

# Everyday Life in the Ghetto

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**Dr. Chava Baruch**  
**Seminar for Educators**  
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***for Holocaust Studies, Yad Vashem***

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# What do we know about Ghettos, and what is that we seek to teach about it?

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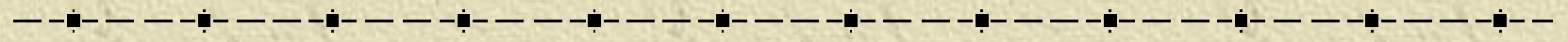
- ◆ Was it an original Nazi invention?
- ◆ What was the main goal of Nazi regime in establishing the Ghettos?
- ◆ What is that we can learn about Everyday life in the ghetto through the photographs?
- ◆ What is the additional information we can find in the testimonies?





GHETO VECCHIO

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- ✧ **The first Ghetto in Europe** -In **1516**, the doges, **Venice's** ruling council, debated whether Jews should be allowed to remain in the city.
  - ✧ The legislation of the Senate required all Jews then living in the city and those who were to come in the future to go and reside on the island known as the *ghetto nuovo* (the new ghetto)
  - ✧ **Nazi policy** :The Ghetto as a temporary territorial solution, after Madagascar,Nisco and Lublin plan ( Reservat for the European Jews)
  - ✧ Different policy in different parts of Europe.
  - ✧ **Pedagogical aims:** Acknowledge the historical information about the Ghettos
  - ✧ Acknowledge the Nazi policy in the Ghettos
  - ✧ Understanding the struggle for life of the Jewish victims.
  - ✧ Analyzing moral dilemmas through written testimonies.
  - ✧ How to use photographs made by Jews and by the Nazis



✦ Which kind of resources can be used?



# Photography and photographers during the Holocaust

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Primary sources:(official papers,documents and diaries) different times and locations.

Goebbels engaged in diverse and broadly conceived propaganda activities, including film making and photography.

Foreign photojournalists during the pre-war years documented many of the Nazi regime's actions,their work was printed in newspapers of democratic countries.

The photographers were motivated by a variety of concerns.

# Who took the pictures?

## Why do we have talk about Photography and photographers during the Holocaust?

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- ✧ German soldiers took unauthorized souvenir snapshots, and many concentration camp commanders created special photo albums for themselves and for their superiors.
  - ✧ SS Police leader **Fritz Katzman in Lvov** reporting on the destruction of the Jews of Galicia( 152 photographs.)
  - ✧ The **Album of Jurgen Stroop** suppressed the Warsaw Ghetto uprising made an album contains 54 photographs during its liquidation.
  - ✧ **Kurt Franz** second command to Stangl, commandant of Treblinka, entitled his album “ The Best Years of my life”
  - ✧ Anti Nazi Austrian soldier **Hubert Pfoch** took illicit photographs of a transport of deportees from Austria to Treblinka.
  - ✧ Allied Soldiers took pictures at the end of the War.
  - ✧ Jewish underground photographers: **Mendel Grossman** and **Henryk Ross** at Lodz ghetto
  - ✧ Citizens, tourists,





# Photographers of Warsaw ghetto



The dreadful social and economic situation of the ghetto, its inhuman conditions, had enabled the Nazis corroborate the distorted image of Jews as they had appeared in Nazi propaganda. The idea was to present them as typical examples of the Jewish people. (Aryanization of Commemoration)

Most of the snapshots from Warsaw ghetto in our possession were made by the German soldiers who served in the Propaganda Companien of the Wehrmacht. In addition to the officially commissioned photographs, they took snapshots for private use. One of these soldiers, **Joe Heydecker**, a German author and journalist served as a simple soldier in the Wehrmacht. Using a Kine Exakta camera he recorded many of the scenes which he saw during the war, including a series of 42 photographs from the Warsaw Ghetto taken between 11/11/1941 and 16/04/1942. He continued to take photographs in spite of the prohibition issued by General Woehler in 1941 against independent photographers. **Heinz Jost** entered the ghetto in his birthday Sept. 19. 1941 and took 129 snapshots... In the interview he gave to Stern Magazin he said: *"In my letters home I didn't describe anything I saw. I didn't want to sadden my family. I thought automatically: What kind of world is that? I didn't say anything to my fellow soldiers either. Even later on, when the ghetto was burning, we didn't pay any attention."*

