

## THE IVANSK PROJECT e-NEWSLETTER

Issue Number 10

January - February 2005

### CONTENTS:

- **Within These Walls. *The Death and Life of Ivansk, Poland***

David Blumenfeld, a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Ivansker and a professional photojournalist, has undertaken to document various aspects of our history in Ivansk. He is recording the activities of the team restoring the Jewish cemetery. In this piece David tells how he became involved in the project and outlines the scope of his documentary.

- **Progress Report: Ivansk Cemetery Restoration Project**

We're about half way in our campaign to raise enough money to restore our cemetery. But we need everyone's help before we can start Phase III of the project to build the perimeter wall, the gate and the memorial dedicated to those buried in the cemetery and those who were killed in the Holocaust. Please do you part!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact, Gary Lipton, Lisa Newman or Norton Taichman (their e-mail addresses are listed at the end of the e-Newsletter).

- **Reflections on Appeasement**

*Appeasement* is a word with a special resonance to those of us familiar with the events leading to World War II. David Greenspan shares his thoughts on the consequences of appeasing Hitler during the 1930s and applies the lessons of that time to confronting the tyrants and fanatics that threaten us today.

- **Ivanskers Seeking Ivanskers**

You may be able to help readers seeking lost family and friends.

## WITHIN THESE WALLS

### *The Death and Life of Ivansk, Poland* A Documentary Film

by David Blumenfeld, Jerusalem, Israel

About a year ago I received an email from my dad with a note, “FYI” - *You might find this interesting...*”

My dad wanted me to read “The Funeral”, an article that appeared in The Ivansk Project e-Newsletter, No. 3 (March-April 2004). By the time I had finished reading “The Funeral”, I realized that I was going to embark on a new project about the Shtetl of Ivansk.



My grandfather, Carl Blumenfeld was born in Ivansk 1904. I grew up hearing stories about his shtetl, but I never really felt connected to it. Ivansk was a faraway place from a long time ago. All that changed as I read Yitzchak Goldstein’s testimony, “The Funeral”. Goldstein described how the entire Jewish population of Ivansk, led by Rabbi Rabinowicz, gathered in the cemetery to bury the Torahs on the day before the Nazis deported the men, women and children to their destruction in Treblinka. This was one of the most powerful Holocaust stories I had ever encountered. I wondered if my great-grandmother, Blima, was among those who stood in the cemetery on that day. Certainly many of her friends and neighbors would have been there.

My great grandmother, Blima and her son, my great uncle Shabatai.  
Blima was murdered in Treblinka.

The words of Rabbi Rabinowicz spoke directly to me:

***The young ones...who survive the war should, before anything else, take out the Torah Scrolls and once more establish a Jewish Kehillah in Ivansk...they should tell the world....***

At that moment I decided that I wanted to make a film about Ivansk. I called my dad and asked him to forward all of the e-Newsletters to me. After that, I telephoned Norton Taichman to broach the idea of creating a film about our ancestors and the little town that was their home for hundreds of years. Norton welcomed the idea and invited me to join him and other Ivanskers who were documenting the history of Jewish Life in the shtetl.

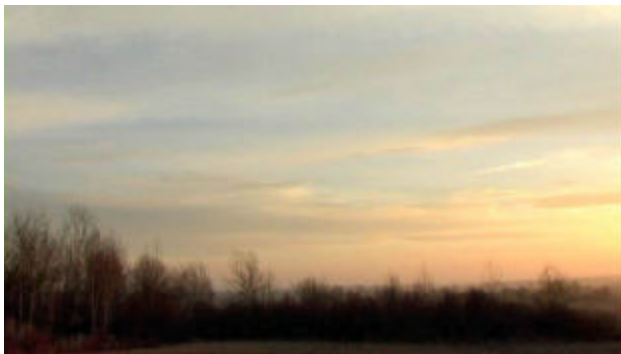
Since then, my idea has gotten off the ground. During the past few months I have twice visited Iwaniska – in November with Norton, his daughter, Audrey and Grzegorz (Greg) Gregorczyk (see report in The Ivansk Project e-Newsletter No. 8, November-December 2004) and in December with Greg. During both trips I began filming the cemetery to show how it appeared both before and during the cleanup operation in preparation for restoration. In addition, I recorded testimony obtained from several elderly people in the town who remembered the Jewish community that once lived there.



