ZACHOR

VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE

DAVID HALTON

THE HOLOCAUST AND THE PRESS:
A TRAGIC FAILURE

“Enemy Aliens”
School Program and Website

Law, Justice and the Holocaust

The Life and Work of
Dr. Janusz Korczak

Yom HaShoah 2012

A Letter to a Survivor

FALL 2012
Sunday, November 4, 2012 • 7 PM
Temple Sholom Synagogue
7190 Oak Street, Vancouver

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

DAVID HALTON
Former Senior Foreign Correspondent, CBC

The Holocaust and the Press:
A Tragic Failure

Candle lighting ceremony in memory of
the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust.
Everyone welcome. Please join us.

Cover Image: Jean and Matthew Halton in front of the Brandenburg Gate, Berlin, 1933. Matthew — a journalist and the father and this year’s Kristallnacht keynote speaker, journalist David Halton — reported from Germany for the Toronto Star in the 1930s. - Courtesy of David Halton
It is with great pleasure that I write my first letter to you as editor of the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre’s beloved newsletter, 
Zachor.

In July, the VHEC bid a fond farewell to Frieda Miller after 18 years at the Centre, six of these in the leadership role. An evening held in her honour — which included tributes from Founding President Dr. Rob Krell, Past President Jody Dales and Assistant Director Rome Fox — emphasized the high standards for which the Centre is known, particularly in the areas of innovative programming and community engagement. This fall, the staff and I look forward to building on our successes with the initiatives highlight in this issue of Zachor, work supported by our board of directors, outreach speakers, docents and other volunteers.

The VHEC will animate our latest exhibit, “Enemy Aliens”: The Internment of Jewish Refugees in Canada, 1940-1943, with a variety of programs for school groups and public audiences. In her article, the Centre’s new Education Director, Dr. Adara Goldberg, provides an overview of what teachers and students can expect during school tours of the exhibit. Meanwhile, monthly Sunday openings in October and November will offer viewing opportunities for the general public enhanced by programming, including a panel discussion presented in partnership with the Nikkei National Museum & Heritage Centre and the Vancouver Italian Cultural Centre. The “Enemy Aliens” website, launching soon on the Virtual Museum of Canada, promises to serve as an important legacy for the project — the subject of a piece by the VHEC’s Research Assistant, Seanna Martin.

Two other programs will allow audiences to contemplate important questions regarding professional ethics raised by the Holocaust. Renowned journalist David Halton — the keynote speaker for our annual Kristallnacht commemoration, interviewed by UBC student Noah Finkelstein — examines the failure of the Western press to respond to the Nazi threat in the 1930s. A public lecture featuring United States Holocaust Memorial Museum scholar Dr. William Meineke, the subject of board member Barbara Buchanan’s article, will explore the role played by the judiciary in the breakdown of the rule of law in Nazi Germany.

Additional programs featured in this issue include events to mark the “Year of Janusz Korczak,” detailed in an article for the “No Longer Alone” page by Lillian Boraks Nemetz. The VHEC also looks forward to sponsoring events at the Vancouver Jewish Film Festival and the Cherie Smith Jewish Book Festival.

To keep track of these offerings, we encourage you to tear out and save the events listings featured on the back page of this issue. These programs promote education and remembrance of the Holocaust to diverse audiences and in innovative ways — a hallmark of the VHEC.

This issue concludes with fuel for thought: remarks by Corinne Zimmerman, member of our board and the second generation, offered at our our most recent Yom HaShoah commemoration, as well as a remarkable letter written by a former student to one of the VHEC’s outreach speakers, Robbie Waisman.

The staff and I look forward to welcoming you to the Centre and to our upcoming events soon.

Sincerely,

Nina Krieger
EDITOR & VHEC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
A CONVERSATION WITH DAVID HALTON
THE HOLOCAUST AND THE PRESS: A TRAGIC FAILURE

David Halton recently retired as CBC News’ Senior Correspondent in Washington, D.C. He is respected as the former dean of Canadian foreign correspondents, and a Gemini award winner for his broadcasting. He lives in Ottawa and is writing a book about his father, Matthew Halton, a renowned Canadian journalist for the CBC and the *Toronto Star*.

**NOAH FINKELSTEIN:** What sparked your interest in researching the failure of the English-speaking press to respond to Nazism?

**DAVID HALTON:** It began while I was conducting research for a biography of my father, Matthew Halton. I became interested in what the rest of the press was saying because my father’s attacks on Hitler, published as early as March 1933, were denounced by many people in Canada as being sensationalist and warmongering. Many in Canada at the time felt that Hitler was a useful bulwark against the spread of Communism so they were inclined to be very suspicious of people criticizing Hitler.

I started to examine what Canadian newspapers were writing about Hitler, and was really quite surprised. In the summer of 1933, for example, the *Montreal Gazette* and the *Toronto Globe* printed a series by a Canadian freelance journalist that essentially supported and sugarcoated what Hitler was doing. The articles were full of praise for Hitler’s efforts to Aryanize the country, and said that stories about the persecution of the Jews were exaggerated or untrue. This was remarkable stuff. These were the two largest newspapers in Canada in August 1933, lavishing praise on Hitler when it was already clear for anyone who could read that Germany was turning into a ghastly tyranny.