## Joe Heydecker Behind the Wall.

## February, March 1941

*“The photographs speak for themselves. I can no longer remember many of the details of that adventure. It lasted about two hours. I marched through the streets of the ghetto, a grotesque object, a sort of automaton from another planet, and the crowded street parted before me, shrank away from me, stood aside for me, looked at me, surprised, nervous or amused. Some children and youths, keeping a certain distance followed me. Every now and then I stopped to take a photograph: street scenes, wretched children, a remarkable head, a poverty-stricken face.”*

*“As I was turning to leave, a small, fine-featured who looked exactly like my mother, put her hand on my arm and asked me in good German: Tell me please, soldier, what’s all this about and how long will it go on? I said” Not long” and I knew I was lying. She wept. I went back to the cab, paid the fare, and jumped back over the wall into legality.”*



# Entrance to the Ghetto



Warsaw



Vilnius

ביים נעטאָטויער (רודניצקער ג') לאַזט דורך געסטאָפּאָ די באַזיצער פֿון „געלע“ און „בלויע“









# FACES

Wodlowa 1942

Warsawa



Szedlovic



Kaunus

נולד בלס ישראל (משמאל) בגסר  
קרובה. ג-253/3422

# Leaving everything

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# Easter and Western Europe

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Opole



Amsterdam

# Terezienstadt

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# Isolation

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Lodz



Warszawa

Krakow



# Streets of Warsaw Ghetto

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“Congestion and overcrowding on the sidewalks are truly striking. Pushing and shoving do not provoke any angry response, nor are they followed by a simple “ sorry”. At this time of general affliction , no one has the right to say to his fellow:” Give me some room!” Everyone shares the same fate, every face bears the imprint of the dreadful events which have spread no one. The same expression of soundless sorrow stares out at you from every face”.

**Chaim Kaplan Nov.1940.**

“ Hats off !!! Say what you may, but in my view a people so hung up on such trifles suffers from a serious mental disorder, if not a fit of mad.”

**Chaim Kaplan. January.9.1941.**






# “Special “ Transportation for Jews

The traffic of rickshaws at the Warsaw ghetto's distinctive means of Transport, which the Jews, "internationalist" Jews, who are not ashamed to borrow from all possible places, have taken over from the Japanese and Chinese. The rickshaw is a great help, and not only because no horse driven Carriages and wagons remain since the German confiscated the horses of Jewish wagoneers: this in itself wouldn't be so bad. The Jewish porter can still lug a decent sack of flour on his back. But what's the use of it, if it cannot be done in public, since there are watchful eyes everywhere? But rickshaw changed all that.

The Chinese couldn't even dream about fixing up the rickshaws the Way the Jews have done. Under the seat there is an empty space where several sacks of flour can be squeezed, and the driver on top feigning innocence: I am just taking a ride down the street.

**Peretz Opoczynski.**



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✡ What kind of obstacles the Jewish population had to deal with in the Ghetto?



# Humiliation day by day

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Kielce



Tarnow



Olkusz 31.7.1940



# Social gap

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Far more serious was the condition of those who for one reason or Another did not work and subsisted off sale the personal and family belongings. Their reserves were limited, and their prospect for the future was to be Counted, sooner or later, among the indigent, those in need of welfare aid and essentially doomed to starvation. Most of the refugees who arrived in Warsaw And the impoverished class of day laborers fell into this category from the start.

**Israel Guttman**

**Warsaw Ghetto**





# Family

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“ One of our clients of our kitchen, who saw some lily shoots in the water jar that stood on the table,asked me to “loan” her one shoot. She wanted to show it to her child. Apparently, the boy had never seen a lily in his life, and kept pestering his mother with questions: “ Mama what is a lily?””It’s a kind of flower”.” And what is a flower?”**Rachel Auerbuch. Warsaw.**



# Administration of the Ghetto

✧ **May 1941** – In the morning at the Community. The Judenrat is going to the sole self-governing authority with the Obmann (Chairman) as mayor.

