

## Names Database: Cousins reunite 64 years after Shoah

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■ Veronica Zer (née Rudas) last saw her second cousin Lili Reiter in 1945 when she returned to Hungary after surviving Auschwitz, where her mother and younger sister had perished. The two cousins lost touch with one another soon after, when they went their separate ways to rebuild their lives.

This summer, volunteers from Yad Vashem's *Shoah* Victims' Names Recovery Project went to help survivors at the Bayit B'Lev nursing home in Jerusalem fill out Pages of Testimony commemorating their loved ones killed in the Holocaust. Zer, 81, told the staff that she wished to fill out Pages for her cousins from the Reiter family. Searching the Central Database of *Shoah* Victims' Names, they discovered that

Livia Prince, formerly Lili Reiter, had filled out Pages of Testimony for her parents, Viktor and Iren, and for her sister, Agnes, in 2006. The volunteers showed the Pages of Testimony to Zer, who was overjoyed to discover her cousin's address in Toronto. The two spoke by phone soon after.

In November, Livia Prince flew from Toronto to Israel to meet her cousin. Holding hands, they visited Yad Vashem's Hall of Names, Hall of Remembrance and Valley of the Communities, where they lit a memorial candle. "For me, this is closure," Livia said. "Not that there will ever be complete closure... but this is our history, and now we have to talk about it, and fast."



■ Survivors Veronica Zer of Jerusalem (left) and Livia Prince of Toronto in the Valley of the Communities. The two cousins last saw each other in 1945.