I followed up by looking extensively at Canadian news coverage of the Nazi regime through the 1930s and comparing it to what was being written in the United States and Britain. The basic conclusion I drew was that to a remarkable degree the press in all three countries was derelict in its coverage of Germany, especially in relation to the persecution of Jews and political opponents. I found that many foreign correspondents based in Berlin were under pressure not to tell the full truth about what was happening in Germany for a variety of reasons, which I document.

**NF:** Why do you think your father picked up on events missed by so many other journalists?

**DH:** His journalistic instincts were exceptionally well-honed. He’d had a remarkable experience in March 1933 when he was covering the Reichstag elections, which formally sealed Hitler’s grip on power. He was in Berlin on the eve of the election and saw a parade of the S.S. Schutzstaffel and the Brownshirts and other troops that went on for hours. There was a grim feeling in the air that night. He watched from a balcony, mingled with the crowd, and heard people shouting slogans about taking revenge on Germany’s enemies. He walked further down the street and saw books of Jewish and liberal authors being thrown into a bonfire.

In the days that followed, he saw Jewish people being picked up on the main tourist street in Berlin. He saw young kids shouting, “Death to the Jews!” All of this was quite horrifying to him. He went back to London and developed a network of contacts among Jewish refugees who were very helpful in keeping him up to date with what was going on in Germany.

In the fall of 1933, he went back
to Germany to do a series of about 15 articles on every facet of Hitler’s regime. It’s quite a remarkable series because he doesn’t pull his punches at all. It was published in The Star and elicited a considerable amount of criticism in Canada. Again he was accused of being a warmonger and sensationalist, some of the accusations coming from the Roman Catholic Church.

One article in the series was about a visit he made to Dachau concentration camp in the fall of 1933. He got permission to visit Dachau, and of course the visit was whitewashed. There were about 3,000 prisoners — about one-third were Jewish; two-thirds were socialists and labor organizers — and 400 guards.

Although he didn’t see any signs of brutality, he asked the camp guards: “Why do you need so many guards for 3,000 prisoners?” The camp commander of Dachau told my father: “We have this exceptional number of guards because we want to prepare them for future uses in the expanded concentration camp system.” One of those guards, Rudolf Höss, later became the camp commander at Auschwitz.

From then on, my father followed the situation in Germany very carefully. He went back about half a dozen times and was always strong in denouncing the excesses of the regime. He was on a crusade – a journalistic crusade. His pieces warned of what would likely happen in the future in terms of territorial expansion and persecution of the Jews. He visited Jewish communities in Germany and reported on the impact of antisemitism. Overall, his reporting was unusually strong in denouncing Nazism.

NF: Can you tell me about the book you are writing about your father?

DH: The tentative title is “Matt’s Odyssey: Dispatches From the Front.” It’s a biography of a remarkable Canadian. My father was the son of two impoverished English immigrants who came to Canada in 1902 and got a homestead in western Canada. They came from industrial England and had no idea how to run a homestead so had to move to the nearest town to scrape together a living. However, my father went on to extraordinary success as a journalist. He joined the Toronto Star and became their chief European correspondent. He had a meteoric rise in the 1930s and became somewhat of a celebrity journalist.

He then joined the CBC and became the voice of Canada during the Second World War. Millions of Canadians tuned in every night to listen to my father’s reports from the front. He became a vital link between the homefront and the warfront in Europe. Although he was probably best remembered for his work during the war, I think his most significant journalism was what he wrote about Nazi Germany. His investigative reporting there was crusading journalism of the best kind.
THE TREE THAT GREW ON THE WALL

Jack Fuchs, at his lucid 88 years of age, is one of the few survivors of the death camps during the Second World War who, today, lives in Buenos Aires. After four decades and a return to Lodz, Poland, he began telling his story.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8
4 PM

THE RIDGE THEATRE
3131 Arbutus Street, Vancouver

SPONSORED BY
VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE
The ushering in of the 2012/2013 school year at the VHEC signals a number of new things; new staff, new volunteers, and most excitingly, fresh opportunities for educational programming and engagement. The school program invites students to connect with narratives, artefacts, and documents to learn about a little-known chapter in history: the internment of Jewish refugees of Nazi oppression in Canadian camps from 1940-1943.

