

Days of Jasenovac

15th Annual Commemoration Ceremonies



SUNDAY, MAY 8, 2016 4-9PM

EVENT SPONSORED BY:
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jasenovac.org

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Serbian Orthodox Cathedral of Saint Sava, NYC
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PHOTOS ON COVER

Clockwise from the top:

*Nandor Glid's sculpture "One Hundred for One,"
memorializing the Nazi slaughter of Serb men, women and children at Kraguevac in 1941;
The Rab Jewish Partisan Brigade marching to war out of the Italian concentration camp
at Rab, 1943; Serb peasants of Kozara being marched to Jasenovac by Ustashe, 1942.*

*U pravcu kretanja kazaljke na satu odozgo: skulptura Nandora Glida "Sto za jednog"
u spomen na civile, muškarce, žene i decu koje su nacisti streljali u Kragujevcu 1941;
Rapski jevrejski partizanski bataljon kreće u rat iz italijanskog logora na ostrvu Rab 1943,
godine; ustaše odvođe srpske seljake sa Kozare u Jasenovac.*

Days of Jasenovac

15 ANNUAL COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES

Sunday, May 8, 2015

4:00 to 9:00 pm

**Common Ground:
Defeating Fascism and Remembering
the Victims on the 71st Anniversary
of the Liberation of Jasenovac**

New York's Hotel Pennsylvania
401 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10001

Brothers and Sisters!

Once again it is my honor to welcome you to the 15th Annual Days of Jasenovac Commemoration, Conference and Dinner here in New York. As we go to press with this year's conference journal we have received the terrible news of the tragic burning of St. Sava's Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in Manhattan. We stand together with our Serbian brothers and sisters in offering our support for the rebuilding of St. Sava's.



This year's conference and dinner has taken as its theme "Common Ground: Defeating Fascism and Remembering the Victims." While Serbs, Jews and Romas were the victims of genocide perpetrated at Jasenovac by the Croatian fascists and their Nazi collaborators throughout the territories of the former Yugoslavia, we draw inspiration from their common struggle against fascism. Serbs rose up, either as Chetniks or Partisans, and fought the Nazis and the Ustashe. Jews and Romas also fought with the Partisans in large numbers. Serbs, Jews and Romas had a unique experience of being targeted for extermination by the fascists. They shared a common struggle and common graves. Today they experience in common the institutionalized omission of much of their tragic story. Nowhere has this been more painfully exemplified than at the 1993 opening of the US Holocaust Museum, where there was no mention of Jasenovac and the Holocaust in Yugoslavia.

This year's conference theme is also inspired by the goal of peace and reconciliation between all peoples of the former Yugoslavia. In order to prevent future aggression and crimes of racial hatred, we must work towards reconciliation. But no sustainable peace, much less reconciliation, can be built unless there is a recognition of the past crimes and justice for the victims. We must deal directly with the unresolved issues that stand in the way of reconciliation. There is no other way forward. To that end, our distinguished panelists will confront some of these unresolved questions: Jasenovac and neo-fascism in Croatia; the Ratlines; the victimization of Serbian women in Bosnia in the 1990s; and the terrible persecution of Romas past and present. The JRI is calling upon the UN to establish a commission to address these unresolved matters relating to genocide in the former Yugoslavia.

As we remember our martyrs and their heroic resistance, let's not forget what can be achieved through unity. By honoring the victims at Jasenovac we also are working for peace, reconciliation, and a better and more democratic world.

Sa bratskim pozdravima [with brotherly greetings],

Barry Lituchy, JRI Founder and CEO

Program

Cocktail Reception

Dinner

Welcome by Barry Lituchy & Father Djokan Majstorović

Messages from:

- ~ H.E. Djerdj Matković, Ambassador of Serbia to the US
- ~ Representative of the Israeli Embassy
- ~ Mirjana Živković, Consul General of Serbia
- ~ Dr. Rene David Alkalay, Survivor & JRI Honorary Chair
- ~ Eva Deutsch Costabel, Survivor

