



70 YEARS KRIMML EXODUS

10 YEARS APC

Israel,
November 2017

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2017 was a very special year for APC as we commemorated the Jewish Exodus over the Austrian Alps near Krimml in 1947 and the founding of APC 10 years ago. We organized 4 major events:

- Vienna, May 17: jointly with Kreisky Forum and ORF III, keynote speeches by former Chancellor Franz Vranitzky and Prof. Anton Pelinka.
- 11th APC in Saalfelden and Krimml, June 23/24: Israeli ambassador Talya Lador-Fresher at the former camp „Givat Avoda“, jointly with 50 survivors and their descendants from Israel, USA, UK and Germany; and State President Alexander Van der Bellen at the Krimml Peace Dialogue and the APC Peace Hike, with a record attendance of 320 participants including survivors and present-day refugees in Austria.
- „Grove of Flight“-installation in the Krimml Valley, Oct 17: inter-religious ceremony to dedicate 7x7 trees, two large natural stones and a peace prism.
- Concluding ceremonies in Israel on November 4 and 14, 2017, jointly with the Austrian Embassy and the Bricha Legacy Association.

This report is to highlight the most important happenings - as experienced by the APC delegation during their stay in Israel from Nov 3-16, 2017 – with reference to APC and the reunion with survivors and Israeli friends.

The APC delegation consisted of Ernst Löschner (chairman), Norbert Wallner (dy. chairman), APC members Donatella Magliani, Evelyn Feichtner-Tiefenbacher, Maria Schild, Hildegard Schreckeis, Heinz and Jürgen Tschannett, Bruno Plankensteiner and APC research assistant Madeleine Kirner. Later on our group was also joined by 104 (!)- year old Marko Feingold and his wife Hanna, as it was very important to Marko to participate in the Bricha-event on Nov 14. (Moti Kas has looked after them amiably.) Here is a photograph of our group, taken at Yad Vashem during our stay in Jerusalem.



Our Israeli main host Gal Talit had arranged a big surprise already for the ELAL flight from Vienna to Tel Aviv: The ELAL pilot Stav Nemirovsky (he had participated as descendent of a survivor in the Givat Avoda Ceremony on June 23 in Saalfelden) arranged that he would take our delegation personally to Israel. Here we see him with his co-pilot David Mandiel following their invitation to Ernst and Waltraud Löschner to join them in the cockpit.



Already on the day of arrival great dinner hospitality was extended to our group by Miri Nehari, Nina Elazar, Dvora Levin and their families. Big thanks again!



Dinner with Neharis: left to right Shlomo Nehari with his daughter, Waltraud Löschner, Miri Nehari, Donatella Magliani, Evelyn Feichtner-Tiefenbacher, Gal Talit.



Reception at the Austrian Embassy following the APC-Ceremony on November 4: David Yogeve, Ernst Löschner, Mair Gefen, Ambassador Martin Weiss, Hanna Weiss, Miri Nehari, Moshe Frumin.

The program of the group was put together by Heinz Tschannett, jointly with Gal Talit and Guy Shachar. Giora Sarid and (at times) also Guy Shachar were our guides.

Nov 4: on this day 22 years ago Itzhak Rabin was killed.

It was very important to our group to pay tribute to this great man by visiting the memorial site of his assassination.



The festive APC event in the evening ([Program](#)) was jointly organized with Austrian ambassador Martin Weiss. Here is the [link to the slides which Ernst Löschner has presented](#) and also to the film by Guy Shachar („The APC Story“).

Following the presentation ambassador Weiss has kindly hosted a reception at the Austrian Embassy for some 100 of our Israeli friends.



Susanne Glass and her colleague, Alexandra Förderl-Schmid, Ernst Löschner, Zwi Nigal (Israel British Brigade), Waltraud Löschner

The ORF correspondent Ben Segenreich, the journalist Alexandra Förderl-Schmid from the „Süddeutsche Zeitung“ and Susanne Glass from ARD were also present. APC had suggested to ARD to produce a documentary film about the Jewish Krimml Exodus with interviews of Givat Avoda survivors known to APC; the film by Susanne was shown repeatedly on TV in Germany just before our visit to Israel, and a trailer of her film was already shown at the 11th APC in Krimml, featuring Yaffa Levy, Jacov Shwartz and Moshe Frumin.

