

Meet the Holocaust Survivor Who Wants to Create a New Jewish Holiday

by Geoffrey Clarfield



She sits as erect as an English school head mistress. She can be just as articulate, as English is her third language and she's conscious and careful of every word and sentence that she utters.

Yet when she speaks, she sounds like that glamorous celebrity of years past, the Hungarian Jewish actress Zsa Zsa Gabor, who came to America and conquered Hollywood. But what makes Goldi Steiner, Hungarian immigrant, and long-term Canadian citizen, different from Gabor is her mission.

"I want to create a new Jewish holiday," she says as she makes me a cup of coffee and plies me with the kind of pastries that one would expect at a Viennese patisserie in Budapest. "What?" I ask her in total surprise, "Are there not enough Jewish

holidays? Why do we need a new one?"

"Well," she said, "Let me clarify what I mean. I want to create another Israeli national holiday that once endorsed by the Knesset [the Israeli parliament], will then be celebrated globally. That means, of course, also in the diaspora!"

I realized that this was going to take some time, so I sipped my coffee, dug into my pastry, and said, "Convince me."

Goldi then began. "It all started on a train to [Desperate Mission](#)" by Joel Brand.

"I had been raised in an Orthodox Jewish family of Chassidim, a community who was part of the founding group of what later became the anti-Zionist Neturei Karta. But after the war in Hungary, after our return to my hometown and with the founding of the State of [Holocaust](#) and Holocaust education projects. Married to my second husband, the artist Ernest Raab, I was the catalyst in building the Yad Vashem Memorial erected in the Earl Bales Park, and later the monument to my role model Raoul Wallenberg.

"In Canada I supported Israel in any way I could. Then 12 years ago something changed. I met Salomon Benzimra."

Before I describe Benzimra, what he did, and why it's important, let me quote what Israeli Knesset member Naftali Bennett thought about him and wrote about their meeting days before his death:

"I had the honor of meeting Mr. Benzimra in Jerusalem, only a few days before his sudden passing. His dedication to Israel and the Jewish People were remarkable. This book uses facts to debunk myths, showing how the State [of] Israel, the Jewish nation-state, is an integral part of international law."

Benzimra's book is called "[Jewish Virtual Library](#), the San Remo Conference,

“attended by Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan—with the United States as a neutral observer, was held in San Remo, Italy, in April 1920. The conference was a continuation of a previous meetings between these Allied powers that had been held in London in February 1920, where it was decided, among other things, to put Palestine under British Mandatory rule. At San Remo, the Allies confirmed the pledge contained in the Balfour Declaration concerning the establishment of a Jewish national home in Palestine.”

These deliberations became part and parcel of the legal baggage of the League of Nations. And so, when independent Arab states such as Iraq and Egypt joined the League of Nations before World War II, they were actually legally bound to recognize the Jewish people’s sovereign right to the land of Israel. They didn’t, and by declaring war on the Jewish state in 1948, they actually violated their own legal obligations to Jewish sovereignty as members of the League of Nations and later the U.N.

Benzimra had that Cartesian exactness of someone trained in the French intellectual tradition. He used it to pursue his educational goal—to write a clear, short, and simple book that explained to anyone interested the history of Israel’s legal rights to the land of Israel. His book is well worth the read and, it’s short.

With Goldi he established [*Epoch Times*](#).