



Memoirs and Diaries

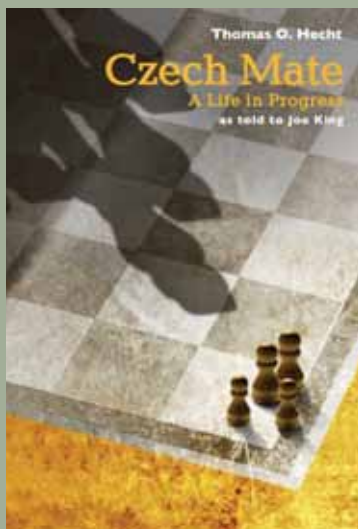
# MEMOIRS & DIARIES



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Children in the Warsaw  
Ghetto, Warsaw, Poland

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Twins in the ghetto,  
Lodz, Poland, Prewar

N E W



## Czech Mate

A Life in Progress

By Thomas Otto Hecht as told to Joe King  
2007

This book speaks of life as it once was in Bratislava and its Jewish community. It describes the trials and tribulations to escape the horrors of the Nazis by the Hecht family. The family's struggles in finding a new home in the New World are examined, leading ultimately to a flourishing pharmaceutical business and successful integration into the Canadian Jewish community.

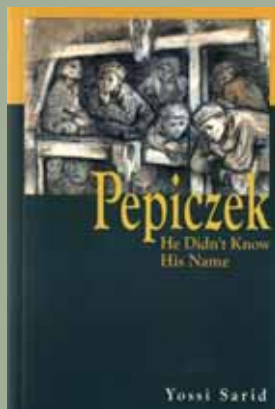
From Bratislava, to Paris, to Nice, to Lisbon, where the Hecht family finally boarded the Serpa Pinto, which set sail with 900 other refugees. The journey ended on 1 January 1942, when the family of Eugene Hecht – wife, Sidonie – daughter, Madeleine, and 12 year old Thomas Otto arrived by train at the Bonaventure Station in Montreal after a harrowing three year odyssey in war-stricken Europe.

After retiring from business in 1995, Thomas Hecht blended his academic underpinnings with his deep interest in the security of Israel to found the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies (BESA) at Bar-Ilan University in 1993. He had effectively launched a third career.

“Upon reflection”, states Hecht, “I consider it to be a unique honour and privilege to have had the opportunity to be involved in the struggle for Jewish renaissance after the Shoah and to be able to contribute in some measure to the preservation of Jewish identity and survival with the love of Israel as my deep inspiration”.

**ISBN: 0-9764425-9-0, Cat. No. 459**  
**200 pp., hard cover, 15X23 cm.**  
**Abroad: \$24 (airmail included)**  
**In Israel: NIS 85**

N E W



## Pepiczek

He Didn't Know His Name

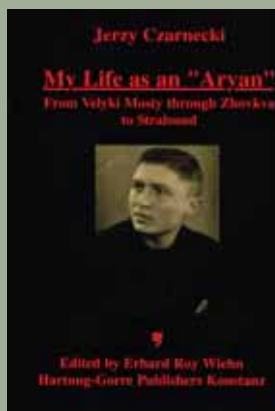
Yossi Sarid  
 In association with Yedioth  
 Ahronoth Books  
 2006

**ISBN: 0-9764425-0-7,**  
**Cat. No. 3205**  
**72 pp., soft cover, 14X21 cm.**  
**Abroad: \$24 (airmail included)**  
**In Israel: NIS 85**

With the hand of a master, as in a detective story, Yossi Sarid describes the long search by Jozef-Petr-Pepiczek for his identity. But this is more than a personal quest; it is the quest of many Jews for their private and national identity. Yossi Sarid is a faithful mouthpiece for Pepiczek and for the family he lost and for the tortured Mengele twins and for the dwarfs who were tortured with them.