**Iwaniska. November 2004.**  
**The church steeple is seen in the distance on the right.**

On my trip in December, I arrived to Poland on the 4th night of Chanukah. I kept thinking about the miracle of Chanukah - a story about the perseverance of our people and how this related to what I was now witnessing in Ivansk. Here I was, standing in a place where our ancestors were also almost entirely exterminated. But once again we survived. I felt my being here paid tribute to our ancestors and to our survival. This time, I was the miracle.

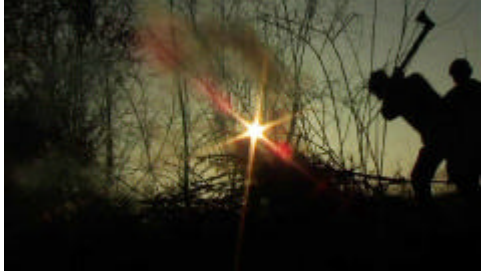
There are several moments that I'd like to share with you from the initial filming of this project.



**The Cemetery. Early Morning. December 2004**

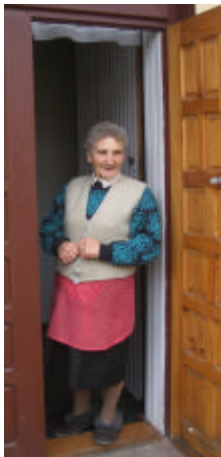
I was deeply moved while shooting the cleanup operation in our ancient Jewish cemetery – the place where many of our ancestors were buried including my great grandfather. From the early morning till nightfall three or four local workers showed up to clear the thick brush and fell the trees with axes and a chainsaw. Working conditions were extremely difficult – freezing cold temperatures, snow and sleet – but these guys were determined. They became very excited

whenever they found a fragment of a matzevah sticking out of the frozen ground or a section of the foundation of the retaining wall that once surrounded the cemetery. On such occasions they called me over to make sure that I recorded their find on film.



**The Cemetery. Early Morning. December 2004.**

Unfortunately, there was not much left there. In the thick brush, a few stubs of matzevot poked out of the earth. Some crumbles of tombstones with almost illegible Hebrew inscriptions lay by some trees. At one point Greg and I found a piece of stone with shards of glass sticking out of it: we were told that this was a portion from the top of the retaining wall – the glass shards were used to keep unwanted trespassers out of the graveyard. Every relic we found was precious and will be incorporated into the restored wall that is going to be erected this spring.



Another amazing moment occurred during our interview with Maria Barwinska, a sweet, elderly woman who provided dramatic stories about the Nazi occupation of Ivansk. She recalled the fire that burned down part of the town and the night when the Jews were rounded up for deportation. At one point she began to mention names of her former neighbors: Rotenberg, Lederman, Zaltsman, Naiman, Abele. These are names of my (and many of your) relatives! Abele was my Grandfather's grandfather! She spoke at length about her best childhood friend, Rivka Naiman and told me how her father helped some Jewish families but turned away others during the war.

**Maria Barwinska Invites Us Into Her Home**



**Victor Stefan**

Many other people I interviewed also had incredible stories and memories. Victor Stefan described how he was forced by the Germans to transport Jewish children from Ivansk to Cmielow while his father stayed behind to lay claim to an abandoned Jewish home. He explained what happened to the Matzevot in the Jewish cemetery and also remembered people like Yitzchak Goldstein who built hiding places in the forest during the war.



**Making pierogis**

An older woman who lives on a farm next to the cemetery described how her family kept the keys to the Jewish cemetery and distinctly remembers how it looked. At age 10, she witnessed the Nazis executing several Jews just outside the cemetery. A group of Poles was forced to dig their common grave. I was riveted by her dramatic testimony and filmed her as she was preparing pierogis (Polish dumplings) in her farmhouse kitchen – a relic of a past time.

I am seeking answers to many questions in my documentary film. Through a collage of testimonies by Jewish Ivanskans born in the shtetl, Christian Iwaniskans who remembered their Jewish neighbors, historians, and the people involved in restoring the cemetery I hope to generate the voices that reveal where we come from.

