, Associate Professor of Tomsk State University of Management Systems and Radio Electronics O.V. Gorski, as well as his peer reviewers: Professor of the Russian State University

for the Humanities B.L. Khavkin, leading researcher of the Institute of Russian History of the Russian Academy of Sciences I.V. Bystrova, senior researcher at the Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Sciences V. A. Nadein-Raevsky, Head of the Department of the Institute of General History of the Russian Academy of Sciences V.V. Ishchenko, chairman of the public organization "Dialogue" Yu.L. Navoyan. Speakers noted the innovative nature of the textbook, its relevance, and the possibility of using it in the educational process in universities. The event was attended by representatives of public organizations, teachers, students and undergraduates of the Russian State University for the Humanities.

The First Defense of Master's Dissertations on the Topic of the Holocaust

Since September 2020, the Department of International Relations and Foreign Regional Studies of the Russian State University for the Humanities has launched a master's program "Analysis and Expert Commentary on International Processes

(Politics of Memory: The Holocaust and Genocides)" of the Russian State University for the Humanities. On December 2, 2022 the first graduates of the program defended their master's dissertations... Topic of the works: "Holocaust Denial: International Experience of Addressing the Holocaust," "UN Action to Preserve the Holocaust Remembrance Policy. "UNESCO's Activities to Preserve Cultural Heritage and the Organization of Education on the Holocaust."

Archives of the Russian Red Cross Tracing Center

On December 22 at the Russian State University for the Humanities, an open lecture was held on "The Unique Catalogue of Evacuees during the Great Patriotic War, and the Prospects of Its Scientific Use." It was read by Sergey Kobets, General Director of the Russian Red Cross Tracing and Information Center. He talked about the history of the Center, highlighted the key areas of current work: processing requests and searches for information relating to the organization's archives, tracing, and restoration of family ties. The event, which was moderated by the rector of the Russian State University for the Humanities Professor Alexander Bezborodov and Ilya Altman, was attended by more than 50 students and teachers of the University.



Participants in the event

THE NEWSLETTER "HOLOCAUST"

January 18th

A press conference dedicated to "Holocaust Remembrance Week" and the 80th anniversary of the Wannsee Conference was held at TASS News Agency.

Ilya Altman talked about the upcoming events of the Center as part of the "Memorial Week" in Moscow and regions of Russia, as well as abroad. The program and format of the events of the "Memorial Week" were reported to the media representatives by Executive Director of the Russian Jewish Congress Anna Bokshitskaya. Israel's Ambassador to Russia, Alexander Ben Zvi, and Permanent Deputy Ambassador of Germany to the Russian Federation, Beate Grzeski, talked about the importance of preserving the memory of the Holocaust and combatting anti-Semitism.

July 15th

In Vyazovenkovsky forest, near the village of Magalinshchina, a ceremony was held to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust,



Ceremony at the Donskoy Cemetery
the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee at the Donskoy Cemetery in Moscow: "All of them were shot. It's not just something we need to remember, it's something we need to think about. It's important to talk about it seriously."

December 14th

At the Belarusian State Academy of Music, Inessa F. Dvuzhilna defended her doctoral thesis "The Holocaust in the Academic Music of Belarus, Ukraine and Russia." This is the first doctoral dissertation on the Holocaust, prepared in the post-Soviet states.

August 12th

Alla Gerber, co-chairman of the Holocaust Center, spoke at a memorial ceremony at the monument of executed leaders and members of



Leonid Terushkin at the memorial in Vyazovenki

Circulation: 500 copies

Editors: Dr. Ilya Altman, Dr. Igor Kotter (USA)

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The publication of this newsletter has been made possible by support from Russian Jewish Congress