
GLOSSARY OF TERMS

B'nai Brith: International secular Jewish organization, founded in 1843 in New York. It is non- denominational, focusing a humanistic Judaism on its activities aiding oppressed Jewry and fighting antisemitism through the Anti-Defamation League (ADL).

CJC: Canadian Jewish Congress. This umbrella organization represents the secular organized Canadian Jewish community to government and the public.

Chazzan/im: Hebrew term for synagogue cantor/s.

CJA: Combined Jewish Appeal. Community organization which raised funds to support American Jewry and the State of Israel.

The Deputy: Rolf Hochhuth's play, *The Deputy* (1964), accused Pope Pius XII of inaction, if not complicity, in the murder of European Jewry.

DP: Displaced Person. Jews and others displaced from their homes during WWII. Temporary DP Camps were set up under Allied supervision in Germany, Austria and Italy. The last camp, Fohrenwald, was closed in 1957.

Gehenna: Hebrew for 'hell.'

Hadassah-Wizo: The Women's Zionist Organization of America is, according to its constitution, "a voluntary, non-profit organization dedicated to the ideals of Judaism, Zionism, American democracy, healing, teaching and medical research."

Haggadah: Passover liturgy of the Exodus.

Hassidim: A mystical sect of Judaism established in the mid-18th century by the Ba'al Shem Tov, a charismatic religious leader who rejected the strict legal formalism of traditional Jewish practice, advocating spiritualism and joyous worship.

HIAS: Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society. Founded in the United States in 1902 to assist in the resettlement of Jewish immigrants.

Histradrut: This movement, founded in Israel in 1920, is the largest Jewish Labour organization in the world. It is involved in trade union, educational and cultural activities.

IRO: International Refugee Organization. United Nations agency which was responsible for the identification, registration, classification, care, legal protection, repatriation and resettlement of refugees and displaced people.

JCRC: The Joint Community Relations Committee (originally named the Joint Public Relations Committee [JPRC]) of Canadian Jewish Congress was formed in 1947 to set policy and respond to incidents that dealt with the interests of the Jewish community, such as antisemitism. It included an equal number of members from Congress and B'nai Brith Canada and had a national committee and a regional one in Ontario. Divisions between the two organizations led to the pull-out of the B'nai Brith contingent in 1980. In the mid 1990s, the committee was renamed the Community Relations Committee (CRC).

JDC: American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. Also known as the 'Joint', it was founded in 1914 to provide relief and rehabilitation for Jews overseas. Food, clothes and money were supplied to European Jews during and after the war, including funds which supported Raoul Wallenberg and Carl Lutz in their attempts to rescue Hungarian Jewry.

JFCS: Jewish Family and Child Service. The Jewish Social Service agency serving the Jewish Community of Toronto.

JNF: The Jewish National Fund (Keren Kayemeth Leisrael), the land purchase and development fund of the Zionist Organization.

Judenrat/Judenräte: The Jewish Council(s) set up by the Nazis to facilitate the destruction process.

Kapo: The slang term used to designate an inmate appointed to an overseer position by the Nazis in the camps. Due to the cruelty of some of these individuals, the term has developed a negative connotation.

Keegstra, Jim: Alberta schoolteacher and small town mayor convicted of teaching hatred of Jews and denial of the Holocaust to his students.

Kristallnacht: 9-10 November 1938, known as the 'night of broken glass.' Nazi pogrom conducted across Germany, Austria and the Sudetenland resulting in the destruction and looting of Jewish property and synagogues, the murder of Jews, and incarceration of 30,000 male Jews in concentration camps.

Landsmanshaft(en): Secular immigrant benevolent societ(y/ies) named after the members' birthplace. These were created to provide mutual aid, send funds to hometowns and provide social activities for their immigrant members.

NCJW: National Council of Jewish Women. Founded in 1893 in Chicago, this group focuses on social welfare and educational activities in the Diaspora and in Israel.

ORT: The Organization for Rehabilitation through Training began in nineteenth-century Russia as a vehicle for training Jewish youth in skilled trades and agriculture. It spread across the Diaspora and helped Jews prepare for immigration and resettlement. ORT ran workshops in DP camps and spread its schools to Israel.

She'erit Ha-Peletah: ‘The Saved Remnant,’ Hebrew term referring to survivors of the Holocaust. From II Kings 19: 30-31” And the surviving remnant of the House of Judah shall again take root downward, and bear fruit upward. For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and out of Mt. Zion a band of survivors.”

Shoah: ‘Catastrophe,’ Hebrew term for destruction of European Jewry, now in common use in place of ‘Holocaust.’

Shomrim: Hebrew term for watchmen/defenders.

Shtetl: Yiddish diminutive for *shtot* (town), referring to a small Jewish community in eastern Europe.

USNA: United Service for New Americans. Formed in 1946 by a merger of the National Refugee Service and the National Service to the Foreign Born of the National Council of Jewish Women. Along with HIAS, it assumed primary responsibility for providing passage to Jewish DP’s and helping in their settlement.

Yad Vashem: Hebrew, ‘a monument and a name.’ The Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Authority, Israel’s national institution of Holocaust commemoration.

Yarzheit: Anniversary of death on the Jewish calendar.

Yishuv: Term used for the Jewish Community in Palestine before the creation of the Jewish State in 1948.