Personal histories, anecdotes and stories will be told in the first person interspersed with archival photographs, newspapers, maps, and documents. Testimony will be filmed against a backdrop of the town with its rolling hills, tended fields, daily rural living, farms, villagers, and life in the town square. All this is designed to evoke some essence of the Ivansk of our ancestors as well as today's Iwaniska.

What is the town like today - 62 years after more than 50% of its population disappeared? Has the town come to terms with that legacy? What role does the cemetery restoration project play in dealing with the past? What do the residents remember about the Jewish community that once lived in their village until that terrible day in 1942? Are there any signs or artifacts left of our presence in the community? Do anti-Semitic sentiments still resonate among some of the inhabitants? What happened to the Jewish cemetery after the war? Is it still possible to find Jewish tombstones, perhaps in barns or roads? And what happened to the Torahs and other religious articles that were buried in the cemetery as described by Yitzchak Goldstein in "The Funeral"?

In this documentary film, we will "revisit" Jewish Life in Ivansk. Weaving in the restoration of the Jewish cemetery and the upcoming memorial/dedication service the film will honor our ancestors while leading our audience back in time. To pay tribute to the words of Rabbi Rabinowicz, even for just a brief moment, we will *"once more establish a Jewish Kehillah in Ivansk"*.

We intend to present the film in many different venues. It will be sent to various film festivals in the US, Canada, Europe and Israel. As well, we would like to show the film on educational/documentary television programming. It will be made available to Jewish organizations throughout the world, including synagogues, Jewish Community Centers, Jewish Federations, libraries, museums, schools and universities. Copies of the complete "footage" of all the unedited testimonies will also be offered to Holocaust Archives, such as Yad Vashem.



One of the most rewarding aspects of this project is the friends and connections I have made; without their help my project wouldn't be possible! Thanks to my partners in this adventure: Audrey, Greg and Norton who have dedicated their time, energy and passion to the project. Thanks as well to the people at The Poland Jewish Cemetery Restoration Project, Andrzej Omasta, Wojtek Brochwicz-Lewinski, Norman Weinberg and Monika Krawczyk, for their advice and expertise in making the restoration a reality. I am grateful to Rafal Ferber and Ezra Stelmach for translating and helping me communicate with the local population. I also happily acknowledge the hospitality of the mayor, priest and people of Iwaniska who opened their homes and hearts and who are working so hard to help restore our ancient cemetery. Finally, it is with great pleasure that I thank my parents, wife and family for their constant support and encouragement.

I am presently seeking funding for the film project to defray some of the costs for materials and for preparing copies for distribution to Jewish institutions worldwide. If you have knowledge of potential institutional or private benefactors, I would appreciate any leads you could provide and would be pleased to provide you with a detailed copy of my complete proposal. In addition, I'll soon be seeking photographs, documents and more testimonies from Ivanskans (born in the shtetl) for the film. If you have any original photos depicting life or other interesting material that you think may be useful, please email me at: [david@blumenfeld.com](mailto:david@blumenfeld.com).

Thank you!

### **Progress Report: Ivansk Cemetery Restoration Project**

We are very pleased to report that the cleanup of the Jewish Cemetery in Ivansk was completed in January. Vegetation and debris that had accumulated during the past 60 years has been removed. Several fragments of broken matzevot were found and will be incorporated into the perimeter wall. We are hopeful that more remnants of our ancestor's tombstones will be discovered in surrounding communities and returned to the cemetery where they belong.

A survey of the site will be carried out once the snow melts. Then, the architect will prepare designs for the perimeter wall, the cemetery gate and the memorial. If we reach our fund raising goal of \$50,000 (USD) by the end of April, we should be able to start construction in time to complete the project by the beginning of summer.

As of February 1<sup>st</sup> we have collected a total \$20,889.00 from Ivanskans living in Canada, Israel and the U.S.A. We are heartened by the response. However, only a relatively small number of our people have participated in the campaign thus far. Without the help of the majority of Ivanskans we will not be able to undertake and complete the restoration. Your gift, large or small, is significant and will make the difference. Your involvement is symbolic of our resolve not to abandon our past and to set an example

for our children and our children's children. Please do your part and join in the community effort to honor our ancestors and our heritage. If we don't do it, no one will!