✧ **23 February 1942** – In the morning at the Community. One fellow asks another: what is the news from the front? I have no idea, my apartment is at the back, was the reply.

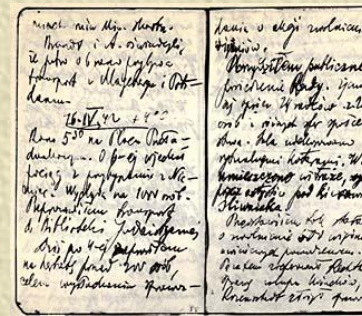
✧ **1 April 1942** – News from Lublin. Ninety per cent of the Jews are to leave Lublin within the next few days. The 16 Council members together with the Chairman Becker were reportedly arrested. Relatives of the other councillors, aside from their wives and children, must also leave Lublin.

✧ **9 April 1942** – In the morning at the Community. Auerswald ordered 160 young German Jews from the quarantine to be taken to Treblinka

✧ **16 April 1942** – The train with the newcomers from Germany arrived at 6am, it seems there are about 1,000 people. I led the transport to the Judaic Library.

✧ We were told that all Jews irrespective of sex and age, with certain exceptions will be deported to the East. By 4pm today a contingent of 6,000 people must be provided. And this at the minimum will be the daily quota.

✧ “They are demanding that I kill the children of my people  
✧ with my own hands.  
✧ There is nothing for me to do but die”.





# Local Population

“ In the evenings a singular spectacle  
could be seen on the corner of Zamenhof  
and Muranowska: hundreds of gentile men  
and women wait in line for the last tram-car  
Their hands full of bags stuffed with clothes made of  
plush, silk, and velvet, expensive underwear and lingerie,  
Shoes, carpets, and blankets. They cast suspicious  
glances, trying to spot approaching Germans, or spying  
eyes. As soon as someone shouts” Here he comes!”  
everybody scatters, scuttling into the nearest house gate.  
When the danger passes, the Jews give them the  
“ all clear” sign, and everybody returns in a flush. Every  
Jew knows what it is like to be prey, and they  
feel duty bound to come to the aid of the gentiles in  
hiding”. **Peretz Opoczynski**



# Hunger

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Hunger...  
La fame...  
Голод...  
Der Hunger...







# Beggars

“ What are the last thoughts of such people, what makes them clench their fists so tautly? Surely their last glance was cast at the window of the store across the street where they have laid themselves down die. In that show window they see white bread, cheese, and even cakes, and they fall into their last sleep dreaming of biting into a loaf of bread. Every day there are more such “dreamers of bread” in the streets of the ghetto” **Mary Berg. Warsaw**





# Snachers





# Warsaw, 2.June.1942

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“ I am not a thief, am a snatcher”. Thus proclaimed sobbingly, a few days ago, a boy from the day boarding house, when he was caught picking a slice of bread from another boy’s pocket. After all, “ snatching” is more respectable then ordinary theft...

Typically the snatchers prey only on edible things.

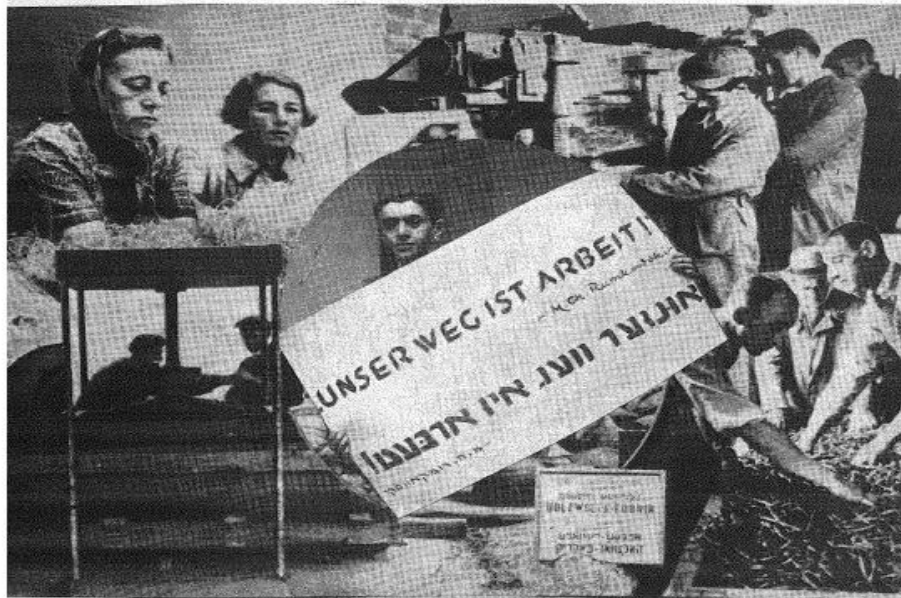
A woman’s purse, sitting comfortably under the arm, is of no interest to them. On one occasion, some urchin snatched a parcel from me which contained a floor cleaning paste. I screamed at him, and told him what was inside. Without thinking twice he threw the bag back to me. Had I not warned him,he would have stuffed himself with the floor cleaning paste”. **Rachel Aurbuch, Warsaw.**





