

המרכז העולמי של בני ברית - ירושלים



B'nai B'rith World Center - Jerusalem

B'nai B'rith World Center Jerusalem

Center Stage: Winter 2020/5781

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Winter 2020/5781

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B'nai B'rith World Center Pays Tribute to Rabbi Jonathan Sacks



On the occasion of the Shloshim (30th day) after the untimely passing of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, renowned scholar, author, teacher and former Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth, the B'nai B'rith World Center released an audio recording and transcript of the 12th B'nai B'rith World Center "Jerusalem Address" delivered by Sacks on June 17, 2010.

In the address, entitled "Torah V' Chochma: Judaism in the World," Sacks presented a brilliant exploration of the dichotomy between Torah and secular knowledge and argued eloquently for the necessity to promote both in contemporary Jewish life.

Download the recorded address [here](#).

See the printed Address [here](#).

The event was held in partnership with the Jerusalem Great Synagogue with a crowd of more than 1,000 packing the synagogue hall. Drawing a connection between Sacks and B'nai B'rith, the late Fred Simon Worms, OBE, chairman of the B'nai B'rith World Center International Board of Trustees, noted in his introduction that Sacks committed himself to a life in the rabbinate while on a trip to New York on a B'nai B'rith scholarship. On

that trip, during a visit with the Lubavitcher Rebbe, the Rebbe told the young Sacks that he should become a rabbi.



Commenting on the loss of Sacks, B'nai B'rith World Center Chairman Dr. Haim V. Katz said that “Rabbi Sacks’ towering intellect, so extraordinarily articulated in his Jerusalem Address, was a source of great Jewish pride. Rabbi Sacks was a strong defender of the Jewish faith – as reflected in his many books and lectures – but was also a fearless defender of Jews, as seen in his courageous stance against

anti-Semitism in the Labor Party that he addressed forcefully in the House of Lords. He will be sorely missed by Jews and non-Jews alike who appreciated his sharp intellect and deep moral conviction.”

The “Jerusalem Address” was established by the B'nai B'rith World Center in 1985 as its most prestigious forum for addressing fundamental issues pertaining to Israel and the Jewish people. The Jerusalem Address has consistently hosted some of the most outstanding minds of our times including: Abba Eban: Reflection on Heritage (1985); Professor George Steiner: The Dissent from Reason (1986); Rabbi Dr. Lord Immanuel Jakobovits: Religious Responses to the Holocaust (1987); Professor Shlomo Avineri: Glasnost, the Jews and Soviet Policy in the Middle East (1988); Seymour D. Reich: The Challenge of Jewish Unity (1989); Bernard-Henri Levy: The Intellectual and the Struggle for Liberty (1991); Amb. Dr. Max M. Kampelman: Negotiating Toward a New World: The Art of Conflict Resolution Through Diplomacy (1993); Harvey M. Krueger: Israel in a Global Economy as a Foundation of a Transfigured World (1995); Professor Bernard Lewis: The Middle East Toward the Year 2000 – Patterns of Change (1996); Jack J. Spitzer, Naphtali Lau-Lavie, Professor Yehezkel Dror: Redressing the Past: Chapters in Jewish Restitution and Material Claims (1997); Professor Edward N. Luttwak: The Future of Israel-U.S. Relations (1999); Melanie Phillips: The War Against Israel: the Defining Issue of our Time (2011); Howard Jacobson: When will Jews be forgiven the Holocaust (2013).

Minister of Aliya and Integration Addresses B'nai B'rith World Center Award for Journalism



Minister of Aliyah and Integration Pnina Tamamo Shetiya was the keynote speaker at B'nai B'rith World Center-Jerusalem Award for Journalism Recognizing Excellence in Diaspora Reportage in Memory of Wolf and Hilda Matsdorf for 2020 on Nov. 25.