“Thus he very delicately transmits the shards of the life story of the youngest boy in the bloc, who was found sleeping in the snow on liberation day. That day was the beginning of a new ordeal during which he was adopted then orphaned again, lost his name and found it again, only to be given more and more new names.” [Ofra Rosenfeld, *Ha'aretz*, 25 January 2006]

N E W



## My Life as an “Aryan”

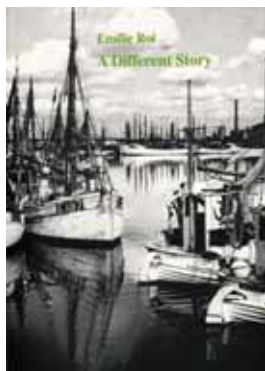
From Velyki Mosty through Zhovkva to Stralsund

Jerzy Czarnecki  
 Edited by Erhard Roy Wiehn  
 In association with Hartung-Gorre  
 Verlag Konstanz  
 2007

**ISBN: 3-89649-998-X, Cat. No. 416**  
**192 pp., soft cover, 15X21 cm.**  
**Abroad: \$21 (airmail included)**  
**In Israel: NIS 69**

A fascinating story of survival under three identities lived in five languages: Yiddish, Ukrainian, Polish, German, and Russian.

In December 1942, the author fled from the Nazis to the “Aryan” side of Warsaw under an assumed Polish name – Jerzy Czarnecki. He was later arrested, but even under torture, stuck to the story that he was a Ukrainian, Fyodor Solenko. He later succeeded in returning to Warsaw and enlisted in the Polish army.



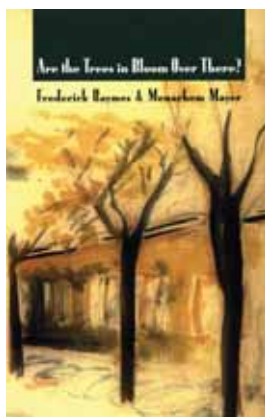
## A Different Story

About a Danish Girl  
in World War Two

Emilie Roi  
1990, third edition

A story for children told in a child's voice: Little Maya was different from her neighbors. Not only were her eyes different – brown instead of blue – but her family was different, too, being the only Jewish family in the area. Denmark, too, was different from the other countries of Europe – most of Denmark's Jews were saved by the Underground, who, with the help of Danish fishermen, managed to move thousands of Jews to safety in neutral Sweden in a very short time.

**Cat. No. 77**  
**80 pp., soft cover, 16X23 cm.**  
**Abroad: \$11 (airmail included)**  
**In Israel: NIS 39**



## Are the Trees in Bloom Over There?

Thoughts and  
Memories of Two  
Brothers

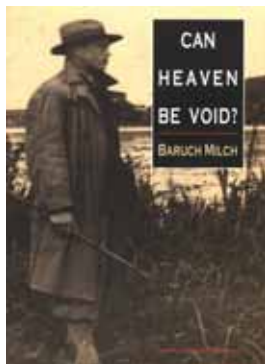
Frederick Raymes and  
Menachem Mayer  
2002

A unique story from among the thousands of stories of children torn from their parents by WWII, surviving in various orphanages and children's homes in occupied France and Switzerland: Two brothers reunited after the war, recreating their memories. One brother became a missiles development expert in the USA; the other brother, an Israeli educator.

"...For many years, the brothers had not seen each other, but after they settled down, each began to feel the need to deal with the memories from which they had fled, and so they began to write this melancholy, emotional book together." [Ruth Almog, *Ha'aretz*, 13 July 2001]

"A fascinating document, clear, moving, painstakingly edited... Reading this book is an intellectual and emotional experience." [Lucien Lazare, *Newsletter Olei merkaz Europa*, November 2001]

**ISBN: 965-308-159-4, Cat. No. 345**  
**236 pp., soft cover, 14X21 cm.**  
**Abroad: \$24 (airmail included)**  
**In Israel: NIS 85**



## Can Heaven Be Void?

Baruch Milch  
Edited by  
Shosh Milch-Avigal  
2003

"Friday, 1 September 1939, was the beginning of the end of my real life", thus Baruch Milch's diary in hiding, after his wife was murdered along with his young son and his faith. In his utter loneliness the Galician physician (who survived and later settled in Haifa) having lost all that was dear to him, wrote almost compulsively on pieces of paper and notes to leave a testimony behind. His daughters supplemented the reconstituted diary with their memories of the "living dead man" who was their father.

