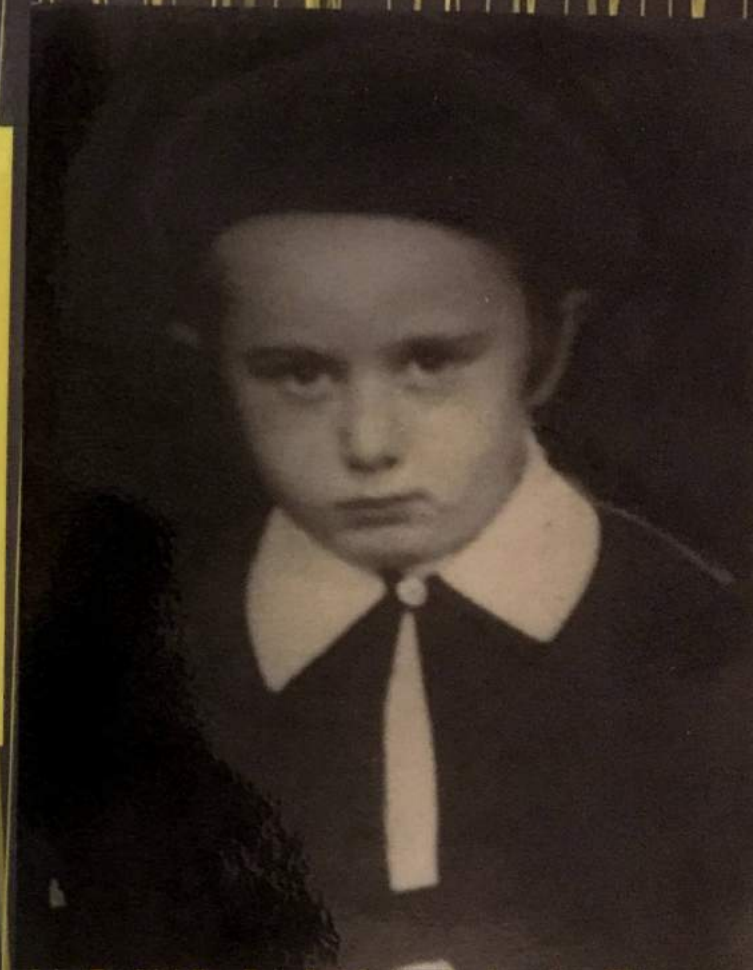


**Joshua's Bar Mitzvah  
Twinning Programme  
with Michael Rubner  
1932-1944**

Bar Mitzvah 30/31<sup>st</sup> March 2019



## My Twinning Programme

I wished to share my Bar Mitzvah with a boy who perished in the holocaust and who was unable to have a Bar Mitzvah himself. Yad Vashem twinned me with Michael Rubner. Michael was my grandpa's (Leslie/Hershey) first cousin. I am going to tell you a bit about him and his family's story. This is not only my Bar Mitzvah, but also Michael's because he was murdered by the Nazis at the age of 12 and so did not have his own Bar Mitzvah. I am also privileged to be the Guardian of his Memory and will light a candle for him every year on Holocaust Memorial Day.

Michael Rubner



## Michael Rubner

Michael Rubner was born in Berlin, Germany in November of 1932 to Yaakov Shie and Malka. Prior to WWII he lived in Vac, Hungary. During the war he was in Vac, Hungary. He lived in Vac for the majority of his life until he was deported to the Auschwitz concentration camp where he was killed, in 1944.

Malka Rubner  
(Michael's mother)



## Malka Rubner

Malka Rubner, Michael's mother, was born in Tolna, Hungary on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 1902 to Mendel and Rachel. She also spent most of her time in Vac, including when she got married to Yaakov Shie. She too, got deported in 1944, but to Belsen concentration camp in Germany. She was killed the same year.

Yaakov Shie Rubner  
(Michael's father)



## Yaakov Shie Rubner

Yaakov Shie was Michael's father and my grandpa's uncle. He was caught in London, whilst on business, at the outbreak of WWII and therefore survived the holocaust. He tried time and again to get a visa for his wife and children to leave Hungary but was refused each time. By the time he received the visas Hungary would not allow any Jews out. His whole family perished in the holocaust.



**Jzak Moshe Rubner**  
**(Michael's brother)**



## Jzak Moshe Rubner

Jzak Moshe Rubner was born on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August 1925 to Malka and Yaakov Shie in Vac. He also spent most of his time in Vac. In 1945 at the age of 19 he died of typhus. It is unknown where he died.

**Bluma Rubner**  
**(Michael's sister)**



## Bluma Rubner

Bluma Rubner was born on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 1924 in Vac to Malka and Yaakov Shie. She lived in Vac for all of her life until in 1945 she was deported with her mother to Belsen concentration camp. She was killed the same year at the age of 21.