The ceremony took place at the Menachem Begin Heritage Center in Jerusalem. Due to COVID-19 regulations the ceremony was held with a limited participation and streamed live on various social media platforms. You can watch the ceremony with English subtitles [here](#).

Winners of the Award for 2020 are: Branu Tegene and Danny Kushmaro of Channel 12 News and former Haaretz correspondent Dina Kraft. Tegene, a correspondent, and news anchor Kushmaro received the award in the broadcast media category for a five-part series entitled "Mefotzalim" (Split Up: The Story of the Ethiopian Jewish Community) that follows the lives of Jewish Ethiopians left behind after the community's mass immigration to Israel, members of their family in Israel and their reunion in

Ethiopia. Kraft received the award for print media in memory of Luis and Trudi Schydlofsky for articles on Jewish communities in the United States and Great Britain.

A special citation for Fostering Israel-Diaspora Relations through the Arts was presented to Shalva Band, which rose to fame after entering the finals on the Israeli TV show, "Rising Star." The program determined the act that will represent Israel in the Eurovision song competition, held in Israel in 2019. The band's inspiring guest performance at the Eurovision semi-finals brought them international acclaim and invitations to perform around the world and in Jewish communities. The special citation was established in 2014. Former winners are singers and songwriters Nurit Hirsh, David D'Or, Idan Raichel, David Broza and Yehoram Gaon.

In her address Minister of Aliya and Integration Pnina Tamano Shete stressed how important it is that the story of the Jewish people and the Jewish communities around the world will be told and will have a presence in Israeli society. She said "The vision as I see it is to know that there is a covenant between us as a Jewish people, and this is not dependent on where we live and where we are. As it says 'All of Israel are responsible for one another.'"



The minister added “For the Jewish story to be complete it must be told more in the press, in the school system and beyond. We have the obligation and the responsibility to place this at the front of the stage, exactly like this award by B’nai B’rith—an organization that does holy work in strengthening the connection between the Jews of Israel and the Diaspora.” The minister told that “This Saturday night—in line with the series ‘Split Up’ for which journalists Dany Kushmaro and Brano Tegene won the award—I will fly to Ethiopia and begin the implementation of one of the national tasks that I have set for myself—the immigration of those waiting in Ethiopia. In about a week I will return to Israel with two planeloads of Olim—this is the realization of the Zionist dream in its purest sense.”

CEO of B'nai B'rith International Daniel S. Mariaschin, and the Chairman of the B'nai B'rith World Center Dr. Haim Katz, delivered videotaped greetings on the importance of the Journalism Award, presented for the 28th year, in strengthening the connection between Israel and Diaspora Jewry. Alan Schneider, director of the B'nai B'rith World Center initiated and moderated the event.

News of the award ceremony was carried in multiple print and electronic media as well as on four news programs broadcast on Channel 12 television.

Since its establishment in 1992, the B’nai B’rith World Center Award for Journalism has recognized excellence in reporting on contemporary Diaspora Jewish communities and on the state of Israel-Diaspora relations in the Israeli print, broadcast and online media. The award is widely recognized as the most prestigious prize in the Israeli media industry for Diaspora reportage and was established to help strengthen the relationship between Israel and the Diaspora. The award highlights the important contributions the media can make toward strengthening the relationship between Israel and world Jewry by encouraging quality reporting on Diaspora communities and Israel-Diaspora relations.

The distinguished members of the award jury are: Ya'akov Ahimeir, past editor and anchor, Israel Public Broadcasting Corporation and Lifetime Achievement Award winner for 2016; Professor Yehudith Auerbach, School of Communication, Bar Ilan University; Professor Sergio DellaPergola, The Institute of Contemporary Jewry, Hebrew University; Sallai Meridor, former Israeli ambassador to the United States and former chairman of the Zionist Executive and Jewish Agency for Israel; Professor Gabriela Shalev, Higher Academic Council, Ono Academic College and former Israeli ambassador to the United Nations; journalist Yair Sheleg; Asher Weill, publisher and editor of “Ariel” The Israel Review of Arts and Letters (1981-2003).