"Apparently there are no coincidences in this precise book edited by Avigal, with cross-matching of versions or her foreword and afterword... This is a tremendous labor of love, written with great emotion and having great emotional impact." [*Literature and Books, Ma'ariv*, 9 April 1999]

**ISBN: 965-308-176-4, Cat. No. 360**  
**298 pp., soft cover, 14X21 cm.**  
**Abroad: \$24 (airmail included)**  
**In Israel: NIS 85**



## Cry Little Girl

A Tale of the Survival of a Family in Slovakia

Alyza Barak-Ressler  
2003

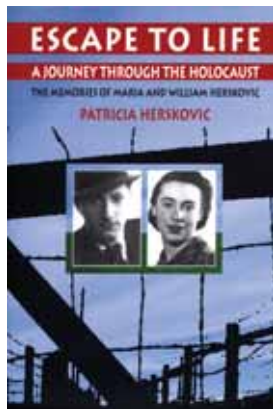
Narrated by the twelve-year-old elder daughter of a Jewish Slovakian family of four who wandered from hideout to hideout, "Cry Little Girl" is a tale of survival, a little girl's courage, and first love. Barak-Ressler used the technique of telling her story to her granddaughter as the framework story for her memoirs – the granddaughter who is about the same age as she was when circumstances demanded acts of heroism from her – and she rose to the task.

The family kept together and sustained each other emotionally through difficult times and wandering.

The book received honorable mention in the Ze'ev Prize for Young Adult Books, 2000.

"A rare, fascinating story. The entire family succeeded in surviving together, thanks to the infinite initiative of the father, and the inner resilience of each member of the family separately and together, with their unlimited mutual support and love. Highly recommended." [Shulamit Geva, *Ma'ariv*, 20 April 2001]

**ISBN: 965-308-164-0, Cat. No. 349**  
**250 pp., soft cover, 14X21 cm.**  
**Abroad: \$24 (airmail included)**  
**In Israel: NIS 85**



## Escape to Life

A Journey Through the Holocaust:  
The Memories of Maria and  
William Herskovic

Patricia Herskovic  
2002, second edition

Caught in the crossfire of Nazi oppression, two people triumph in this story of courage, luck and passion during one of the darkest moments of the 20th Century.

After surviving a perilous escape from Auschwitz's infamous death camps, William Herskovic miraculously made his way across Nazi-occupied Europe. One of the first recorded eyewitnesses of Hitler's atrocities, Herskovic alerted the underground, and was eventually credited with the rescue of thousands, bound for the gas chambers.

Mireille, still merely a teen, managed to hide her parents in attics and rural homes, risking her life daily to venture out for the food to keep them alive.

The Herskovic family survived the perils of the Holocaust with their souls and spirits soaring.

"Memoirs of Maria and William Herskovic, who escaped from Auschwitz and transmitted some of the first information on what was going on in the camps." [*Ha'aretz, New Books*, 22 January 2003]

**ISBN: 965-308-152-7, Cat. No. 343**  
**218 pp., hard cover, 16X23 cm.**  
**Abroad: \$24 (airmail included)**  
**In Israel: NIS 85**



## Home is No More

The Destruction of Kosow and Zabie

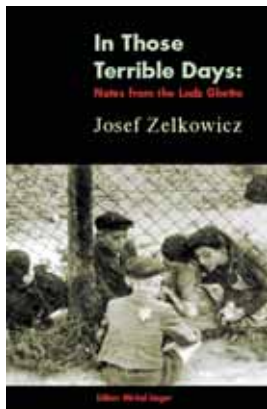
Danek Gertner and Jehoschua Gertner  
2000

The two authors tell the story of their two small but vibrant Jewish communities and bitter end, when the Nazis occupied the area and began to implement the Final Solution.

