



*“Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song!” Psalm 95:2
Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting!”*

1. Chronicles 16:36

1. Guests and young students—Chanukkah celebration
2. Josef Aron and police officer Shai N.
3. Officers Alex + Raphael in conversation with Pavel and Arie
4. Debi, young student from Brazil
Maya
5. Julia with Abby

CHANUKKAH—CELEBRATION

On Chanukkah we had a full house. The survivors had guests! A group of young Jewish overseas students joined us and blessed the elderly with their songs. Debi, a young woman who had been at Ner Yaakov before with the Brazilian youth last summer, had brought her friends along. The elderly loved it. Sima was entertaining us with many songs in ‚Yiddish‘! In the other group of visitors were several of the police officers. It was a blessing to see how they all—the survivors, the officers, the young students and ourselves together—lit the Chanukkah candles, in memory of the miracle God has done in the times of the Maccabeans and said the traditional blessings. We have known some of the police officers now for some time, and we all have not one doubt, but that they truly want to help and protect these elderly people. But the most wonderful thing is, how they honor the survivors. Officer Shai N., himself a grandson of Holocaust victims, shared with us. He emphasised what a beautiful, wonderful country they all have, and how they—the survivors—had prepared the way for them (the younger generation in Israel today) and how they have showed them the way....! Julia said: „Inge, I was very touched by his words!“ And so were we!

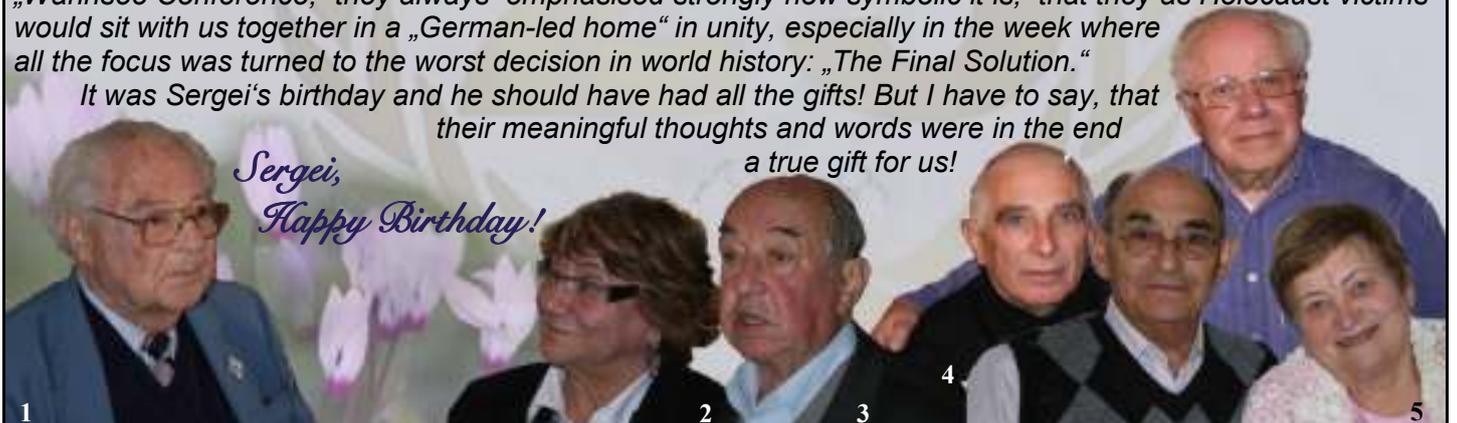
SURPRISE-PARTY FOR SERGEI SUSHON

Gitta Koifman, the leader of the Holocaust Association had called me and asked if we could arrange together a ‚surprise party‘ for Sergei’s 84th birthday. Of course, it was an honor for us and also a joy, as we remembered a birthday party for Sergei two years ago, when he stayed with us for two months after his open-heart surgery. Then he was weak and fragile, but what a joy to see how God had prolonged the days of his life. Gitta invited some of his friends, and even though Sergei is a very smart man, I believe that he did not know about the party, expecting to meet ‚other‘ guests. Even as we drove him to the house, he continued to ask us, which kind of program we had for the afternoon with these guests? When he met them, his guests, he was blessed! Even if it was just to be a simple party, it became a meaningful afternoon. They had very serious conversation, mostly of course in Russian. The funny thing was, they always said: „Inge, listen!“ „Well,“ I said, „I do not understand!“ Then they all turned quickly to me and said laughing: „Listen anyway!“

The main things they translated. As Gitta and Sergei had prepared to fly to Germany the same week to the „Wannsee Conference,“ they always emphasised strongly how symbolic it is, that they as Holocaust victims would sit with us together in a „German-led home“ in unity, especially in the week where all the focus was turned to the worst decision in world history: „The Final Solution.“

It was Sergei’s birthday and he should have had all the gifts! But I have to say, that their meaningful thoughts and words were in the end a true gift for us!

*Sergei,
Happy Birthday!*



1.Sergei 2.Gitta Koifman 3.David Taubkin 4.Guests: Boris and Nachum 5. Michael and Antonia