# Working

Olkusz 1942



Warsaw



# Children in the Ghetto

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# Waiting for Deportation



Lodz



W oczekiwaniu na "transport".  
Man wartet auf den "Transport".



Waiting for the "transport".  
On attend le "transport".



מחכים ל"טרנספארט".  
מלך ווארשע איז א "טרנספארט".

# Before Deportation

Lodz



"On" illi: plus de déportation...

Rozeszło się pogłoska, że wyłączenie przetrwało...

Man Bauer: Keine Deportationen mehr...

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הסבר נוסף: שחרור והסבר

היה זה שמועצת העיר של לודז' שחשבה על הפסקת הדיכוי...

Rumors: no more deportation...



# Deportation



נירוש היהודים סבתיהם לגיסו. (יורם ליף)  
ב- 1940 הורדו האנזוסטראות סבתים  
יהודיים

Lodz



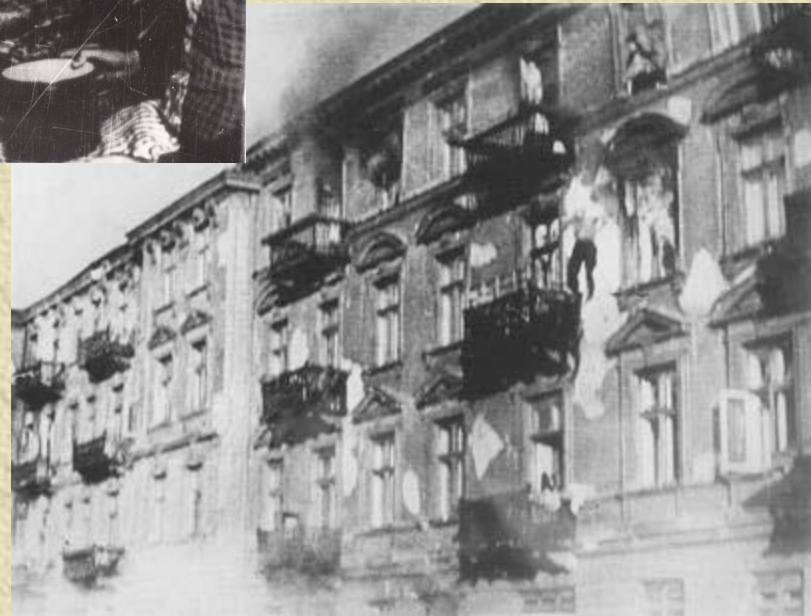
Cracow

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# Uprising of Warsaw Ghetto

“If we lack the ways and means to fight our enemy, at least do not let his servants take over Jewish streets. Jewish youth in particular must realize that by resigning ourselves to this situation we put off our redemption and weaken our resolve to resist and endure” **Jewish Underground Press Warsaw**”






# Death at the Ghetto

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✠ “ It turns out that largest proportion of merchandise traded in Gesiowka comes from the looting corpses strewn along the ghetto streets. Special gangs, who have turned this grim practice into their livelihood, strip the bodies of people who have dropped dead. In the morning all these bodies are completely naked, just covered with paper, usually a posted notice torn of the wall. Every day we hear of cases in which relatives remove the dying person out to the street because they cannot pay for a wagon to take the body away.” **Rachel Auerbach, Warsaw.**