The book reflects the authors' direct involvement in the lives of the community and enables the readers to view the events that took place through the eyes of two generations, an uncle and nephew, who were among the few who survived the destruction of their native towns.

"Still, nearly 60 years after his courage, audacity and sheer will to survive repeatedly saved his life, Gertner remains haunted by one question. 'Of all the millions who died, why did I of all people survive?' he asks." [Etgar Lefkowitz, *The Jerusalem Post*, 13 April 2001]

**ISBN: 965-308-113-6, Cat. No. 277**  
**250 pp., hard cover, 14X21 cm.**  
**Abroad: \$11 (airmail included)**  
**In Israel: NIS 39**



## In Those Terrible Days

Notes from the Lodz Ghetto

Josef Zelkowicz

Edited by Michal Unger

2002

When Josef Zelkowicz was deported to Auschwitz in August 1944, the rich amount of research and copious notes that he took with him disappeared, but 27 notebooks remained behind in the Lodz Ghetto. Yiddishist, researcher, chronicler – his work is documentary and expressive. His personal diary and the variety of articles that he wrote reflected the diversity and richness of his writings under conditions of extreme physical deprivation.

“Deeply emotional short stories describe ‘what the eyes saw and the ears heard’ but mainly what the heart took in during the daily visits to apartments in the ghetto... As a survivor, I have read many testimonies and memoirs, but nothing like this... Highly recommended for teachers and educators, put this book in school libraries, and read selections out loud on Holocaust Remembrance Day in the schools...” [Yisrael Lichtenberg, *Moreshet*, May 2000]

**ISBN: 965-308-086-5, Cat. No. 334**

**382 pp., soft cover, 15X23 cm.**

**Abroad: \$24 (airmail included)**

**In Israel: NIS 85**



## Mama, It will Be Alright

Sol Silberzweig

2005

Sol's story is tragically typical of many Jews living in Europe during the Second World War. The youngest of seven children, he was born in Warsaw in 1917 to a traditional Jewish family, who had been in the fur business for four generations.

When the war broke out in 1939, 22-year old Sol was already 'in the business'. Trapped in the Warsaw ghetto, he met a childhood sweetheart, Gittel. Their lives were intertwined throughout the war as both went from concentration camp to concentration camp. At war's end, traveling all around Europe, Sol found his Gittel, and the couple married.

Arriving in the US, Sol set up a fur business and, fighting the American Unions along the way, established a successful, international business. Tragically and ironically, while on a business trip in Germany, Gittel was killed in a car accident.

This book is dedicated to the memory of Szulem and Gittel Silberzweig.

“I recommend this volume, for I believe in the overall importance of survivors' testimonies. Due to their experience, they carry a unique weight of authenticity.” [Elie Wiesel]

**ISBN: 965-308-245-0, Cat. No. 410**

**178 pp., soft cover, 14X21 cm.**

**Abroad: \$24 (airmail included)**

**In Israel: NIS 85**



## My Longest Year

In the Hungarian Labour Service and in the Nazi Camps

Moshe Sandberg

1968

The Holocaust experiences of Moshe Sandberg, former Governor of the Bank of Israel, who recounts his wartime experience in the Dachau concentration camp.

In March 1944, Sandberg's parents were murdered and he was mobilized into the Labor Service of the Hungarian Army as the Germans occupied Hungary in March 1944. When his unit was handed over to the Germans, he was transferred to Dachau concentration camp and then to the Muhlendorf-Waldlager camp, until liberation.