Here is how you can contribute to the Ivansk Cemetery Restoration Project (Canadian and U.S. donors will receive receipts suitable for claiming an income tax deduction).

**CANADIAN DONORS**, send cheques made payable to the:  
**United Jewish Welfare Fund of Toronto**

**Mail to:** c/o Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto  
Attention: Angela D'Aversa  
4600 Bathurst Street  
Toronto, Ontario M2R3V2

**In the cheque's memo line, be sure to insert:**

**"for Ivansk Cemetery Restoration Project"**

- Donations can also be made on VISA or MasterCard. Telephone Janice Benatar at 416-631-5847 or by sending the information in writing including your Name, Card Number, Expiry Date and the amount of your donation.
- You may designate a person you wish to honour, and a card will be sent to this person or the family to acknowledge your gift.
- The Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto will deposit all donations to a special account dedicated to the Ivansk Cemetery Restoration Project. You will receive a tax receipt from the Foundation.

**US DONORS**, checks should be made payable to:  
**The Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies**  
**PJCRP Account**  
787 Delaware Avenue  
Buffalo, New York 14209

**In the check's memo line, be sure to insert:**

**"for Ivansk Cemetery Restoration Project"**

**You Can Donate On Line:** < [www.jewishphilanthropies.org](http://www.jewishphilanthropies.org) >

- You will be asked to specify which agency and which fund you want to support.
  - **For agency, select Poland Jewish Cemetery Restoration Project.**
  - **For fund, type in "Ivansk Cemetery Restoration Project".**

You can honor someone or send a memorial gift via this site, and the funds will be credited to the Ivansk Project. Your donation will be acknowledged by the Foundation and a tax receipt will be forwarded to you.

## Before and After The Cleanup of The Ivansk Cemetery



The top row of photos of the Jewish Cemetery was taken in November 2004 before the cleanup operation.

The photos in the bottom row were provided by Lukasz Omasta and were taken in January 2005. The size of the cemetery can be more readily appreciated now that all the vegetation and debris have been cleared from the site. It is much larger than we had anticipated.

There were two Jewish cemeteries in Ivansk, an “Old” and a “New”. We have little information about the Old cemetery. We don’t know when it was consecrated or abandoned; we are not even sure of its location. A former resident told us it was beside the shul while another indicated that it lay outside the town. Other former Ivanskans have declared that they have no idea where it was, suggesting that it had not been used as a burial ground for several generations.

We are in possession of a map of the market square area of Ivansk in the 1930s. The map was drawn from memory in 1989 by Ruchel Kesten and her brother Jack Brauner and shows the road to the Old cemetery running in an easterly direction from the market square past the shul. But the cemetery lies somewhere off the map. Similarly, the New cemetery is also shrouded in mystery. We have no idea how long it served the community. When I return to Ivansk in April I’ll try to find out more.

Thanks to Arthur Zimmerman, the Kesten-Brauner Map has been revised to incorporate new information obtained as a result of our research. Copies of the map will be made available in the future.



## Reflections on Appeasement

by **David Greenspan, Toronto, Ontario, Canada**

*[David Greenspan, born in Toronto, is a retired lawyer and lifelong amateur student of history who believes it is possible, if rare, to learn and not over learn the lessons of the past. He recalls that in his youth most of society's problems were on the right and the solutions on the left, but believes that in the last 30 to 40 years, the problems are on the left and the solutions in the centre and centre-right.]*

*David writes essays such as this for his own web page, off the top of his head, without referring to sources, to share with family and friends. His wife, Lisa Newman Greenspan, is an Ivansker and a member of The Ivansk Project Action Committee. David's own families stem from the nearby shtetl of Drildz and the city of Ostrowiec, Poland, and he was one of the initiators of the project to restore the Jewish Cemetery in Drildz. Ed]*

**“It takes two to make peace, only one to make war.” [J.R. Tolkien]**

On December 16, 1944 the German army surprised the Americans in the forests of Belgium, launching a massive assault through the Ardennes. The clash that ensued came to be known as the “Battle of the Bulge”. This was the Third Reich’s last throw of the strategic dice in the West. In stealth they concentrated three armies and caught the two American armies completely by surprise. In the 45 days of the battle, Americans took 100,000 casualties. Nineteen thousand men were killed, and 81,000 wounded. These large numbers help put today’s Iraq situation in perspective. You can’t defeat fascism without breaking eggs. America was full of sorrow. The American armies bent - my, did they bend - but they did not break.