Nov 5: Visit to the „Habriha-Trail“ in the Carmel Forest: Our delegation was the first to be guided through the trail by Miri Nehari, prior to the official opening which took place later in November.



Nov 5: At the outdoor museum Atlit: Murray Salomon Greenfield gave a vivid account of his personal involvement in the organization and restoration of vessels which had brought survivors from Europe to Palestine (actually to Cyprus because of the British blockade) after WWII.



Murray Greenfield, Jürgen Tschannett



One of the Briha rescue vessels

Nov 14: Prior to the ceremony of the Bricha Heritage Association „On the way to Eretz Israel“, Nina Elazar gave a fascinating presentation of the Israel Intelligence Heritage & Commemoration Center, highlighting the biographies of many who had given their lives in service to their country. Subsequently, we could meet many of the Givat Avoda survivors who had participated at various APC Peace Hikes with their families. It was a wonderful reunion which Gal Talit had kindly arranged.



Nina Elazar, Heinz Tschannett, Bruno Plankensteiner, Moti Kas, Norbert Wallner and Evelyn Feichtner-Tiefenbacher

Nov 14: There were more than 300 survivors and their descendents from various Bricha escape routes who were present during the Ceremony. It was therefore a special honor for APC that Ernst Löschner could present the „[APC Memorial Sites](#)“ and also the ORF TV-broadcast from the June 23 ceremony at Givat Avoda. Time did not permit also the showing of the new video by Guy Shachar which he produced at the „[Grove of Flight](#)“ inauguration on Oct 17; it is therefore included now in this report.



(Both presentations can also be found under <http://alpinepeacecrossing.org/en/>)



Circle: Marko and Hanna Feingold, Yoel Sher, Martin Weiss, Ernst Löschner, Pesach Shachar

The former Israeli ambassador Yoel Sher recalled the Symposium in Salzburg in 1997, which had taken place 50 years after the 1947 Krimml Crossing, and of lasting impression to us was also the Hebrew music at the end of the Ceremony with Leah Litani as singer and her husband as pianist and with his clarinet.

The 90 year old Zwi Katz read to us his German translation of the haunting Hebrew „Alpine Crossing Song“. Zwi had been at the camp Givat Avoda in 1947 and had to follow a particularly treacherous route from the Krimml lodge via the Plauener mountain hut to cross the Alps over the „Heiliggeist-Jöchl“ in order to reach Italy.



Alexandra Förderl-Schmid interviewing Marko Feingold for the Süddeutsche Zeitung

Not included in this report is a full documentation of the sites which were visited by our group in Israel, as it is of little general interest. But we would like to share some highlights with a special bearing on the historical evolution to the State of Israel.

These include...

- Our visit to the Kibbutz....in the North where our friend Nir Yehudai grew up. He was the one who had organized the second APC student exchange in 2014 between high schools in Austria and Israel and was now our guide to explain the successful evolution of „his“ kibbutz.



- The more recent, gripping war history at the Golan Heights.



- The hike up the Masada Mountain to the vast fortress of King Herod.



- The plain but very serene and beautiful grave site of Ben Gurion in the Negev Desert.



Negev Desert

- Our visit to the Knesset in Jerusalem where we could experience a heated debate between advocates and opponents of the Government's settlement policy in the West Bank.



Ernst and Waltraud Löschner, Maria Schild, Bruno Plankensteiner, Madeleine Kirner, Hanna Feingold, Evelyn Feichtner-Tiefenbacher, Donatella Magliani visiting the Knesset.

- The guided tour through Yad Vashem with Jana Marcus whose family-ties include Prague and Vienna.



A „must“ for our delegation was of course the Austrian Hospice in Jerusalem. Here is the view from the top over to the Temple Mount