The awards are presented in memory of the late Wolf Matsdorf, editor of the World Center-Jerusalem's journal "Leadership Briefing" and a journalist in Israel and Australia, and his wife, Hilda, a pioneer in social work in both Australia and Israel, and in memory of Luis and Trudi Schydlowsky. The award is made possible through donations from the Matsdorf family and B'nai B'rith World Center-Jerusalem board member Daniel Schydlowsky.

Israeli Orphans Supported by B'nai B'rith Gift

B'nai B'rith World Center-Jerusalem Director Alan Schneider presented on Nov. 18 a donation from the B'nai B'rith Edith "Pat" Wolfson Endowment in support of Israeli orphans to the children of Rabbi Shai Ohayon (39): Tohar (13), Hallel (11), Shilo (9) and Malachi (4). Ohayon was murdered by a Palestinian terrorist on August 26 while on the way to collect his children from educational institutions.

The attacker, Khalil Doikat (46), held an Israeli work permit and was employed at a construction site. The Palestinian Authority has begun to rebuild his home in the village of Rujib near Nablus, which the IDF demolished on Nov. 2 as a deterrent measure.

The presentation was made as part of the World Center's project to support Israeli children who have lost a parent or both parents to terror and disease.

The presentation was made to Ohayon's widow, Sivan, in the family home in Petach Tikva near the Segula Junction where Doikat stabbed her husband to death. Ohayon, a full-time student at a religious institution (kolel) in the nearby town of Kfar Saba, was a respected and prominent figure in his neighborhood and teacher of Torah lessons. Sivan Ohayon described her husband as a man of "truth, simplicity, joyousness and faith" who was intimately involved with the rearing of their children.



The World Center has been charged with administering the Edith “Pat” Wolfson Endowment grant since its inception in 2005. The following previous grants have been made:

2006 – To Salomon (14) and Channan (13) Yaakovov, whose father Yaacov was killed in 2006 by a Kassam rocket fired from Gaza to Sderot that penetrated the roof of the factory where he worked.

2007 – To Sara (10), Rivka (9) and Devorah (8) Ben-David whose mother, Hadassah (Yelena), was murdered on Nov. 21, 2002 by a Palestinian who detonated a bomb aboard a crowded morning rush hour Egged commuter bus. Hadassah (32), a first-year math teacher, died along with 10 other civilians on their way to work and school, including Hodaya Asraf (13); Marina Bazarski (46); Sima Novak (56), Kira Perlman (67), and her grandson Ilan Perlman (8) Yafit Ravivo (14); Ella Sharshevsky (44) and her son Michael (16); Mircea Varga (25), a tourist from Romania; and Dikla Zino (22). Fifty people were wounded in this Hamas-perpetrated attack that occurred on Mexico Street in Jerusalem's Kiryat Menahem working-class neighborhood.

2009 – To the seven children of Meir Avshalom Hai, murdered in December in a drive-by terrorist shooting on the road from his home in Shavei Shomron to Einav in Samaria.

2010 – To the six orphans of Yitzhak and Talya Ames who were murdered by Palestinian terrorists on August 31, along with two other residents of Beit Hagai: Kohava Even Hen (37), mother of a 10-year-old daughter and newly-married Yeshiva student Avishai Shindler (24) at the Bani Na'im junction between Hebron and Beit Hagai.

2011 – To Tamar (12) ,Roi (8) and Yishai (2) Fogel whose parents Udi (36) and Ruth (35) and three siblings Yoav (11), Elad (4) and Hadas (3) were brutally stabbed to death in their beds on March 11 by two Palestinian terrorists who infiltrated their home in the northern Samaritan community of Itamar.

2012 – To Lior (7), Lihi (4) and Itamar (8 months) Shushan whose father, Yossi was killed on August 20, by a Grad rocket fired from Gaza.

