

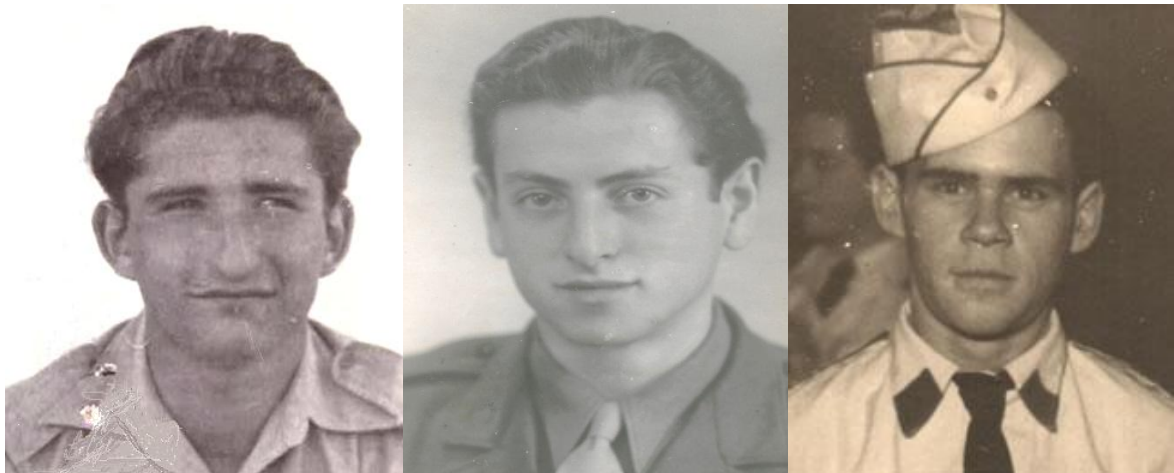


Embassy of the Czech Republic  
in Tel Aviv

## INVITATION

# Jewish Holocaust survivors from the prewar first Czechoslovak Republic

lecture and discussion with Lea Dror-Batalion and Andriy Drach



EMBASSY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Thursday July 27, 2017 at 18:00

Zeitlin Street 23, Tel Aviv

Entrance free

**Bucerius  
Institute**  
for Research of Contemporary German  
History and Society



**ZEIT-Stiftung**  
Ebelin und Gerd  
Bucerius

  
אוניברסיטת חיפה  
University of Haifa  
جامعة حيفا

**Jewish societies in the first Czechoslovak Republic and the Shoah aftermath: Lecture by Andriy Drach:**



*Andriy Drach: From October 2015, he is a student at the University of Potsdam, Germany, in the MA Program Eastern European Cultural Studies. 2015/2016 he received a scholarship for a joint program of the University of Potsdam and the University of Haifa, Israel, in the program of Jewish and Israel Studies. From the summer 2016 he received an Internship at the University of Haifa in the project of the Jewish Vocational School Masada 1947 – 48 in Darmstadt under the supervision of M.Sc. Lea Dror-Batalion.*

New political challenges arose for the Jewish national movement when Subcarpathian Ruthenia with its characteristic “Eastern-type” Jewish communities became a part of the first Czechoslovak Republic. The differences in lifestyles and needs of the Jewish population in Eastern Slovakia and Subcarpathian Ruthenia, on one hand, and Czech lands, on the other hand, were significant. Interestingly, the Western type, secularly orientated Zionism couldn’t guarantee its political success in the first republic without Jewish communities based on traditional social way of life in Eastern Slovakia and Subcarpathian Ruthenia.

**Jewish Holocaust survivors from the prewar Czechoslovak Republic at the Masada School: Lecture by Lea Dror-Batalion:**



*Lea Dror-Batalion, M.Sc.: From 2000 she was the managing director of the Bucerius Institute for Research of Contemporary German History and Society at the University of Haifa. Her own research focused on the DP Camps and post-Holocaust education, including the activities of the Jewish Vocational School in Darmstadt (1947-48). In conducting this research, she interviewed the school’s remaining Holocaust-surviving students and teachers, and based on her findings, created an exhibition which now travels in Israel and Germany.*

The Masada School was a Jewish Vocational School established in Darmstadt in September 1947. The purpose of the school was to rehabilitate young holocaust survivors who had been in concentration camps, with partisans in the woods or in constant flight. The founder of the school Samuel Milek Batalion, having survived the Holocaust inside the Soviet Union, began in 1945 working in several DP Camps in American-occupied Germany, wanted to give these boys new hope for a future life and the so needed education for a profession. The lecture's main focus will be on the three students originating from the prewar Czechoslovak Republic: Benjamin Eichler, Jenö (Jakov) Hershkovitz and Josef Grünfeld each having his own captivating story. One fell as a soldier during the War of Independence and the other lived a happy life in Israel, whereas the third one surviving the horrors of Auschwitz and Mauthausen-Gusen, established a family and then mysteriously disappeared.

**The lectures (30 min each) will be accompanied by fascinating photos and documents which were puzzled together in the past years to fill the biographies with faces and facts.**