The winter weather was severe, (maybe, I am not sure) as severe as the winter we are experiencing now. Imagine not only living but also fighting in this snow and cold. Until about January 15 the skies were overcast and the American Air Force could not fly. In mid-January the sun finally came out and the American Air Force decimated the Panzer armoured divisions. How many casualties did the Nazi armies take? I don’t know and I don’t care. Too many is not enough.

The ultimate German strategy was to demoralize the allies and to retake the great ports of Antwerp and Rotterdam and thereby choke off the vast supplies funneled to the American, British and Canadian forces.

How big was the American commitment to the European war? We Canadians had 2 divisions, the British 12 and the Americans 55. The different countries had divisions of different sizes, so one can’t mechanistically compare their troop strength. But however you slice and dice the numbers, the American commitment was gigantic. [In addition, of

course, the Americans had equally large armies in the Pacific and the Brits had an army in Burma.

IF THE AMERICAN COMMITMENT WAS SO LARGE FROM 1942 TO 1945, THE BIG QUESTION AND THE BIG CATASTROPHE UNDERPINNING THIS MOST AVOIDABLE OF WARS IS, WHERE THE HELL WERE THEY IN THE 1930s? THE UNIMAGINABLE CATASTROPHE OF WORLD WAR II, WITH 64,000,000 PEOPLE KILLED, POINTS UP THE BIGGEST PROBLEM OF THE 20th CENTURY: NOT AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT ABROAD, BUT AMERICAN ISOLATION.

America stayed out of the League of Nations after World War I; ratification of the treaty to join the League of Nations missed by one measly vote in the U.S. Senate. It got two-thirds less one, not two-thirds. So there was no strong country to stiffen the spines of the appeasers from the left and the right in France and in Britain. This meant there was no one strong enough to try and stop Mussolini's invasion of Ethiopia and Hitler's takeover of the Rhineland. As the fascists of Europe went from strength to strength, the United States Congress actually passed the Neutrality Act that prevented the U.S. from intervening in any way. So extreme was this legislation that President Roosevelt could not legally give Britain anything. Britain stood alone, just as the patriotic movies show; Luckily, Roosevelt was an outstanding domestic and wartime leader: on his own he figured a way around the Neutrality Act by lending, not giving, 20 destroyers and other capital equipment to Britain. Roosevelt's assistance helped Britain to stay the course until the U.S. entered the war.

[Like all great leaders, Roosevelt was also greatly flawed; like all liberals of the day, he hated British imperialism, he underestimated Stalin's imperialism and Hitler-like brutality, and he overestimated at Yalta his own ability to do a deal with Stalin.]

What is appeasement? It is throwing your allies to the crocodile, hoping the crocodile will be satisfied and not come after you. This is one of the great misjudgments of history. The fascist crocodile is like a teenaged male, endlessly hungry. And when he comes after you, you don't have any allies left. In 1938, without any American presence to stiffen his spine and supported by both the right and the left in Britain, the British prime minister Neville Chamberlain (together with his French counterpart, Edouard Daladier) sold Czechoslovakia to Adolph Hitler for a piece of paper [Oslo, anyone?].

Here's what Chamberlain squandered:

- a highly trained, highly motivated Czech army, full of pride in their new state, Czechoslovakia, one of many nations carved out after World War I from the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire;
- a natural defense line against Germany on the Sudeten mountains;
- the Skoda Arms Works, the largest arms works in Central Europe;
- the gigantic strategic advantage for the West in 1938: in 1938 the German Army was not the fabulous Wehrmacht that blitzed Poland in September 1939;
- the support of the Soviet Union, through its Commissar of Foreign Affairs, Maxim Litvinov. Litvinov fought hard against Chamberlain's appeasement policies and even advocated an alliance of Britain, France and the Soviet Union against

Germany. (Vyacheslav Molotov replaced Litvinov about 2 weeks before the invasion of Poland).