2013 – To Liron (12) and twins Guy and Agam (4) whose mother Anat Even Haim (34) was murdered by gunman Itamar Alon in a shooting attack at a branch of Bank Hapoalim in Beer Sheva on May 20.

2014 – To the four children of Sergeant Major Bayhesain Kshaun. Kshaun was killed by an anti-tank missile fired at an IDF force responding to a terrorist infiltration on July 21, as part of Operation Protective Edge. A career tracker for 21 years, Kshaun made Aliya from Gundar Province in Ethiopia in 1988 and served in the opening days of the operation with the Givati Brigade. His widow Galitu gave birth to their youngest daughter Tal Or, 10 days after her husband was killed.

2015 – To Laren Sayif, the infant daughter of Israeli police officer Sgt. Zidan Sayif who was killed in November 2014 as he confronted two Palestinian terrorists who were engaged in a gruesome attack on the Kehilat B'nai Torah synagogue. Four rabbis were murdered in the attack – leaving 24 children fatherless - and eight other worshipers were wounded – four of them seriously. Sayif and another officer managed to kill the two terrorists, but Sayif was killed in the exchange of fire. A second distribution from the fund was made to the five children of Rabbi Aryeh Kupinsky, one of the four victims in the attack.

2016 –To Yael Weissman for the benefit of her 7-month-old daughter, Neta. Their husband and father, St.-Sgt. Tuvia Yanai Weissman (21) was murdered on Feb. 18 while trying to protect fellow shoppers from two 14-year-old knife-wielding terrorists at the Rami Levy supermarket branch at Sha'ar Benjamin. Weissman, a combat sergeant in the IDF's Nahal Brigade on a week-long leave, was shopping prior to Shabbat with Yael and Neta when he heard screams from a different aisle. Realizing immediately that a terrorist attack was in progress, Weissman, even though he was unarmed, ran to confront the terrorists as other shoppers fled the supermarket. He was the first to reach the terrorists who had begun their stabbing spree and was the only victim to die of his wounds in the attack. In recognition of his heroism, the IDF submitted to Yael Weissman's appeal that his tombstone state that he "fell in battle" rather than "fell while on duty." The supermarket where he was killed employs both Israelis and Palestinians and is popular with both Israeli and Palestinian shoppers. The store has become a symbol of coexistence, though it has been targeted several times.

2017 - To Irin Satawi to benefit her infant child Ramos whose father, Druze police officer Advanced Staff Sgt. Maj. Hayil Satawi (30), was murdered on July 14th by three Israeli Arabs at the Temple Mount along with his partner First Sergeant Kamil Shanan (22), just two weeks after the child – his first – was born. The presentation was made in the family home in the northern Druze village of Mrar (Maghar).

The B'nai B'rith England First Lodge donation went to the five children of Elad Solomon: Avinoam (11), Reut (9), Amitai (5) and one-year-old twins Ariel and Avishai - murdered

on July 21 at his parents' home in Neve Tzuf along with his sister and mother. The presentation was made to their mother Michal who valiantly rescued the children by barricading herself with them in an upstairs room while a Palestinian infiltrator murdered her husband and family during Friday night dinner.

2018 – To Yael Shevach to benefit her six children: Renana (11), Neomi (9), Miriam (7), Milka (5), Ovadia (4) and Benayahu (1) - whose husband and father, Rabbi Raziel Shevach (35), was murdered on Jan. 9, in a drive-by terrorist attack near their home in the settlement of Havat Gilad. Shevach was a religious educator and a mohel who helped save lives in his volunteer work with the Magen David Adom national rescue organization. Ahmad Nassar Jarrar, the 22-year-old head of the terror cell responsible for Shevach's murder, was shot dead by security forces in a raid in the village of Yamoun, near Jenin, on Feb. 6. The presentation was made in the family's home in northern Samaria.