Cwi Hirs (Hashi) Rubner  
(Michael's brother)



## Cwi Hirs ( Hashi)

Cwi Hirs Rubner was born in Vac, Hungary in June 1927 to Yaakov and Malka Rubner. he lived in Vac, Hungary. During the war he was in Vac. He was sent to Mühldorf camp in 1944 and a year later he was killed. He was killed at the age of 18. Cwi was my grandpa's playmate and cousin and he fondly knew Cwi as Hashi.

## Letters from the family

- In the next few pages are copies of letters to their father when Yaakov Shie was stuck in London and the rest of his family were stuck in Hungary. The letters are in a mix of Hungarian and Yiddish and the Hungarian has been translated. We assume that Blimscu is Bluma and Moishe is Jzak Moshe. Shuli was Yakov Shie's brother.
- The postcard was written by Jzak Moshe who's nickname seems to be Miksa. In the bottom left hand corner of side B of the postcard there are a few words from Cwi Hirs (Hashi) and in the bottom right hand corner is the name 'Michael' who is Michael. He was probably too young to write more than his name.

LETTER 1

14.4.1940

Vác,

Written by a little child

Dear Daddy,

We received your letter and were very happy to get it. Kisses, Holele.

Written by Blimcsu, 16 years old, Lipa's half sister (would be now 95 years old).

Dear Daddy,

This Holele made this letter very dirty as he constantly tried to erase with his fingers what he (she?) wrote. He (she?) wrote very little because the poor guy was already very sleepy.

There is not much news in the family except that...(illegible) got engaged to a girl from Szerdahely. On Friday we received a postcard from Aunt Ella in which she writes about the telegram case (?).

At the moment Mommy is not at home, she went to see the Buchingers with whom she is on very good terms, they meet every day.

There is not much to write about ourselves because our days are passing, in fact running, without any significant events. It seems to me that time is running very fast, before I turn around it is already evening (you should not think that I am still so lazy, just a little bit). The weeks, the months, and the years are flying and suddenly I see that I am no longer a little girl. Since I will be soon 16 years old, the girls (Gizi and Ceri) are...(illegible) me by saying: "soon your father will marry you off". Daddy, please tell them that they should leave your little girl alone.

I already bothered you enough with my stupid writing, I wish you a Kosher Pesach with lots of kisses, Blimcsu.

P.S. I hope you received the Matzot



LETTER 2 ( this letter is actually the continuation of the first letter. After the writings of Holele and Blimcsu uncle Shie's wife, Mancı (Malka?) joins and writes a long letter.)

My dear little "Daddy",

Before I am writing to you, I had the others write so that after completing my letter I will be able to go immediately to the post office. We got a letter from you on Shabbos which you wrote on March 7 and which we were very happy to receive. On Friday I sent a letter to Ella by registered mail to make sure she will receive it. She complained that she does not get any letters from me, although I have been writing to her regularly. Immediately after I sent the letter, I received a postcard from her indicating that they only wanted to help with the telegram. It is true that I sent a message by Fradi but I did not mean that Ella should send a telegram, only that she should let you know, but it seems that they saw things as more serious than you did.....illegible...I also thought it was serious. The 35 still did not arrive and I do not understand it at all. Each week, a number of times, I go to make inquiries but even they do not understand what is going on. They even complained but got no response. The long letter you said you would send has not yet arrived. Please write if you received the Matzot... and how is my case progressing. I no longer believe anything any more. I lost interest in everything. I have not even started cleaning for Pesach..... illegible.....

Shuli sent me 20 P (Pengő? - Hungarian currency in those days). I do not know how he imagines that we can start making Pesach with (this amount). I am quite certain that he himself will also need more but he sits near the fire and therefore he is warm. Only the Matzot will cost more and I am buying only 10 Kg..... illegible ... reduced to 1 P per evening but even this I am not paying.

The fees for the Talmud Tora (Hebrew School) I owe for 2 months. Until now I was supposed to pay 18 P per month but I understand the tuition fee will increase to 27 P, but I told the .... illegible...they should not.....illegible. A goose (meat for Pesach) costs not less than 20 P. But no problem, I know that G-d will not let us down. My dear Daddy, as I see it now, we will not have milk for Pesach because what is available will not be reliably kosher for Pesach. It is kosher but not for Pesach..... now went to look for milk. He ha been going around in the past few days trying to find milk for Pesach. Hopefully he will find somewhere because we will miss milk very much, especially Moishe. He really needs milk. Every evening he eats eggs, he already prepares them by himself. I told him that even if I am not at home and if we have eggs at home, he should not even ask, just eat. I very often cook so that he will have also in the afternoon to take with him. He is very thin, although he eats regularly. Every week his trousers become shorter and shorter. The new suit I bought for him in the autumn is so grey as the overcoat. Neither light nor black. Your tropical suit having good colours and quality materials was already used last year to make him a suit for Pesach. He gave me his trousers to iron but it became too small for him.

