



YOM HASHOAH VEHAGVURA

Batnua



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DEFINITION AND CONTEXT

On the 27th of Nissan, the Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day is commemorated. In Israel, it is a national remembrance day whose observance was established by law in 1959 while David Ben Gurion was Israel's prime minister. Since then, this date is characterized as a day of mourning, remembrance and tribute to the six million victims of the Shoah, one of the most terrible events in modern history.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Hanoar Hatzioni was one of the most active Tnuot in the ghettos during the time of the Shoah. The chaverim of our movement, with strength and courage, managed to operate under unthinkable conditions, granting children, youths and adults one of the most important tools of rebellion: hope. Through peulot, workshops and hachsharot, our madrichim continued educating our chanichim while carrying out clandestine activities which allowed them to obtain information, food and weapons – indispensable resources in the attempt to stay alive and save the lives of their peers.
- During the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, 150 chaverim of Hanoar Hatzioni led by Yaakov Preshker rebelled with incalculable courage and bravery against the Nazi regime. Their heroic action and tragic end require us as educators to retrieve their story and pass it on to the next generation of chanichim so that their legacy and memory will remain alive as an example of courage and adolescent struggle against hate and injustice.
- Nissan Reznik, in his article “In Vilna Ghetto and the Forests of Lithuania”, tells in detail the tasks performed by the chaverim of Hanoar Hatzioni, being part of the Partisans:
“We headed to the forests of Kazan where we joined a combat battalion. We mined the railroad tracks derailing the German trains. We attacked police stations, taking their weapons. We performed a war action almost every day. Many Jews who were not Partisans inhabited the forests. They had escaped the Nazi claws and lived in underground shelters. Although they had no contact with the combat units, we helped them when we could. When we returned from a mission bringing supplies, we never forgot the underground inhabitants and gave them bread, potatoes and some meat...”
- In 1964, the “Massuah” Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in kibbutz Tel Yitzhak was founded to honor the memory of the chaverim of Tnuot Noar in general, and of Hanoar Hatzioni, in particular, who fell during the Shoah. Since its establishment, “Massuah” has been visited by youths from both Israel and the diaspora who are interested in learning about the significant role of the youth movements before, during and after the Shoah. Likewise, Massuah is one of the institutions that organize official events to commemorate “Yom HaShoah VeHaGvura” with the presence of important figures of the public and political life in Israel.

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THE DAY'S VALUES

mutual aid justice activism
courage memory leadership
solidarity personal example sanctity of life
dignity **freedom**
fellowship responsibility continuity
self-expression



SYMBOLS AND CUSTOMS

- At 10:00 on the morning of Yom HaShoah sounds a two minute air raid siren throughout the country. During this time all vehicles stop, as well as the people that are on the public roads. For two minutes, the whole country stops, literally, to pay tribute to the victims of this terrible genocide.
- Yom HaShoah in Israel is a national memorial day. This means that public facilities are closed and all flags are flown at half-staff. In addition, different state ceremonies are held, generally at the museums responsible for the study of the Holocaust, in the presence of important politicians, representatives of the IDF and holocaust survivors.
- Another characteristic element of this day is that, in the Israeli media, both on television and on the radio, interviews, songs and documentaries related to the subject of the holocaust are broadcast.
- Within the last twenty years a tradition called “Lechol ish yesh shem” (Unto Every Person There is a Name) has started. This initiative aims to reverse the Nazi regime’s attempt to replace the names of Jews by a simple number. Therefore, it was decided in Israel that, in the official memorial ceremonies of “Yom HaShoah”, and with the intention of humanizing and restoring the dignity of the victims of the Shoah, names of victims would be read and their story would be told.



QUOTES RELATED

“During the war in Europe, the Tnua and the Hanhaga rose in the ladder of responsibility and recognition in the eyes of the chanichim, families and community in general. We quickly learned how to handle emergency situations. The activity in the Kenim was not interrupted. Moreover, it was extended to a new field: Kibbutzim (collective work-group frameworks) and workshops (work on a specific product, such as brushes) were erected. The chaverim were given the opportunity to help the family. Despite the walls and barriers, contact between the ghettos was maintained. International borders were crossed. The relationship between the movements at the national level was fostered. The future historical researchers will judge us. I hope that we will pass.

Uziel Lichtenberg (z”l), chaver of Hanoar Hatzioni since the first years of the Tnua in Europe.



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"I can tell you today, ninety years after the creation of the Tnuva, that I appreciate the continuity. Please continue, the new generation, what we have done. Our generation completed its mission, and you, young people, please continue to educate in the same way in the diaspora; in every place where the Jewish people are, educate the young generation, this is the main mission. I call on you to educate the young generation in light of the liberal and humanist idea, so they respect the dignity of every human life".

Uziel Lichtenberg's (z"l) last message to the chaverim of Hanoar Hatzioni in the framework of the Veida Olamit.



ARTICLES RELATED

XIME LINDNER, ROSH CHINUCH HANOAR HATZIONI B'URUGUAY

"We remember because we fear the oblivion or because we know we cannot allow it to be an option, or maybe for both reasons. We remember to honor those people who maybe had no one to cry for them. We remember to strengthen ourselves as a people and not allow a catastrophe of such magnitude to reoccur. We remember what they could not remember because it was too tough, because they could not bear it. They forgot to not remember; we remember and educate to not forget."

LESZNO 27, GABO DEGEN – MAZKIRUT OLAMIT

"The strength and spirit of Hanoar Hatzioni's members, led by Yaakov Preshker, was reflected in the battle in the brush workshop on Leszno Street during the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Our chaverim fought with courage and bravery, turning thought into action and idealism into reality. With pride and with the last cry of Chazak VeEmatz, our chaverim fell in the known "Brushes Battle" without leaving any witness that could tell what occurred...."
Our example has a number and an address: Leszno 27. Our commitment is the memory. Our mean is education. Our objective is continuity.

THE MASSUAH INSTITUTE, MOSHE KOL – OUR SOURCES OF INSPIRATION

"Our chaverim fought in the ghetto, in the harshest conditions, to maintain their humanity and Judaism and protect the Zionist, halutzi and educational activity. They prepared for the rebellion and rose up against the Nazis when they became aware of the Nazis' intention to exterminate European Judaism. They then went out into the woods to join the Partisan groups. Those who managed to enlist to the ranks of the armies that fought the Nazis did so with the consciousness of fulfilling a national mission: the war against the most murderous enemy in the history of the Jewish people."



ZMAN LE PEILUT

HOW DO YOU COMMEMORATE YOM HASHOAH VEHAGVURA IN YOUR KEN?

Take a picture and share it with the rest of the chaverim of Hanoar Hatzioni across the world.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR THE COMPLETE
VERSIONS OF THE ARTICLES:

www.hholamit.org.il