In 1940, Canada received approximately 2,300 male civilian refugees from Nazi oppression. Most were German and Austrian Jews; many were teenagers and young adults. These men had found temporary asylum in Britain only to be arrested as potential “fifth columnists,” or threats to national security. After a brief period of internment in England and on the Isle of Man, the refugees were deported as criminals to Canada and placed in camps alongside political refugees and, in some camps, avowed Nazis. Despite the injustices they faced, the refugees tried to make the most of their time behind barbed wire and in the process, transformed their lives. Canada’s Jewish community had worked tirelessly with other refugee advocates to secure freedom for the “camp boys,” who were gradually released from spring 1941 onward. Jewish families, yeshivas, and universities welcomed young men into their homes and institutions; businesses engaged the labour of others. Approximately 960 refugees who accepted Canadian citizenship after the war went on to enjoy full, rich lives, recreated families, and launched remarkable careers. Yet despite their achievements, the history of internment occupied only a marginal place in Canadian, Second World War, and Holocaust history narratives. As the surviving population of former internees grew smaller, the imperative to preserve, record, and present their experiences grew stronger.

The school program, launched on October 3 and supported by the Lutsky Mendelson Family Charitable Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Vancouver, takes advantage of this “teachable moment,” and is an extension of the VHEC’s groundbreaking exhibit, “Enemy Aliens”: The Internment of Jewish Refugees in Canada, 1940-1943.

Student engagement with the program begins prior to their VHEC visit. Teachers are furnished with a Teacher’s Guide, supported by Debby Frieman in honour of Leonore Ehrlich Frieman, containing pre-visit lessons that introduce students to key terms and chronology relating to prewar Jewish life in Germany and Austria, and the rise of Adolf Hitler and the National Socialist Party. Lessons connect clearly with the VHEC educational mandate and Historical Thinking concepts and include visual images from the exhibit space, primary source documents, and video testimony clips.

The school program is split into two 45-minute sessions. Within the gallery space, students are taken on an interactive tour and invited to follow the life story of one former internee from their youth in Germany or Austria, through refuge and arrest in Britain, their internment and release in Canada. Students engage with documents and personal artefacts that belonged to, or were created by the young men, and listen to their first-person accounts on video screens. An activity midway encourages the critical evaluation of objects and images dealing with education, the arts, writing, and religion in camp, to learn about the resilience of the human spirit.

The second part of the program leads students to a new workshop, Thinking About Historical Narratives. There classes will learn about different types of historical sources by exploring primary source documents and viewing a video testimony clip related to the exhibit. Engagement in debate around source usability and meaning, combined with an appreciation for the complexity of history, will equip students with the tools to think more critically, and read more carefully. Alternatively, groups can request a presentation by a survivor speaker in place of the workshop.

Since learning does not end with the program, the Teacher’s Guide also provides post-visit lessons and extension activities that address broader issues of social justice and responsibility, identity, and genocide awareness.

We appreciate hearing from our visitors, and look forward to welcoming more informed, aware students back in the future.

Adara Goldberg is the new Education Director at the VHEC. She has a background in Social Work and holds a PhD in Holocaust History.
Circle the date on your calendar to hear distinguished historian Dr. William Frederick Meinecke Jr., of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, deliver a powerful presentation about the breakdown of the rule of law in Nazi Germany and the role played by the courts during the Holocaust. Audience members will gain insight as to how the German judiciary responded — or failed to respond — to antisemitic legislation enacted by the Nazis after they came to power in 1933.

Dr. Meinecke explains in the publication, Law, Justice and the Holocaust: “In reality, judges were among those inside Germany who might have effectively challenged Hitler's authority, the legitimacy of the Nazi regime, and the hundreds of laws that restricted political freedoms, civil rights, and guarantees of property and security. And yet the overwhelming majority did not. Instead, over the 12 years of Nazi rule, during which time judges heard countless cases, most not only upheld the law but interpreted it in broad and far-reaching ways that facilitated, rather than hindered, the Nazis’ ability to carry out their agenda.”

The study of Nazi Germany and the role that individual judges played remains ever relevant. When we say “never again,” it must be more than a mantra or a hope; continuing education of generations of students, teachers, lawyers, judges, police, government officials and others in positions of power is required, as is constant vigilance to protect the rule of law, democracy and human rights. As former President of the Supreme Court of Israel Aharon Barak, proclaimed: “The assumption that ‘it cannot happen to us’ can no longer be accepted. Anything can happen. If democracy was perverted and destroyed in the Germany of Kant, Beethoven, and Goethe, it can happen anywhere. If we do not protect democracy, democracy will not protect us. I do not know whether the supreme court judges in Germany could have prevented Hitler from coming to power in the 1930s. But I do know that a lesson of the Holocaust and of the Second World War is the need to enact democratic constitutions and ensure that they are put into effect by supreme court judges whose main task is to protect democracy.”

Dr. Meinecke will be in Vancouver as part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s Law, Justice and the Holocaust training program for judges. As a lawyer and a Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre board member, I am proud that our courts are making this training a part of their conference. Dr. Meinecke will present at a conference of BC judges: the Honourable Justices of the Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court, and the Provincial Court.

We are grateful that Dr. Meinecke will be able to spend a short time with us during his busy Vancouver schedule. This is a presentation that should not be missed by lawyers, educators, government officials, and others in positions of power and trust, as well as anyone interested in the rule of law and protecting democracy and human rights.