A second donation was made to the four children of Rabbi Itamar Ben Gal (29), a teacher at Bnei Akiva Yeshiva in Givat Shmuel, who was murdered in a stabbing attack near the entrance of Ariel on Feb. 5 while on his way to a family event. His children are Avital (6), Daniel (5), Roni (3) and Avraham (1). The presentation was made to their mother, Miriam, also a teacher, who continues to live in the family's apartment in the Har Bracha settlement. Ben Gal's assailant was a 19-year-old Israeli-Arab resident of Jaffa, Abed al-Karim Adel Assi, the son of an Israeli mother and Palestinian father from Nablus. Al-Karimi arrived at the Ariel Junction bus stop and stabbed Ben Gal from behind. Ben Gal ran to a bus that had stopped at a nearby station while his assailant gave chase. Reaching the bus, the rabbi knocked on its door for help before collapsing. The terrorist then fled the scene. An off-duty Israel Defense Forces officer who witnessed the attack then chased the assailant in his car and rammed him. Despite being hit, al-Karim was able to escape with the help of an unidentified driver who picked him up near the scene of the incident. On March 18 he was captured in Nablus with several other suspects who had helped him hide.

2019 – A gift from the B'nai B'rith First Lodge in England was made on Succoth eve to the 12 children of Rabbi Achiad Ettinger (47): Moriah (22), Efrat (21), Eliashiv (20), Harel (18), Eliasaf (16), Yehuda (14), twins Tehiya and Tzofia (12), Benia (10), twins Eliav and Hadas (8) and Roni (2). The presentation was made to Ettinger's widow, Tamar, in the family home in the town of Eli, in the Binyamin Regional Council. Ettinger was murdered in a terrorist attack at the Ariel Junction on March 17. Despite being shot in the neck and head, Ettinger turned his car around and pursued Palestinian terrorist Omar Abu Laila (19) who had stolen a gun from soldier Gal Keidan who he shot and

killed before firing on passing cars and pedestrians. Ettinger managed to fire four shots at Abu Laila before succumbing to his wounds, dying a day later despite efforts at Beilinson Hospital in Petah Tikva to save his life. The family donated his organs.

Ettinger had dedicated most of his efforts to supporting Jewish life in several south Tel Aviv neighborhoods. was the head of the Oz V'Emmunah yeshiva that he established in a boarded-up synagogue in the Neve Sha'anani neighborhood, once home to a thriving religious community.

Ettinger was described as a hero for his courageous effort to confront the terrorist despite his egregious wounds, a selfless act performed without consideration for the personal price he would pay. Rabbi Achiad's sister Rachel is the widow of Yosef Tuito, a member of the emergency response team in Itamar, who was killed during a terrorist infiltration in 2002. Tuito was shot dead in a gun battle with terrorists after they entered the home of the Shabo family murdering the mother and three sons.

B'nai B'rith World Center publishes monograph on Jews who rescued Jews during the Holocaust

The B'nai B'rith World Center and the Committee to Recognize the Heroism of Jewish Rescuers During the Holocaust have released a new 40-page monograph on the phenomenon of Jews who endangered their lives in Germany and occupied Europe to rescue fellow Jews from the rise of Nazism until VE Day or risked their lives to rescue Jewish children in Europe immediately after the war. The publication includes an extensive introductory chapter, chapters on the extensive Jewish rescue networks that operated in Hungary, France and Belgium and individual accounts of heroism by 12 recipients of the Jewish Rescuers Citation, awarded since 2011 to 334 individuals.

The publication, compiled and edited by World Center director Alan Schneider and Committee members Yuval Alpan, Noa Gidron and Chana Arnon, opens with the following paragraph: "For many years, the historiography of the Holocaust tended to present Jews only as victims. This trend began to change some two decades ago, and many studies have since examined the daily lives of Jews during the Holocaust as they grappled with the deteriorating reality around them, and different types of Jewish resistance. While the Germans and their collaborators attempted to methodically annihilate European Jewry, many Jews resisted the grim fate that awaited them.