A second characteristic of appeasers: they always blame the victim and excuse the aggressor. In the mid-1930s Churchill was out of office. He languished at Chartwell, his country home but was briefed regularly on Germany by several informed people who had visited Germany: journalists, intelligence guys, army officers, and scholars. He was considered by many – but not nearly enough – as the best-informed man in Europe. He spoke out against appeasement of Hitler and the Third Reich. He saw the coming catastrophe. But at Oxford University, one of the great centres of the English Establishment [and of the Communist spies] the student debating society passed the motion “That This House Will Not Fight For King And Country”. This resolution strongly influenced Hitler’s determination to go to war.

All the high-minded people at the London Times and the BBC and at Oxford and Cambridge Universities, in the senior public service, in the Labour opposition and in the Conservative government blamed him for provoking and not understanding Chancellor Hitler. Churchill knew a regime of sewer rats when he saw one. Why couldn’t the appeasers?

But when the appeasement policy in the Rhineland and in Czechoslovakia came crashing down two years later, everyone turned to the great warrior. They called on him to try to save them from the cataclysm they had helped create. In time of war, and in the buildup to war, it is very important to be led by a warrior. We are now in World War IV [World War III was the Cold War].

THE APPEASERS COUNT ONLY THE LIVES LOST NOW. THEY NEVER COUNT THE HUGE MULTIPLES OF LIVES THAT WILL BE LOST TOMORROW, THROUGH THEIR ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE KILLER CROCODILES TODAY.

In 1938 Britain, France and Czechoslovakia (and possibly backed by the Soviet Union) could have taken on a not yet fully trained German Army. They might well have defeated the Germans at the cost of a few hundred thousand lives. This would have saved most of the 64,000,000 killed between 1939 and 1945. Such a defeat of the German Army would for sure have led to the overthrow of Hitler’s government. What if a key turning point in history had turned the other way? Thank the appeasers.

The 64,000,000 include many millions killed in the Pacific War started by Japan. Had Germany been defeated in 1938, I think it is a realistic assumption that the fascist officers who had taken over the Japanese government in the 1930s might have thought longer and harder about invading their neighbours and the United States.

Because the international world is a Darwinian jungle, appeasers always, always, always bring disaster not only on others through their cowardice but also on themselves, through their self-deception. Hundreds of thousands of Londoners turned out to cheer Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain in 1938 after he returned from Munich where he betrayed the Czechs. Waving the piece of paper he had signed with Hitler, Chamberlain proclaimed that it assured ‘Peace In Our Time’. Like the Palestinians of our day, these Londoners were full of self-deception, hysteria, and in full denial of any

sense of responsibility for the disaster they were creating. Within five to eight years, 45,000 of them would die in the Nazi Blitz of civilian London. And tens of thousands would die fighting the Nazis they had sacrificed Czechoslovakia to appease. Some peace – the peace of appeasement.

Why, through their failure to join the League of Nations and through their passage of the Neutrality Act, did the Americans isolate themselves from Europe at such a critical time? One answer is that the second largest immigrant group to the U.S.A. after the British Isles was the Germans. Many of their descendants obviously did not want to fight a war with Germany. As well, many conservatives did not want American boys dying again for repulsive European politics. There are also many other reasons I don't know.

However, occasionally the democracies do learn from catastrophe. Once they realized that the Soviets had imposed another evil empire on Eastern Europe, the Americans for two generations (from about 1948 to the collapse of the "Evil Empire" in 1989) kept 500,000 [repeat, 500,000] soldiers in Germany. The British had a large contingent and until Prime Minister Trudeau reduced the Canadian contingent to 5,000 in about 1970, we had 50,000 men there. The American force was based on the 70-ton Abrams tank. They were trained to fight gigantic tank battles against an aggressor Soviet Union on the Great European Plain in north Germany. The Americans spent a full generation reinforcing every bridge in West Germany to take these large tanks. No one expected a mere 600,000 or so men to stop a full-scale Soviet invasion. Their stated mission was to slow down the Soviets. Their unstated mission was to die in large numbers. The reason? To insure that the American public would not again withdraw into isolationism but would stay committed to a major war to defeat a Soviet invasion of Europe. This is geopolitics at the highest level.