Barbara Buchanan, BA, MA, LLB, is an educator and lawyer who provides practice and ethics advice to lawyers. She has been an active member of many international and local professional and community organizations, including being a board member of the Vancouver Holocaust Society for Education and Remembrance.
THE LIFE AND WORK OF DR. JANUSZ KORCZAK

In a resolution of the Polish Parliament, 2012 has been declared the “Year of Janusz Korczak.” But who was this enigmatic man who wore many hats and whose real name was Henryk Goldszmit?

In one of his many roles, Janusz Korczak was a staunch advocate of children’s rights. He wrote the first Children’s Charter and spoke of the need for a Declaration of Children’s Rights long before any such document were drawn up by the Geneva Convention (1924) or the United Nations General Assembly (1959).

As an author of children’s literature, he posited issues that children must cope with when dealing with adults and their peers. King Matt, a play staged recently at the Norman Rothstein Theatre, illustrated this by showing how little the adults trusted and understood children. Among his many works is a book, How to Love a Child. There, Korczak claimed that a country’s health could be determined by the well-being of its children.

As a publisher and broadcaster, Korczak gave children a voice by publishing The Little Review, a radio show written by children, for children. Korczak also ran his own radio show telling children’s stories using his particular brand of wry humour and aiming to reach people’s hearts with important issues. The latter was the reason why he chose the alias of Janusz Korczak instead of his given name, Henryk Goldszmit. The authorities at that time were too afraid to show the public that they were sympathetic enough to let a Jewish person run a public broadcast. So he chose a pseudonym, suggesting that it was better to reach people anonymously than not at all.

As a caretaker and pediatrician, Dr. Korczak ran both the Christian and Jewish orphanages of Warsaw. When the Nazis ordered him into the Warsaw Ghetto, his 200 Jewish orphans went with him. There he worked to keep the children from harm, to supply them with hard-to-get food and clothing, and to keep up their morale by giving them a sense of normalcy, despite the danger lurking outside the orphanage. He staged plays for his charges and instilled in them a sense of justice by holding a democratic children’s court where grievances were aired and punishments given out accordingly. The court was run by children, for children, with only one adult present.

On August 5, 1942, when his orphanage was marked for deportation to Treblinka death camp, Korczak was offered a reprieve. Ever the hero, he refused, saying that his children needed him. He joined them on that tragic march through the Warsaw Ghetto to the deportation depot at Umschlagplatz. Korczak and the children were sent to Treblinka death camp, where they all perished.

This heroic march is described in an excerpt from the poem about Korczak, The Gardener of Children:

...He marched with them beneath the stars of Bethlehem and David warming them with his heart’s flame. The flame that still burns among the ashes. ¹

A celebration in honour of Korczak will take place at the University of British Columbia on November 2, 2012, at St. John’s College. A conference program will include the following speakers: Dr. Byle Frank, Dean, UBC Faculty of Education; Mr. Jerry Nussbaum, President of the Canadian Janusz Korczak Association; Mr. Krzysztof Czapla, Consul of the Republic of Poland and Dr. Henry Yu, St. John’s College.

A bronze bas-relief, Janusz Korczak and Children, will be mounted and unveiled on the wall of UBC’s Faculty of Education on the morning of November 2nd. From there, guests, speakers and panelists will proceed to St. John’s College for the rest of the day’s celebrations with Dr. Jay Eidelman as emcee.

A panel discussion will be followed by a film about Korczak. The VHEC’s exhibit, Korczak and the Children of the Warsaw Ghetto, will be on view at UBC’s Department of Education and at St. John’s College. The exhibit is presently being displayed at Regent College.

Janusz Korczak Day at UBC is co-organized by the Janusz Korczak Association of Canada and the Faculty of Education at UBC. It is sponsored by the Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Vancouver and the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre.

¹ The poem is taken from Ghost Children by Lillian Boraks Nemetz (Ronsdale Press, 2000).

Lillian Boraks Nemetz is a child survivor from Poland who escaped the Warsaw Ghetto. She is a VHEC outreach speaker, a member of the Child Survivor Group, an award-winning author, an instructor at UBC’s Writing Centre and the editor of the “No Longer Alone” page of Zachor.
With the recent launch of its new exhibit, “Enemy Aliens”: The Internment of Jewish Refugees in Canada, 1940 – 1943, the VHEC publicized a little known aspect of Canadian history and drew connections between Canada and the Holocaust which few knew existed.

In an effort to make this content as accessible as possible, an online exhibit was conceived and developed in parallel with the physical exhibit. This website, funded by the Canadian Heritage Information Network and produced in partnership with 7th Floor Media at Simon Fraser University, expands the exhibit’s reach in powerful and lasting ways.

As is the case with other VHEC online exhibits, educational materials are an important part of the “Enemy Aliens” website. Developed in partnership with Dr. Peter Seixas, Director of UBC’s Centre for the Study of Historical Consciousness, a companion teaching resource, also known as the “Learning Object Collection,” offers educators access to comprehensive lesson plans.

