



Association Newsletter

Dear friends and Logotherapy Community,

It is with great honor and humility that I write to you as the new Chairperson of the Board of the Logotherapy association in Israel. Like many of us, my journey to arrive at this point in time was miraculously guided. Although at each turning point, I had no idea what would unfold next, in retrospect, I can see the deep perfection in every step.



In 2012, I participated in a 5-day Bearing Witness meditation in Auschwitz with an international group. The night before I departed for the retreat, a good friend gifted me Viktor Frankl's *Man's Search for Meaning*. That book changed my life.

During the retreat, each morning, the group sat in meditation on the train tracks at Birkenau and read the Kaddish for the souls who were brutally murdered there. We visited each bunker and participated in many rituals honoring the souls. One day in the women's bunker, I felt this deep sense of love. When I closed my eyes, flashes of infinite acts of kindness passed before me. I saw the many ways that the women helped each other survive. A kind word of encouragement. A weary smile. A shared crumb of bread. Huddling together to keep warm. Somehow in this darkness, I witnessed infinite goodness and light.

"We who lived in concentration camps can remember the men who walked through the huts comforting others, giving away their last piece of bread. They may have been few in number, but they offer sufficient proof that everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms -- to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way."

– Viktor E. Frankl, Man's Search for Meaning

After that trip to Poland, I only wanted to travel to Israel. I knew that in Israel I would find a group of Logotherapists committed to living the ideals that Viktor Frankl shared. I knew I would find this group, but with my limited Hebrew, I did not know how.

"Those who have a 'why' to live, can bear with almost any 'how'."

– Nietzsche, in Viktor E. Frankl, Man's Search for Meaning

One week, my husband and I went to a convention and I met a lovely woman with whom I began a dialogue. One conversation led to another and I found out she was a Logotherapist! My heart sank to the floor and I exclaimed: "I have been looking for you!" This radiant woman was our very own Dida Kimor. It was a magical experience for both of us as we fully embraced the Meaning of the Moment.

This paved the way to my formal Logotherapy training.



Association Newsletter

I continue to be in awe of the infinite gateways that lead us to the greatest expression of our souls and grateful to Viktor Frankl for reminding us that our souls are our guideposts throughout this journey of Life.

The holiday of Shavuot falls exactly seven weeks from the second day of Pesach. We find a reference to this in the Torah, in the book of Vayikra 23:16. 'And you shall count from the day after the Shabbat from the brining of the wave offering seven full weeks it shall be.' Therefore, the holiday of Shavuot draws its essence from the holiday of Pesach, because at Pesach God redeemed the Jewish people physically from their bondage in Egypt, but He completed the redemption process as a spiritual redemption only on Shavuot. On this day, at Sinai, God gave the Torah to the Jewish people with the intention of keeping the moral-societal higher ethical codes. Thus, the holiday of Shavuot is also called the holiday of the giving of the Torah.

In Frankl's teaching the moral-ethical code takes a central place. The concept of conscience is defined by him as the meaning organ: by listening to our conscience, we reveal what Frankl refers to as: 'meaning of the moment' – the expression of 'ultimate meaning' at any given moment. The identification of the call of life at every moment demands from us that we sharpen of our ability to listen and refine our conscience. Attending to the 'logos', the moral guiding principle of the universe according to logotherapy, needs in Viktor Frankl's opinion, to be the goal of education today.

I am honored to have the opportunity to work with each of you in sharing Viktor Frankl's teachings to our wider communities. I would like to thank Gideon and Yehudit as the founders of the association for their dedication, leadership and vision throughout the years. I would also like to thank Dr. Pninit Russo-Netzer- the outgoing chair, for her contribution to the association over the last years. We are fortunate to have a capable and committed Board, willing to guide us in this association's mission and goals - Dr. Dida Kimor, Avraham Friedman, and Rivka Leiner, accompanied by Adv. Michal Issaschar, responsible for our site, together with Zvia Tourkenitz and Dr. Batya Yaniger- our audit Committee. Thanks also to Izhak Levi for his important work.

I am grateful to be a part of our talented team and to contribute in every way that I am able. But we cannot move forward unless more members or friends of the association join forces to make a positive and enthusiastic contribution to the association in Israel. I invite anyone who has creative ideas to step forward and participate. **I know that together we can achieve anything!**

"Love is the only way to grasp another human being in the innermost core of his personality. No one can become fully aware of the very essence of another human being unless he loves him. By his love he is enabled to see the essential traits and features in the beloved person; and even more, he sees that which is potential in him, which is not yet actualized but yet ought to be actualized. Furthermore, by his love, the loving person enables the beloved person to actualize these potentialities.



Association Newsletter

By making him aware of what he can be and of what he should become, he makes these potentialities come true."

– Viktor E. Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning*

I hope that our collective reverence for Viktor Frankl, for his work, and for the resilience of the human spirit will lead us in inspiring others to love beyond all limitations. May the work that we do pierce through the barriers and conditions of each person and touch the very essence of their souls. We, the torchbearers for Frankl's work, have been blessed with the responsibility to spread the light of this work throughout this miraculous and holy Land of Israel.

Thanks to Avraham Friedman and Dr. Batya Yaniger for their assistance with the translation. Thanks to Dr. Dida Kimor for her assistance in editing. Thanks to Dr. Kimor also for the lion's share of the summary of the annual meeting, published in the last newsletter.

How do YOU envision OUR community contributing to the community at large? **Please take a few moments to complete the survey below.** We would love to hear your input.

[Press Here](#)

I look forward to meeting each of you and to utilize our collective consciousness for the greatest good.

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www.Logotherapy.org.il

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Let's move the association forward!
Join us as members!

Info@logotherapy.org.il

The association wishes for all of us a happy holiday, filled with unconditional love, self-transcendence, spiritual redemption and fulfillment of meaning.

In the Spirit of Logotherapy as a therapy of love,

Elina Shcop

Chair of the Association of Logotherapy in Israel

In name of the association board