Hundreds of thousands of Jews fought in the Allied armies and in the ranks of the partisans, revolted in ghettos and led uprisings in extermination camps.

One largely downplayed phenomenon of Jewish heroism in the Holocaust is that of Jews who rescued fellow Jews while exposing themselves to great danger. Recent research shows that the rescue of Jews by Jews during the Holocaust had been a much wider phenomenon than what was known until now.”

The World Center undertakes many activities to memorialize the Jewish rescuers, including a unique annual event on Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Day in partnership with the Jewish National Fund, held at the B'nai B'rith Martyrs Forest. The publication is available from the B'nai B'rith World Center worldcenter@012.net.il w or can be downloaded [here](#).

Carmel Lodge, Sofia and B'nai B'rith World Center-Jerusalem Host Meeting on Abraham Accords

At the initiative of B'nai B'rith Carmel Lodge in Sofia, Bulgaria, the B'nai B'rith World Center-Jerusalem hosted a virtual briefing on the Abraham Accords entitled “Warming up the relations between the State of Israel and the Arab countries - what is happening, why now, what are the perspectives for the future?”

The briefing featured Dr. Eran Lerman, vice president of the Jerusalem Institute for Strategy and Security, former deputy director for foreign policy and international affairs at the National Security Council in the Israeli Prime Minister's office, and a former senior office in IDF Military Intelligence. The meeting was chaired by Carmel Lodge President Jossif Assa and B'nai B'rith Europe Vice President Solomon Bali. The briefing was moderated by B'nai B'rith World Center Director Alan Schneider.

B'nai B'rith members from Bulgaria, Germany, Turkey, Romania and Greece participated in the wide-ranging discussion that touched on the reasons behind the timing of the diplomatic accords signed by Israel with the UAE, Bahrain and Sudan (coming 25 years after the last peace agreement was signed between Israel and an Arab country), the survivability of the accords considering internal and external pressures, how the results of the agreements might differ from those signed with Egypt and Jordan and the prospects for additional agreements being reached in the

foreseeable future. Additional briefings will be announced. You can watch a recording of the Zoom meeting [here](#).

Israel-Hellenic Forum Convenes to Discuss Regional Implications of the Abraham Accord

The Israel-Hellenic Forum convened by Zoom on September 8 to discuss the Regional Implications of the recently announced Abraham Accord that envisions mutual recognition and the signing of formal diplomatic relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates.



Opening speakers on the consultation were Dr. Jonathan Spyer - Founder and Executive Director of the Middle East Center for Reporting and Analysis, and Research Fellow at the Jerusalem Institute for Strategy and Security; Prof. Hillel Frisch – Professor in Departments of Political Studies and Middle East Studies in Bar-Ilan University, and Senior Research Associate at the BESA Center for Strategic Studies; Angelos Athanasopoulos - Editor-in-Chief for Politics and Senior Diplomatic, Defense and EU affairs Editor at “To Vima”; and Col. (res). Dr. Eran Lerman - Vice President of the Jerusalem Institute for Strategy and Security and former deputy director for foreign policy and international affairs at the Israel’s National Security Council.

The hour and a half session moderated by Forum co-conveners Dan Mariaschin and Dr. George Tzogopoulos, included an in-depth discussion on immediate and long-term military, economic and geo-political impact of the surprise accord.

The Israel-Hellenic Forum was launched by the B’nai B’rith World Center in November 2019 at a founding conference in Jerusalem with the participation of some 65 Greek, Cypriot and Israeli academics, elected and government officials for the purpose of promoting the broad scope of relationships between the three democratic countries in the eastern Mediterranean. Plans for a second conference in Athens have been postponed for the meantime due to Coronavirus restrictions, but other projects inspired

by the Forum – including cooperation between universities in Israel, Greece and Cyprus – are moving forward.