In those days, the Democrats were the war party [Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Dean Acheson]. The breakthrough for ongoing U.S. involvement in Europe came with the agreement of the key conservative Republicans like Senator Robert Taft of Ohio. The American and European Left became more and more hysterical about the American military presence in Europe, especially as more lethal weapon systems were deployed, but the mainstream Democratic and Republican leadership never faltered. This massive commitment could only have been sustained in the U.S. through a bipartisan foreign policy. It worked – the Soviets never invaded. But it was way too late to save 64,000,000 people including my family and the families of so many readers of this e-Newsletter.

Another example of high geopolitics is expressed through the actions of one man, Dwight Eisenhower. By the time he became President in 1952, the Soviet empire had nuclear weapons [thanks to the Rosenbergs and Ethel Rosenberg's brother Sgt. Jack Greenberg]. The Korean War was hot and the Cold War [World War III] was hot. But President Eisenhower spent large amounts of his time playing golf at a beautiful golf course. As a callow young left-wing liberal then, I followed the lead of the foremost journals of opinion in mocking him for so much golf. Of course, what he was trying to do was reassure the Soviet leadership. Great political leaders communicate in many different ways. Bill Clinton is the current master communicator at so many levels. In effect, President Eisenhower used his frequent golf games to say to the Soviet leadership: "Hey, guys, I'm not buried in the White House Situation Room fifty feet

below ground, working up some kind of nuclear attack; I'm out here in this beautiful park, in the beautiful sunshine, relaxing. So why don't you just cool it? I won't do anything stupid if you don't. To help ensure that you don't, I keep 500,000 men in Germany. Their presence in Germany enables me to play golf in Washington."

Fast forward to the present: now the West has its hands full with Islamic fascism. How could Islamic terrorism, with its suicide bombers, beheaders, and indiscriminate killers develop so quickly? Off the top of my head here are a few reasons:

- About 1970, a Tel Aviv flight was hijacked to Greece and several people killed. All the dead were only Israelis. The Greeks immediately released the Palestinian hijackers/killers.
- In 1972 the Germans quickly released the surviving Palestinian killers of Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics. Once again, all the victims were only Israelis.
- In the early 1980s President Reagan introduced some discipline and realism on the violent and flaky Ghaddafi regime in Libya. He ordered a squadron of US fighter-bombers to attack Ghaddafi's port of Tripoli. This was the beginning of Libya's return to civilization. No European nation would allow the American planes to over fly or to refuel on their territories.
- In 1985 Leon Klinghoffer, a wheelchair-bound American Jew, was murdered by Palestinian killers on the Italian liner the Achille Lauro. The Italians couldn't wait to release the killers. After all, Klinghoffer was only a Jew. But even the Italians must have noticed that the terrorists were expanding their targets.
- Around 1991 the civil and ethnic wars in the former Yugoslavia took place in Europe's back yard, but high-minded European elites could not get their act together to intervene militarily and had to rely on those dreadful Americans. This in their own back yard!

So in 15 to 20 short years the Islamic fascists quickly got the message that many European countries would tolerate violence and could be easily intimidated. Soon the victims were not just Jews or Israelis. At Lockerbie, in Spain, Pakistan, Turkey and New York Islamic fascists murdered thousands of other people and thousands more are to come. As always, we Jews were 'chosen', chosen to be the canary in the coalmine.

All this is in significant measure thanks to the European appeasers. These are the people who scorn President Bush. You judge politicians partially by their enemies. The world would be a much more dangerous place if these contemptible and decadent European appeasers respected President Bush instead of scorning him.

But even Europe may be awakening. The most left liberal societies, in Denmark and in Holland, are changing the most rapidly as the gruesome reality about the Islamic fascists becomes increasingly difficult to ignore. Conservative parties are gaining strength quickly and much tougher immigration laws are being enacted.

The Talmud says,

***He who begins by being merciful to the cruel,  
ends by being cruel to the merciful.***



## Ivanskers Seeking Ivanskers

Readers can use the e-Newsletter to request help in locating or learning more about "lost" Ivansker relatives and friends. Send relevant information to Norton Taichman.