Julija Koš, Author, Jewish Community of Croatia

Dr. Robert McCormick, Historian, Univ. of South Carolina

Question and Answer Period

William Duna, Former Roma Representative, U.S. Holocaust Museum

Šani Rifati, Director, Voice of Roma

Dr. Gideon Greif, Historian, Shem Olam Institute, Israel

Dr. Vasilije Krestić, Historian, University of Belgrade

Question and Answer Period

Božica Živković-Rajilić, Director, Victims of War, Banja Luka

Milorad Kojić, Center for War Crimes Research, Banja Luka

Full Discussion Period

Closing Comments by Dr. Dani Novak and Barry Lituchy

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Lessons From Jasenovac

VISION: Our vision is to distill lessons from the Jasenovac Concentration Camps in a setting outside the walls of churches, synagogues, and educational institutions and use those lessons to expose the signs of impending genocide, enable visitors to recognize those warning signs in their own communities, and motivate them to take a stand against it.

MISSION: Our mission is to review the Jasenovac events and understand the importance of personal participation in the project for the benefit of friends, families and the betterment of mankind by educating the youth of today.

FOCUS: Our focus is the plight of children in the Jasenovac Concentration Camps during the Holocaust to raise awareness of these crimes.

LOCATION: St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church, Cypress, Texas

Social Media Sites

Website: www.lessonsfromjasenovac.org

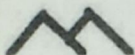
Facebook: www.facebook.com/lesfrojasenovac

Twitter: www.twitter.com/lesfrojasenovac

Instagram: www.instagram.com/lessonsfromjasenovac

YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=4NhgHsM1pyQ

Contributions are greatly appreciated for research as well as for financial sponsorship of art pieces and educational panels.



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Learning

The Jasenovac Research Institute (JRI) was founded on the belief that the failure to learn the lessons of the genocide committed against Serbs, Jews and Roma during the Second World War by the Croatian Ustashe and other Axis forces rests at the very core of recent events in the Balkans. Jasenovac, which represents the greatest crimes of genocide ever committed in the Balkans, has been largely overlooked by Western scholars, while its legacy has been distorted and its victims have been either ignored or victimized yet again by Holocaust revisionists. Central to the lessons of Jasenovac is the slogan "Never again!"

However, the failure to observe this warning and to recognize the great crimes committed at Jasenovac has reaped not only the expected consequences of a revival of fascism in the Balkans, but with it, a deadly, racist demonization of the Serbian people. For these reasons, this foundation, and all individuals and work connected to it, are dedicated both to preserving the memory of Jasenovac and to the search for justice for its victims.

The JRI's work includes the publishing of scholarly and testimonial literature on the Holocaust in the former Yugoslavia, the organizing of conferences and other educational events to promote Holocaust awareness as it concerns the victim nationalities of fascist Croatia, and advocating for recognition and redress for the victims of Ustashe genocide. The JRI also strives to aid and give voice to the victims of the renascent neofascist movements active in the Balkans since the 1990's and to show the links between the crimes of these groups and those of their WWII-era antecedents.

from the Past

The JRI published the book, *Jasenovac and the Holocaust in Yugoslavia*, a collection of scholarly analyses and survivor testimonies from the First Annual Conference and Exhibition on the Jasenovac Concentration Camps. It also re-published, with a comprehensive English language summary, *The Crimes of the Fascist Occupants and Their Collaborators Against the Jews in Yugoslavia*.

The "Black Book," as it's also known, is one of the most authoritative volumes on the Jewish Holocaust in Yugoslavia but saw very limited distribution in its original issue over 60 years ago. The JRI won the approval of the City of New York to establish the first public monument to Jasenovac victims outside the former Yugoslavia, in Brooklyn's Holocaust Memorial Park.

The Institute is a litigant in a class action suit against the Vatican Bank in the matter of the looting and laundering of Holocaust victims' assets, and assists in the collecting of data for the processing of victims' claims. The JRI commissioned photographer Elizabeth Bieber to travel to Kosovo, where she documented the desperate situation of minority Roma and Serbs, victims of shameful pogroms carried out under UN-KFOR occupation following the 1999 NATO bombing campaign.

The JRI is a registered section 501(c)3 non-profit corporation and welcomes donations from the public. For more information, please visit our website or contact us.

The Jasenovac Research Institute
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In Loving Memory of Our Mothers,
sisters Sophia Vukcevic and Zorka Lituchy,
whom we lost in 2014 and to whom we owe so much.