KKL-JNF and B'nai B'rith World Center Honor Holocaust-Era Educator Samuel (Sally) Bein, Who Was Murdered in Sobibor



The B'nai B'rith World Center-Jerusalem and the Jewish National Fund unveiled a plaque at a ceremony on June 17 honoring Samuel (Sally) Bein, outstanding educator and founding principal of the first boarding school for Jewish children with special needs in Germany. The ceremony took place at the B'nai B'rith Cave at the B'nai B'rith Martyrs Forest.

In his remarks at the event, Director of the B'nai B'rith World Center-Jerusalem Alan Schneider said, "The innovative and dedicated principal Sally Bein opened the doors of the first boarding school for Jewish children in Germany – established by B'nai B'rith and the German-Israelite Community in 1908 – and shut them on June 13, 1942, when

he, his wife and daughter and the last 47 wards and staff were deported to the Sobibor death camp in German-occupied Poland via Berlin, and murdered.

The school was just one of hundreds of charitable projects undertaken by the 100 B'nai B'rith lodges in pre-war Germany [and] was the first Jewish organization targeted by the Nazis. This explains why B'nai B'rith together with the Jewish National Fund established the first Holocaust commemoration site in Israel – the Martyrs Forest – where the Bein family and the staff and students of the school are now being memorialized, for the first time in Israel."

During the ceremony, David Etzioni, vice chairman of KKL-JNF, also spoke: "In his death as in his life, Sally Bein served as an example to the students he believed in and with whom he marched to their bitter end. The commemoration of Sally Bein, his family, students and staff here in the Martyrs Forest established by B'nai B'rith that was partner to the founding of the boarding school in Germany, is the least we can do for them.



"The historical thread that connects the boarding school, the Martyrs Forest, the Scroll of Fire at the crest of the mountain and many other projects in Israel, is B'nai B'rith. B'nai B'rith has marched with KKL-JNF since before the establishment of Israel, when

land was acquired on which two communities were established under the Tower and Stockade method – Moledet B'nai B'rith and Ramat Zvi, named for B'nai B'rith President Henry Zvi Monsky.”

KKL-JNF is honored to partner with the B'nai B'rith World Center in commemorating Jews who rescued fellow Jews during the Holocaust in a joint annual event that has taken place for the past 18 years. I am happy to announce that to mark 70 years since the founding of the Martyrs Forest, we will continue our cooperation with B'nai B'rith and begin a process of turning the forest into a source of knowledge about the Holocaust for youth. In the spirit of Sally Bein's legacy we will make the forest accessible, through technological means, also for children with special needs, so that they will be equals among equals."

Other speakers at the event included: Ronny Dotan, researcher and initiator of the memorial; Lihi Lapid, author; Shay Cucuy, representative of the families; Major General (Res.) Doron Almog, chairman, Aleh Negev-Nahalat Eran; Holocaust survivor Major General (Res.) Yossi Peled; and Amikam Raz, representative of Akim Israel.

B'nai B'rith has partnered with JNF on many projects, beginning with land acquisition in the 1930s, on which two collective communities - Moledet B'nai B'rith and Ramat Zvi (named for B'nai B'rith President Henry Zvi Monsky) - were established. The largest joint project is the Martyrs Forest, which dates from the early 1950s and was the first site built in Israel to commemorate the six million Holocaust victims. For the past 18 years, KKL and the B'nai B'rith World Center have partnered in a Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day ceremony – the only annual event dedicated to honor the heroism of Jewish rescuers during the Holocaust.

B'nai B'rith has been active in Germany since 1882. It was the first Jewish organization targeted by the Nazis, who obliterated 100 active lodges in Germany alone and some 100 more across vanquished Europe. B'nai B'rith is represented today again in Germany and throughout western and eastern Europe.

News about the event was carried in the Judisch Allgemeine:

<https://www.juedische-allgemeine.de/israel/er-war-ein-superheld/>