**Cat. No. 105**

**114 pp., hard cover, 14X21 cm.**

**Abroad: \$11 (airmail included)**

**In Israel: 39 NIS**



## One Step Ahead

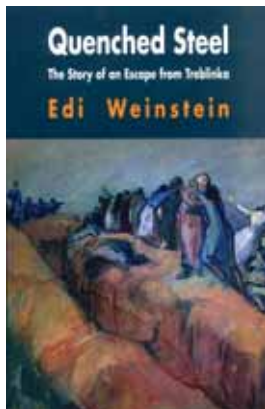
David J. Azrieli (Azrylewicz),  
Memoirs, 1939-1950

Written by Danna J. Azrieli  
Available also in Russian  
2001

Azrieli's personal story (as told to his daughter) expresses his fierce loyalty to his family as well as his courage as he escaped to freedom time and again – always “one step ahead” of death. Adventures include escape occupied Poland to Uzbekistan, enlistment in the Anders' Army, reaching Iran, escaping to Iraq disguised as an Arab deaf-mute. In Baghdad, with the help of Moshe Dayan and Enzo Sereni, he was concealed on a bus that smuggled weapons into Palestine, hidden in coffins.

“David Azrieli, Canadian architect, real estate developer, philanthropist and builder... here recounts his years as a refugee at the outbreak of World War II... Episodes of his life during these years dispassionately told, this memoir reflects the courage, resilience and idealism of the young Azrieli.” [*Dais – Canadian Jewish Congress*, Autumn 2002].

**ISBN: 965-308-125-X, Cat. No. 317**  
**160 pp., soft cover, 14X21 cm.**  
**Abroad: \$11 (airmail included)**  
**In Israel: NIS 39**



## Quenched Steel

The Story of an Escape from  
Treblinka

Edi Weinstein  
2002, third edition

This unique narrative of escape combines the immediacy of postwar memoirs with the bittersweet perspective of age.

The determined young Weinstein, one of the very few to escape from Treblinka, avoided death many times: in a labor camp, from a bunker and from informers – Poles, Ukrainians, Germans and Russians.

The author credits his mother, whom he saw being taken away, with saving him once again when she appeared in a vision to an undecided rescuer, and convinced her not to inform on her son.

The author found his father and after the war they immigrated to the USA.

“Holocaust survivor Edi Weinstein shares his story on a regular basis in order to educate children about the horrors of what happened during World War II... Throughout the Holocaust, Weinstein's determination to survive remained strong as he found ways to hide from the Nazis and make it through the many difficulties he faced.” [Jessica Lyons, *Queens Courier Online*, 6 July 2006]

**ISBN: 965-308-131-4, Cat. No. 321**  
**174 pp., soft cover, 14X21 cm.**  
**Abroad: \$24 (airmail included)**  
**In Israel: NIS 85**



## The Fire and the Light

Herman Kahan  
2005

Chaim Hersh Kahan is from Elie Wiesel's home town of Sighet, Transylvania. His happy pre-war childhood and yeshiva studies were followed by confinement in the ghetto, and transport to Auschwitz. He and his father survived selection by Mengele, followed by slave labor in Wolfsberg and Ebensee. Sustained by his father's spiritual strength, Kahan survived and was liberated.

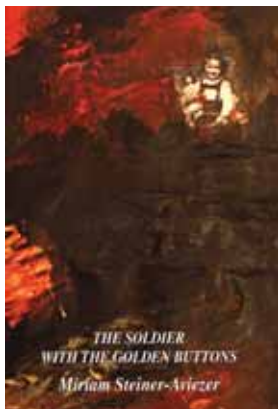
The exceptional aspect of these memoirs is the author's description of his emotions.

Former refugee in Budapest, Paris and Oslo, the author is now a prominent member of the Jewish and business communities in Norway.

The book is both a memorial for his family and a “thank you letter” to Norway and to decent human beings.

With foreword by Elie Wiesel.