Vlado Vukcevic

Barry Lituchy



My mother, Jovanka (Kovacevic) Vlastelic, Survivor of the horrors of Jasenovac and Stara Gradiska concentration camp, as well as the Jastrebarsko concentration camp for children.

As a nine year old child, along with her sister, Ljeposava, they and hundreds of other Serbian children were saved by the selfless and courageous actions of Diana Budisavljevic.

My family and I keep the memory of her suffering and pain alive while we honor her courage and humanity. She and my father were forced out of their home in Osijek, Croatia in 1991, and now she lives in Belgrade.

*My family and I love and honor her,
Drina Vlastelic Rajic*

In Memory of:

Anny (Alkalay) Kauftheil,
a most wonderful and amazing person

Ruth and Jack Gruener

In honor of our mother, Anny
and our brother, David.

Roslyn & Arthur Gruener, and family
Leonard & Valerie Kauftheil, and family

*In memory of my
best friend,
Anny (Alkalay) Kauftheil.*

Isabelle Merrim

In Loving Memory

*of my father, Joseph, my uncles and
cousins who died in Jasenovac.*

*And in memory of my mother,
Anny, whose courage and fortitude
helped us survive two concentration
camps from 1942 to 1945 and a year
of hiding in the forests of Yugosla-
via, and without whom I certainly
would not be here to commemorate
her courage and her spirit.*

René David Alkalay

*In memory of my mother-in-law,
Anny, whose greatness of spirit
is an ongoing inspiration
in my life.*

Rachelle Alkalay

In honor of the tens of thousands of victims from Jasenovac and hundreds of thousands of victims (Serbs, Jews, Romas, and others) of the genocidal terror of the Ustashe government on the territory of the "Independent State of Croatia" during the Second World War.



Memory Eternal!

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Serbian Orthodox Cathedral of Saint Sava, NYC

under the auspices of The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church

Photo: Copyright Louis Constant Duit



Father Djokan Majstorovic seen here at the 2014 Annual Day of Jasenovac Memorial at the monument to Jasenovac at the Holocaust Memorial Park in Brooklyn with JRI Director, and last year's keynote speaker, Mira Jovanovic.

The Reverend Father Djokan Majstorovic has been a driving force behind the church since 1999, when he assumed responsibilities as Dean of the St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral. He devotes much time to keeping alive the memory of victims of the Holocaust. Father Djokan's leadership and support have been indispensable to the work of JRI.

Born in Vlasenica, Republic of Srpska, he was ordained to the Holy Diaconate while studying and living in England and then emigrated to the U.S. in 1996 with his wife and two children.



Pictured above: Jewish children being sent to Jasenovac

Let the truth be known!

Take a stand for truth and
justice by becoming a
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Join the Friends of Jasenovac Research Institute and be part
of the effort to promote research and public awareness of
Jasenovac and justice for its victims!

The JRI is a nonprofit organization and your contribution
is tax deductible.

CONTACT US FOR INFORMATION:

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JASENOVAC RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Let the truth be known.



COMMON GROUND:

Defeating Fascism and Remembering the Victims
on the 71st Anniversary of the Liberation of Jasenovac

15th Annual Commemoration Ceremonies

Every year we gather to commemorate April 22, 1945, the day of the self-liberation of the last prisoners of Jasenovac, and the end of the Holocaust in Yugoslavia. We honor the hundreds of thousands of Serbs, Jews, Romas and anti-fascists who were murdered by the Ustashe and Nazis, and we recall the lessons of the Holocaust. Today we reflect on the 71 years that have passed, and contemplate what lies ahead for future generations.

It is our belief that we can build a better world based on human rights and compassion for all peoples only through an understanding of the lessons of Jasenovac and the Holocaust. And, therefore, it is vitally important to educate the world about these lessons, and pass along this dedication to remembering the victims to younger generations.

The last starving, exhausted and unarmed prisoners of Jasenovac who decided to throw their bodies at machine guns and barbed wire on that day of liberation, did so with only one purpose -- so that at least one of them would survive and tell the world what happened there. They died for us, and for all future generations, to let the truth be known, and to never forget! We hear the victims speak to us still and say: NEVER AGAIN!



JASENOVAC RESEARCH INSTITUTE