The Learning Object Collection engages students with the exhibit content, while also touching on themes that transcend the featured historical period. Lesson extensions make links to broader current and historical issues such as the refugee experience, discriminatory immigration policies and state-based persecution.

In addition to its educational potential, the “Enemy Aliens” website is unique in another significant way: it will act as a living repository of the “Enemy Aliens” story for years to come.

After the launch of the exhibit, VHEC was contacted by internees not featured in the exhibit — as well as by their family members and friends — wishing to share their experiences. Though the exhibit content was finalized, the website was quickly identified as a space where these narratives and visual support material might be shared.

High school guidance counselor, Freida Ross, her daughter, Stephanie, and her niece, Nicole, testify to the important role which they believe the “Enemy Aliens” website will play for their family and others.

Freida’s father, Isidor Stein, was born in Aidhausen, Germany in 1911 and interned in Camp I in Île-aux-Noix, Quebec during the Second World War. As is the case with many former internees, he rarely spoke of his experiences, leaving it to his children and grandchildren to uncover much of this history after his death.

For Freida and her family, the “Enemy Aliens” exhibit provided the impetus for further research and eventually led Nicole to the Canadian Jewish Congress Charities Committee National Archives in Montreal. There she uncovered several pages of primary source materials, including refugee documentation and family correspondence from the period when her grandfather was interned.

Freida, Nicole and Stephanie believe these findings transcend their own family and are an important part of the larger “Enemy Aliens” narrative. Through the interactive section of the website, they hope to share Isidor’s story and by doing so validate his experiences and celebrate his strength and fortitude. However, their motivation goes beyond this; they also wish to help other families in search of similar information. Through sharing details about the research process, they hope to provide a starting point and guidance for others.

The “Enemy Aliens” website is truly a multi-faceted virtual space, containing a museum exhibit, rich educational resources and a living repository, all of which work towards ensuring that events detailed in the “Enemy Aliens” exhibit remain an integral and dynamic part of Canada’s historical narrative.

Seanna Martin is the Research Assistant at VHEC and currently completing a Master of Library and Information Studies degree at UBC.
I am Corinne Zimmerman, daughter of Henry Zimmerman, alav ha’shalom, and Sally Zimmerman. My parents are survivors of the Holocaust. In 1939, my mother was forcibly uprooted from her home in Vishniva, close to Vilna, and sent to Siberia with some of her family members. My father, who was one of six children, was the only one in his family to survive, escaping to Russia as the Nazis invaded Poland.

Although we were born after the war, it has been said that as the children of Holocaust survivors, we are the bridge between two worlds. Many of us bear the names of grandparents we never met. For us, the Holocaust is not an abstract, historical event. It is our past and our present; it is our parents’ lives, as well as the deaths of our grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

As noted by Sandra S. Williams in her paper, “The Impact of the Holocaust on Survivors and Their Children,” for the second generation the six million is not a statistic. It is our families.

All too often, survivors were left without family. Others were left with only fragments scattered around the globe. Not surprisingly, those who came to reside in Vancouver became inextricably bound together in one extended family.

Indeed, my most vivid childhood memories are of the “family” who surrounded me as I was growing up: the “aunts,” the “uncles,” the many “cousins” — none of whom were actually related to me. But this was my family — those we celebrated with, and those we clung to in less joyful times.

To this day, my extended family continues to be bound together by our common experiences and challenges. And in the end, this transcending meaning of family has proved to be a gift of growth and hope out of the ashes of the Shoah.

Last spring, I was in synagogue for the Yizkor prayer of remembrance. At Schara Tzedek synagogue, Rabbi Rosenblatt told us that the act of kaddish is not merely about remembering our loved ones; the act of kaddish is also a statement that we are honouring, embracing and even living the values bequeathed to us by those no longer with us.

I wonder sometimes, what went through their minds? In that dark time, what motivated their struggle to survive, whether in the end they did or did not? The answer is obvious: they wanted to survive for family and for friends; they wanted to survive for us. Therefore it makes sense that so much of what we do is because of them.

In some way, we are all the children of the survivors. We are the heirs to the darkness of the Holocaust. And with that, comes the sacred duty to remember, to honour, to educate and to work tirelessly to ensure that the inhumanity suffered by our people does not happen again.

Holocaust survivor Estelle Laughlin reminds us that “memory is what shapes us; memory is what teaches us.” Yom HaShoah is about remembering and honouring those who suffered, those who perished, and those who survived — remembering and honouring our collective family.

Corinne Zimmerman is Secretary of the VHCS Board of Directors. The child of Holocaust survivors, Corinne is a native of Vancouver and has been active for many years in the Vancouver Jewish community. She is General Counsel at the Department of Justice Canada, married to lawyer Jon Festinger and the proud mother of Jeremy, Dara and Avrel.
Dear Mr. Waisman:

It was four years ago that you came to my small town high school in Invermere, BC to talk to my classmates and me about the Holocaust. I was a Grade 10 student, and I was there to cover the event for my high school newspaper. I was very excited to be there, because it was my first “big break” as a reporter. This break came at a time when I was beginning to consider becoming a journalist.