**ISBN: 0-9764425-2-3, Cat. No. 423**  
**246 pp., soft cover, 13X21 cm.**  
**Abroad: \$24 (airmail included)**  
**In Israel: NIS 85**



## The Soldier with the Golden Buttons

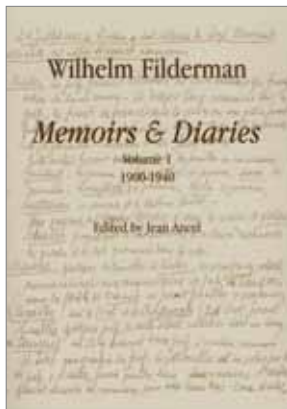
Miriam Steiner-Aviezer  
2005, second edition

The book presents a child's eye view of the Holocaust. It is the story of Jewish children wrenched from a carefree childhood to be overwhelmed by the brutal savagery of war.

A few days are enough to turn them into adults forced to contend with hunger and thirst, fear and death, and with the horror of being taken away from their mothers.

Only their inner world of childlike imagination, of dreams and fairy tales, can help them confront reality while maintaining their innocence.

**ISBN: 965-308-224-8, Cat. No. 398**  
**148 pp., soft cover, 14X21 cm.**  
**Abroad: \$24 (airmail included)**  
**In Israel: NIS 85**



## Wilhelm Filderman

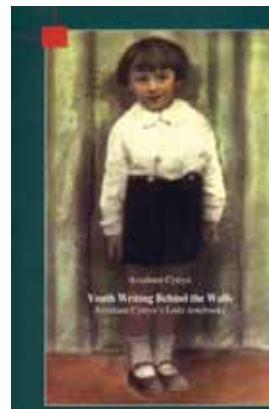
*Memoirs & Diaries, volume 1,*  
1900-1940

Edited by Jean Ancel  
In association with the Tel Aviv  
University Press  
2004

Diary of the former leader of the Jews of Romania in the inter-war period. Filderman supervised the process of obtaining equal rights for Jews following World War I. The first part covers 1900-1940, and deals with the fate of the last eastern European Jewish community to be emancipated (1923), and its struggle for civil rights amid antisemitism; Jewish integration within the weak democracy of "Greater Romania" between the two world wars; the emergence and expansion of A. C. Cuza's antisemitic movement and C. Codreanu's fascist Iron Guard; the antisemitic policies of pro-Western governments (1919-1940); the Romanian establishment's betrayal of the Jews and willingness to pay with Jewish money for rapprochement with Nazi Germany; Jewish life, and more.

"The book is a collection of diaries and writings which allow us to learn about Romanian Jewry, its struggles for equal rights, Jewish life during the interwar period and the relations of the Jews with their non-Jewish neighbors as antisemitism was on the rise." [Zion, 5765/2005]

**ISBN: 965-338-058-3, Cat. No. 421**  
**600 pp., soft cover, 17X24 cm.**  
**Abroad: \$39 (airmail included)**  
**In Israel: NIS 129**



## Youth Writing Behind the Walls

Avraham Cytryn's Lodz notebooks

Avraham Cytryn  
2005

Avraham Cytryn was 13 when he was interned in the ghetto. In those arduous days endured by the small family – the mother and her children Avraham and Lucy – Avraham began to write. His sister remembers that he was obsessed by his writing and engrossed in his notebooks every spare hour left to him after his work. He wrote prose and poetry, both of which read like a lament on the fate of the incarcerated Jews of Lodz, doomed to starve and perish. Avraham Cytryn considered suicide but did not take his own life because of his compassion for his mother.

In his last photograph, which he surely did not know had been taken, he is seen behind his mother and sister just before they board the train for Auschwitz.

Avraham took one notebook with him. The rest remained in the house in the ghetto and after the war, they were found thrown on the floor, torn and stained.

These notebooks, a rare and exceptional document, present the reader with a direct and trenchant account of the terror and the despair.

**ISBN: 0-9764425-1-5, Cat. No. 420**  
**268 pp., soft cover, 14X21 cm.**  
**Abroad: \$24 (airmail included)**  
**In Israel: NIS 85**