



A love that won't die

On the 70th wedding anniversary of Joseph and Rebecca Bau, their daughters hold a weekend-long Valentine's Day celebration of love

On a cold February night in the women's barracks of the Plaszow concentration camp in Poland, Joseph Bau married Rebecca Tennenbaum, presenting her with a wedding ring fashioned from a silver spoon. They later discovered that their actual wedding date was February 14 – Valentine's Day – and their wedding was famously depicted in the film *Schindler's List*.

Overcoming immense odds, the couple survived and eventually immigrated to Israel, where Joseph is best remembered for his contributions to the Israeli animation industry and – as was discovered after his death – for having forged documents for the Mossad. Rebecca gave birth to two girls, Hadasa and Clila, who have worked tirelessly since their parents' deaths to ensure that their legacy lives on. They run their father's studio at 9 Berdichevsky Street in Tel Aviv as a museum, where they show his films and exhibit his artwork to private tour groups.

In celebration of their parents' 70th wedding anniversary – and the 20th anniversary of the release of *Schindler's List* – Clila and Hadasa organized a two-day event last week in Tel Aviv. Last Thursday night saw family, friends and fans gather at the Tel Aviv Cinematheque for a special screening of some of Joseph's earliest animations, as well as speeches by his daughters and colleagues. The MC for the night was Leny Ravitz, a good friend of Clila and Hadasa.

Beata Deskur, who portrayed Rebecca in *Schindler's List*, spoke at the event, saying that when she got the part, it had been difficult for her to fathom that she was playing a real person.

"I didn't want to accept that the Holocaust was a part of history," she told the audience that filled the theater.

On Friday, in cooperation with Givatayim Mayor Ran Konik, the sisters visited the graves of their parents. Later, there was an event at Beit Rishonim with food, musical performances and theatrical performances. That evening at the Dan Hotel in Givatayim – the city where the Baus lived for 50 years – a symbolic wedding took place, with married couples exchanging silver-spoon rings.

"This is the greatest happiness in the world," Hadasa said of the event. "A couple doesn't need to be rich, they need to be happy."

– Laura Kelly