There were many people throughout my years of school who came to talk to us about different topics, but what you told that room full of kids, what you told me, has stuck with me every single day of my life. After four years of thinking and writing and re-writing, I think I finally know what I would like to say to you, the person who has profoundly affected the rest of my life.

The Holocaust was very difficult for me to comprehend. It’s so big, so impossibly awful that there was a feeling of disconnect when I thought about it — I understood the events, but I didn’t understand what that meant for the people who were there. Hearing you talk about what happened to you and your family made the victims and the survivors of the Holocaust real, but it also made people and pain real. Your speech made that connection for me, and after school that day I went into my room and I cried. I just cried. I cried for you, I cried for every person who perished in the Holocaust. I cried for people who suffered in other human rights catastrophes. But I also cried for the people on the other side, the so-called “bad guys”, because they were, and are, saturated with hate.

Lastly, I cried for myself, but I cried tears of joy. I realized I am possibly one of the most blessed people in the whole world. Because I listened to you describe the loss of your family, I learned to better love mine. I learned to appreciate everything my mother and father do. I took your advice and I hug my brother and sister when they break things or when they are not behaving. They don’t fully understand why I do this, but I hope one day they will. I learned to be grateful for the roof over my head, for the food on my plate, for the shoes on my feet.

I also learned to forgive people who have wronged me, people who I have every reason to be upset with. Sometimes, this is extraordinarily difficult. Sometimes I struggle. But I do not allow myself to hate, because the last thing our world needs is more hate. In the end, I am always able to forgive. I am always able to love. I am always able to give love, and to be an example of love.

When I find it most difficult to love and forgive, I look through your recorded history on the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre’s website, and go back to those lessons I learned. I guess what I’m trying to say is that you’ve become my role model for what peace and love is, and what peace and love can be.

The day you came to my school was also the day I realized I am supposed to be a journalist — to give people a voice and a chance, to record what happens to us all, for the sake of all of us. I’m going to school to be journalist, and I have the chance every week to write for a paper that many people read. I want to thank you for being the sign I was looking for when I wasn’t sure what to do with my life.

Finally, I would like to say that what you do, when you talk to people about your life, even if it’s really hard – it matters. It makes a difference. It is important and it changes lives. I don’t know about you, but sometimes I feel like I haven’t made an impact on the world despite the many things I’ve written and done. I always remind myself that even if I can change one mind, if I can convince just one person to be more compassionate, that it a wonderful thing. Every drop fills the jug. If I am the only person who you made an impact on, I want you to know that it still counts, it is still significant, and that you have done something incredible.

It’s taken me four years and about a page and a half, but I think what I really want to say is thank you.

With Peace, Love, and Gratitude, Karlie

For more information about the VHEC’s outreach speakers program, please visit: www.vhec.org/outreach.html
GET WELL

Howard Ehrlich, Speedy Recovery. Aron & Sam Szajman
Esther Blumes, Speedy Recovery. Debby & Mark Chot
Suzanne Ferera, Speedy Recovery. Rosa Ferera, Lisette Ferera, Nora Ferera-Pullman & Family
Dani Horowitz, Refuah Shlemah. Esther, Jacob & Jed Blumes
Magdalena Liptak, Speedy Recovery. Survivor Drop-In Group
Margaret Fraeme, Speedy Recovery. Survivor Drop-In Group
Izna Mermelstein, Speedy Recovery. Survivor Drop-In Group
Veronica Winkler, Easy Recovery. Survivor Drop-In Group
Pam Izmans, Thinking of You. Les & Karen Cohen & Family
Beverly Kane, Speedy Recovery. Wendi, Barry, Shannon, Kelly, Ryan & Sean Vaister
Inge Manes, Speedy Recovery. Ruth & Harry Frackson
Marion Gelmon, Speedy Recovery. Danny & Vera Woliner & Family
Shelley & Jonathan Zbarsky, Thinking of You. Anita Shafirnan & Family
Stari Taviss, Get Well Soon. Ethel Kofsky
Susie Zacks, Speedy Recovery. Wendi, Barry, Shannon, Kelly, Ryan & Sean Vaister

MAZEL TOV

Wanda Melamed, 100th Birthday. Ethel Kofsky, Gloria Ross, Genni London, Dr. & Mrs. Harry Frackson, Survivor Drop-In Group
Grace Ehrlich, 80th Birthday. Tanya, Amir, Shai, Avigail & Noa Marcianno
Claire Klein Osipov, Peretz Centre Honour. Rob & Marilyn Krell
Leslie Spiro, Birthday. Stanley & Joycelaine Sunshine
Michael Hayden, The 2011 Canada Gairdner Award. Rob & Marilyn Krell
Nelly Auerberg, The 2011 UBC Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award. Rob & Marilyn Krell