Now, while I am writing, the postman came to give me a letter from you with a check. Again, who knows when I will get it (from the bank?). I am thinking whether I should take the check to Pest (Budapest) but I have doubts it will be faster there. Here at least I am more certain as to what I will be getting into my hand.

Shuli told me that recently he wrote you a letter but did not send it yet because he wants to write to you quite a lot. He does not have time. That is what he says. Whatever you write to his bank send it to me too please. How many times did you write there (to the bank)? Last week he (Shuli) told me that he was told by the person in the bank that he received a letter from you in

which you said not nice things about Shuli. But this person is a crooked bachelor. I know him, he is a boisterous nobody. A show-off nobody. I told Shuli to ask to see the letter so that he can read it. I do not believe that was written in the letter. I also talked to the person and he mentioned nothing of the sort. The fact is that I am not even interested in this.

Ah, my dear "Daddy", I would never have thought that even this year we would not be together for Pesach, but hopefully, G-d willing, soon we will be together again. Write to me about what you read. Shall I send you reading materials? For the time being I am not sending the Gemara. You do not even mention if you received the clothes. If you received them wear them with health...illegible. I bought myself a pair of shoes, nice and brown. I also bought brown boots for Holele, she needed them very much. I did not have any other shoes except for the black boots that we had made for me then..... the others are also in need for shoes but will have to wait.

My Dear, I wish you all the best. Take care of yourself, don't eat too much.

Write to me what you eat, I am interested to hear.....

Lots of kisses

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אלו הם סודותיהם!

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Melvez Apuka! <sup>1848</sup>  
megkaptuk a házunk  
levelet és nagyon örültünk  
a levélnek. Erővel Kóka. <sup>1848</sup>

Melvez Apuka!

1848 II. 14.

A Kóka össepidekített a hónapja ut a levelet, t. i.  
folyton radinosott az ujjával, azért azt ilyen ke-  
veset, mert már megintke nagyon álmos.

Ugyan nincs sok a családban, csak egy, hogy  
~~éppen azon házban, amelyiknél a Kóka~~  
vott az eljegyzés, egy székelyi lánygal.

Pénteken kaptunk az élel nimitől egy lapot  
amelyben írja, hogy a tavaszi esetet.

Ugyenleg az élel nimitől és itt a Buching-  
itnél van, nagyon jóba van velük, minden-  
nap együtt vannak.

Aholunk nem sokat tudok írni, mert a  
napjaink az állandó egyformasághoz  
múlnak, soha nem. De én így tűnik,  
hogy az idő nagyon gyorsan múlik,  
alig kerülök- fordulok már este van (de



*jewis language*  
Am to fill

LEVELI



10. 10. 1906. Budapest, Hungary

Mr.  
Rüblner József

London E. 9.  
16 Sharon Gardens

Feladó: Rüblner Miksa  
Vác piarista u 6. sz.







“ונתתי להם בביתי ובחומותי יד ושם... אשר לא יכרת” (ישעיה נז ה)  
*‘And I shall give them in My house and within My walls  
 a memorial and a name (a “Yad Vashem”)... that shall not be cut off’ (Isaiah, 56:5)*

*This Certificate is bestowed upon  
**Joshua Kastner**  
 in recognition of the fact that  
 on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah  
 he has undertaken to adopt the  
 memory of  
**Michael Rubner**  
 A young boy who perished in the  
 Holocaust before reaching the age  
 of 13.*

13

YAD VASHEM  
 The Holocaust Remembrance and Historical Research Institute  
 Hall of Names

יד ושם  
 מרכז השרותים לזכרון השואה  
 דף עדות

Page of Testimony

דף עדות

הדף הזה מיועד להערכת המעשה הטוב של הילד או הנער, ברגע שיש לו חגיגת בר מצוה או חגיגת יום הולדת. יש להמיר את כל המידע הרלוונטי על ידי מילוי הטופס. יש להחזיר את הטופס למרכז השרותים לזכרון השואה, יד ושם, תל אביב 6109901.

Page of Testimony for commemoration of the Jews who perished during the Holocaust. About 10 to 15 copies should be made for each child. It should be returned to the Yad Vashem Service Center, P.O. Box 6109901, Tel Aviv 6109901.

שם המצויץ: Joshua Kastner  
 שם המשפחה: Rubner  
 כתובת: ...  
 תאריך: ...  
 חתום על ידי: ...

Thank you for reading my research. I hope you found it interesting! I would like to thank the following people who have helped me with my research:

Yad Vashem for the information and organising my twinning.

Lipe (Yaakov Shie's son from his second marriage after the war) for finding and collecting up the letters for me.

Uncle David for translating the Hungarian parts of the letters.

Saba for explaining the history and backstory of the family.