If you can be of assistance, please contact the seeker directly by e-mail.

**Fred Apel:** [fredapel@usa.net](mailto:fredapel@usa.net)

I do not know the names of the women in this photo and am not sure if they are related to me from my grandfather's (**Apelbaum**) or my grandmother's (**Cresnie**, or a variation thereof) side. The woman (seated) was the sister of my grandfather or grandmother. Her three daughters are standing beside her. The picture was taken in Ivansk in 1936. As far as I know they never emigrated from Ivansk. Can anyone identify these people?



**Hope Melnick (nee Resnick):** [hoppy8500@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hoppy8500@sbcglobal.net)

**Gutwil, Rosencwaig, Weisdorf.**

These are the names of families that remained in Ivansk. Can you provide any information about any of them?

Names of specific individuals include:

**Leibel Gutwil (may have had a twin brother)**

**Gizelle (Weisdorf) Gutwil**

**Nussen Weisdorf and Wigdor Weisdorf (brothers)**

**Marvin Rotman:** [mrotman@optuscapital.com](mailto:mrotman@optuscapital.com)

**Nachamovich** - This is my mother's (Molly Rotman) maiden name (spelt phonetically). She died in Toronto in 1996. Some of her family members (number unknown) remained in Ivansk where they died or were killed in the Holocaust.

**Rotman**- My father, Joseph died in Toronto in 1958. Some family members (number unknown) remained in Ivansk and either died in the shtetl or were killed in the Holocaust.

**Nachamovich, Eva**- moved to Brooklyn, New York in late 20's. Married Ben Kaufman. Had 2 children, Bill and Harriet.

**Nachamovich, Annie**- moved to Brooklyn, New York in late 20's. Also married a Ben Kaufman. Had 2 children, Charlie and Ruth.

**Nachamovich, Fannie**- moved to Brooklyn, New York in the late 20's. Married name was Erlich. Had 3 children, Estelle, Eugene and ???.

**Norton Taichman:** [nstaichman@comcast.net](mailto:nstaichman@comcast.net)

**Tajchman:** this is the spelling of the family surname in Poland.  
The spelling was changed after members immigrated to Canada and the USA.  
Variations include: **Taichman, Teachman, Teichman** and **Tishman**.  
Does anyone have information on family members who stayed behind in Ivansk and were murdered in the Holocaust?  
Some members of the family lived in the New York City area. Can anyone help me locate them?

---

## The Ivansk Project Action Committee

Fred Apel	USA	<a href="mailto:fred.apel@usa.net">fred.apel@usa.net</a>
Sydney Kasten	Israel	<a href="mailto:kostensl@012.net.il">kostensl@012.net.il</a>
David Lederman	Israel	<a href="mailto:dalederman@bezeqint.net">dalederman@bezeqint.net</a>
Gary Lipton	Canada	<a href="mailto:glipton@Indsales.com">glipton@Indsales.com</a>
Grzegorz (Greg) Gregorczyk	Poland	<a href="mailto:g.gregorczyk@coris.com.pl">g.gregorczyk@coris.com.pl</a>
Ellen and Sonny Monheit	Canada	<a href="mailto:sonnell@rogers.com">sonnell@rogers.com</a>
Lisa Newman	Canada	<a href="mailto:lisa.newman.a@utoronto.ca">lisa.newman.a@utoronto.ca</a>
Betty Provizer Starkman	USA	<a href="mailto:bettejoy@aol.com">bettejoy@aol.com</a>
Norton Taichman (Project Co-coordinator)	USA	<a href="mailto:nstaichman@comcast.net">nstaichman@comcast.net</a>
Arthur Zimmerman	Canada	<a href="mailto:arthurz@look.ca">arthurz@look.ca</a>

### e-mail Norton Taichman:

- With comments, questions, suggestions, etc.
- If you are missing earlier editions of the e-Newsletter.
- If you want to add someone to our mailing list.
- If you want to have a 1<sup>st</sup> generation Ivansker receive the e-Newsletter by snail mail
- If you want to post a message in the "Ivanskers Seeking Ivanskers" column
- If you want your name removed from our mailing list.