Cathy & David Golden, 25th Wedding Anniversary. Aron, Sam, & Al Szajman, Neal & Anna Nep, Jack & Karen Micner
Tan Penn, Your Art Show. Monte & Marcy Glansberg
Helen & Ceci Paull, Anniversary. Ruth & Bud Wolochow
Ron Inerman, 60th Birthday. Eddie & Debbie Rozenberg, Les & Karen Cohen, Marilyn Jordan & Marvin Lithwick, Neal & Anna Nep, Robert & Thea Rosenstock
Agi Bergida, Birthday. Stanley & Joycelaine Sunshine
Sara Jarvis, 90th Birthday. George & Frieda Wertman, Jocy Lowy
Ben Sheimer, 90th Birthday. Beth & Leon Bogner
Victor Elias & Helen Pinsky, Special Birthdays. Aron & Neri Tischler
Fred Brauer, 80th Birthday. Sally Berry & Family
Malka Pishchinatskaya, Happy Birthday. Adele, Dianne, & Emily
Karen Cohen, Birthday. David & Cathy Golden, Ellen Millman, Julie & Sheldon Kuchinsky,
Harold & Kathie Folk, Alissa & Brandon’s Engagement. David, Cathy, Tyler & Shane Golden, Debby, Mark, Barbara & Rachel Choit
Geri & Mark London, Becoming Grandparents. Gloria & Robbie Waisman, Ida Kaplan, Lyliane & Larry Thal
Leonard Neuman, 50th Birthday. Gail, Jerry & Bertha Whitley
Corinne Margulis, Birthday. David & Cathy Golden
Ben Akserlod, Birthday. Denise Pinto Cohen
Norman & Sandra Miller, Birth of Your New Grandson. Ida Kaplan
Robyn & Allan Hanson, Brooke and Tyler’s Engagement. David, Cathy, Tyler & Shane Golden

Edith Vizer, Birthday. Andrew & Betty Karsai
Ruth & Andrei Brucar, Anniversary. David & Cathy Golden
Marllyn Hooper, 60th Birthday. Debbie & Eddie Rozenberg
Joe Gold, Birthday. Danny Shapiro & Frieda Miller
Linda Tennebaum, Birthday. Lary & Lyliane Thal
Stan Taviss, Jan’s Bar Mitzvah. Bill & Debby Altw
Irene & Larry Harvitwitz, 60th Anniversary. Les & Karen Cohen & Family
Arthur Hayes, Birthday. David Feldman & Family, Aron, Sam & Al Szajman, Robert & Marilyn Krell
Phil Swartz, Birthday. Doris, Morris Bronstein & Family
Ruth Melamed, 85th Birthday. Debbie & Eddie Rozenberg & Family
Saul Goldberg, Birthday. Barbara Buchanan
Nina Krieger, Your appointment. Sari Weintraub, Louise Stein Sorensen, Inge Manes, Marla Guralnick & Josh Pekarsky, Rozanne & Geoffrey Druker
Ron Shindler, 60th Birthday. Caroline Shindler
Jack Fraeme, 90th Birthday! Amalia, Kris, Jan, Paul Ben & The Boe-Fishman Family
Jeff Shindler, 60th Birthday. Debbie & Eddie Rozenberg & Family
Miriam & Al Creemer, 50th Anniversary! Morley & Fay Shafron, Bud & Fay Riback
Rita Aloebrud, Birthday. Denise Pinto Cohen
Alissa Hori & Bram Rogachovsky, Birthday of your son, Asher Ryo. Jody & Harvey Dales
Charlene Goldstein, Birthday. Gail Whitley, Gerry & Betty Goldstein
Anne & Morris Dancyger, 50th Wedding Anniversary. Lana & Mandy Landa
Daniel Wollner, Birthday. The Bakonyi Family
Arthur Dodek, Birthday. Lois & Walter Gumprich
Margaret Margulius, Graduation. Karen, Les & Brayden Cohen & Family
Jan Fishman, Mazel Tov. Mom, Amalia & Boe Fishman
David & Grace Ehrlich, 60th Anniversary & Happy Birthday Grace. Molly Ross
Hodie Kahn, Dedication to Hebrew Academy and Jewish Education in Vancouver. Inge Manes
Brayden Cohen, Graduation. The Golden Family, Gayle Morris & Craig Finlayson & Family
Shauna Osten, Graduation. Les, Karen, Courtney, Bailee & Brayden Cohen
Bari Lamond, Graduation. Les, Karen, Courtney, Bailee & Brayden Cohen
Odie Kaplan, Birthday. Ruth Wolochow
Harvey Adelman, Special Birthday. Les & Karen Cohen & Family
Sheila & Norman Archek, 60th Wedding Anniversary. Odie Kaplan
Beth & Leon Bogner, Special Anniversary. Laurie & Ivan Gasoi, Yvette Porte, Darlene & Richard Ames
Marlene Cohen, Birthday. Joan & Peter Karasz, Wendi, Barry, Shannon, Kelly, Ryan, & Sean Vaister
Perry & Karen Trester, 50th Wedding Anniversary. Lary & Lyliane Thal
Jeremy Bowman, Birthday. Derek Hamill & Lyn Derek
Toni Silberman, Awards for Community Service. Val & Arieh Waldman
THANK YOU TO OUR OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

OUTREACH  Janos Benisz, Lillian Boraks Nemetz, Alex Buckman, Marion Cassirer, Mariette Doduck, David Ehrlich, Bill Gluck, Serge Haber, Katy Hughes, Chaim Kornfeld, Robert Krell, Inge Manes, Bente Nathan Thomsen, Peter Parker, Claude Romney, Louise Sorensen, Peter Suedfeld, Tom Szekely, Robbie Waisman, Coordinator: Rita Albersheim

DOCENTS  Beth Bogner, Alexandra Campagnaro, Rajiv Cawasjee, Pamela Cyr, Reva Dexter, Sylvia Epstein, Brooke Fowler, Debby Freiman, Phillipa Friedland, Frances Grunberg, Belinda Gutman, Stefanie Ickert, Arlene James, Dodie Katzenstein, Lise Kirchner, Catherine Kohn, Uma Kumar, Shoshana Lewis, Lucien Lieberman, Ivan Linde, David Machat, Ellen Millman, Renée Neuschul, Cathy Paperny, Cynthia Ramsay, Adriana Reynoso, Gita Silver, Wendi Vaisler, Rita Westergaard, Lisa Zegers

SPECIAL PROJECTS  Alex Buckman, Esther Caldes, Sobie Cymbalista, Reva Dexter, Sylvia Epstein, Brooke Fowler, Debby Freiman, Phyllis Friedland, Frances Grunberg, Belinda Gutman, Stefanie Ickert, Arlene James, Dodie Katzenstein, Lise Kirchner, Catherine Kohn, Uma Kumar, Shoshana Lewis, Lucien Lieberman, Ivan Linde, David Machat, Ellen Millman, Renée Neuschul, Cathy Paperny, Cynthia Ramsay, Adriana Reynoso, Latina Saxton, Rebecca Shapiro, Laura Shaw, Louise Sorensen, Stan Taviss, Gloria Waisman

THANK YOU  Rose Lewin, Thank you. Gary, Linda & Michael Cohen

DONATION  Nadine Delikatny, Merry Christmas. Lori Barer
UPCOMING EVENTS

KRISSALLNACHT
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4 • 7 PM
TEMPLE SHOLOM SYNAGOGUE
7910 Oak Street, Vancouver

“The Holocaust and The Press: A Tragic Failure”
David Halton
Former senior foreign correspondent for the CBC, David Halton offers a keynote address examining how and why western correspondents in Berlin, and their editors back home, failed to sound the alarm about the evils of Nazism.

VANCOUVER JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8 • 4 PM
THE RIDGE THEATRE
3131 Arbutus Street, Vancouver

For tickets: www.vjff.org

The Tree that Grows on the Wall by Tomás Lipgot
Jack Fuchs, at his lucid 88 years of age, is one of the few survivors of the death camps during the Second World War who, today, lives in Buenos Aires. After four decades and a return to Lodz, Poland, he began telling his story. The movie is a testimony of his experience along with different cinematographic resources which will connect aesthetics of pictorial animation, family archives and interviews.

PUBLIC LECTURE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15 • 7:30 PM
VHEC
50-950 W 41st Avenue, Vancouver

Space is limited.
Please RSVP: info@vhec.org | 604.264.0499

“Law, Justice and the Holocaust: How the Courts Failed Germany”
Dr. William Frederick Meinecke Jr.
Over 12 years of Nazi rule, most judges not only upheld the law but interpreted it in broad and far-reaching ways that facilitated, rather than hindered, the Nazis’ ability to carry out their agenda. Participants will learn about the decision-making, the opportunities, and often the failures of judges in Nazi Germany that helped lead to mass murder.

CHERIE SMITH JEWISH BOOK FESTIVAL
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25 • 1 PM
VHEC
50-950 W 41st Avenue, Vancouver

Rescuing Children: The Story of the Kindertransport by Deborah Hodge
Meet the author of this important book which tells the story of how ten thousand Jewish children were rescued out of Nazi Europe just before the outbreak of Second World War.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29 • 5:15 PM
VHEC
50-950 W 41st Avenue, Vancouver

A Fiery Soul: The Life and Theatrical Times of John Hirsch by Fraidie Martz and Andrew Wilson
Fraidie Martz became interested in John Hirsch when she wrote “Open Your Hearts”, the story of the Jewish war orphans who came to Canada after Second World War, of whom Hirsch was the most famous.
THE VHEC IS IN ITS 18th year!

Help us mark this milestone by making a donation of $18, $180, $1,800 or your gift contribution. With your support, the VHEC will educate students about the Holocaust, and promote social justice, human rights and genocide awareness.

SEND A TRIBUTE CARD

A meaningful way to mark special occasions, send best wishes or condolences. The card acknowledges that a donation has been made to the VHEC and can be personalized with your chosen message.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE VHEC 604.264.0499 OR VISIT US AT WWW.VHEC.ORG