“I barely remember my early childhood in Vilnius, which I left at the age of eight... I managed to find my mother’s address in Alytus and decided to visit her [home] and my childhood home.”

Esther Shalev-Gerz on her art project, *Still/Film* (2009)

Learn more about the VHEC’s collaboration with the Belkin Art Gallery on page 4.
INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

7 PM | THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2013
NORMAN & ANNETTE ROTHSTEIN THEATRE
950 WEST 41ST AVENUE, VANCOUVER
VHEC OPEN 5:00–6:30 PM
RECEPTION & “ENEMY ALIENS” EXHIBIT VIEWING

Island of Roses: Tragedy in Paradise
L’isola delle rose: la tragedia di un paradiso
A DOCUMENTARY FILM BY REBECCA SAMONÀ

FREE ADMISSION | RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED
CONTACT THE ISTITUTO ITALIANO DI CULTURA:
iicvancouver@esteri.it or 604.688.0809 ext. 21

Cover Image: Esther Shalev-Gerz on Still/Film (2009) Courtesy of Esther Shalev-Gerz
I write this letter from Liège, Belgium, following five days of meetings as a member of the Canadian delegation to the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (ITF). Member countries — Canada joined the Task Force in 2009 — must be committed to the Declaration of the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust and support Holocaust education, remembrance and research both nationally and internationally.

Renamed the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) at the Liège Plenary meetings, the body is chaired by a different member country each year. Canada will assume this role, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Mario Silva, in March 2013. We look forward to highlighting the work of the IHRA in forthcoming issues of Zachor, as Canada’s activities for the Chairmanship year unfold.

In this issue, we explore arts and culture created during and in the aftermath of the Holocaust. This reflects an array of exciting initiatives taking place across Vancouver, in which the VHEC is a proud participant.

Upon hearing of the VHEC’s current “Enemy Aliens” exhibit, Suzanne Snizek (University of Victoria School of Music) approached the Centre with an idea to stage a concert highlighting music composed by German and Austrian refugees from Nazism during their internment in Britain. In 2008, Professor Snizek began researching the composers, performers and lyricists who created works of music while interned as “enemy aliens” during the Second World War — the focus of her article for this issue. She has presented this music in the United Kingdom and France, and these works will be performed at the Chutzpah! Festival in a concert co-presented by the VHEC.

The VHEC is also partnering on the delivery of programs accompanying two art exhibitions: an Art Spiegelman retrospective at the Vancouver Art Gallery and the first solo exhibition in Canada of contemporary artist Esther Shalev-Gerz at the University of British Columbia’s Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery. You can learn more about these exciting initiatives in the pages that follow.

Readers will also learn about the program for the VHEC’s 8th Biennial Shafran Teachers’ Conference, and about the remarkable actions of Swedish diplomat rescuer Raoul Wallenberg, which will be commemorated at an annual Vancouver Raoul Wallenberg Day.

Last but certainly not least, the Vancouver Child Survivor Group’s “No Longer Alone” pages feature the perspective of one of its members, Dr. Peter Suedfeld, on changing understandings of the effects of trauma on survivors of the Holocaust.

We hope that you find this issue informative and engaging. As Canada prepares to chair the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, it is perhaps appropriate to reflect on the eighth and final point of the Stockholm Declaration, which affirms a “commitment to plant the seeds of a better future amidst the soil of a bitter past. We [member countries] empathize with the victims’ suffering and draw inspiration from their struggle. Our commitment must be to remember the victims who perished, respect the survivors still with us, and reaffirm humanity’s common aspiration for mutual understanding and justice.”

Best regards,

Nina Krieger
Editor & VHEC Executive Director
MUSIC IN INTERNMENT
BY SUZANNE SNIZEK

In the spring of 1940, France was on the verge of defeat, the Low Countries had fallen, and the menace of fascism was spreading throughout Europe. The British were vulnerable to attack and it was expected that Britain would be invaded next.

This climate of insecurity led to the mass internment of thousands of resident “enemy aliens,” people who were citizens of countries that had become enemy states by virtue of the war. These “enemy aliens” included thousands of refugees fleeing from Nazism, including many Jewish refugees.

With the declaration of war in September 1939, there were immediate deportations of known active Nazi agents and other high-risk individuals from the United Kingdom. Tribunals were hastily arranged to evaluate the potential security risk posed by the remaining “enemy aliens.” The tribunal process placed the burden of proof on the refugee: that is, one was a security risk until proven otherwise. Often the issue at hand was not simply a necessary and justified risk assessment of a resident foreigner during wartime, but a determination of potential cultural assimilation. In other words, sometimes the more “outwardly Jewish” an applicant was, the more unlikely they were to be deemed “Class C.”

The end result of this xenophobic and antisemitic bias is painfully evident in composer Hans Gál’s (an Austrian refugee of Jewish origin) observations, noted in his internment diary,

Both transports consisted predominantly of Eastern Jews from the London ghetto districts. There are sideboards (facial hair) and caftans, and a mixture of German and English which sounds like neither of the two. They are all ‘B cases.’ How anyone could classify these gentle characters as B, that is suspected of Nazi sympathies, can hardly be guessed at. The idea that Hitler would seek his helpers among such people is absurd in the extreme.

Despite the significant bias against the foreigner in many of these tribunals, the overall results nevertheless concluded that about 90 percent of the resident enemy aliens were no threat whatsoever (“Class C”). The vast majority of these “Class C” individuals were Jewish refugees.

The decision to mass intern was made later, in the spring of 1940, despite the tribunal classifications and despite the protestations of friends and political supporters of the refugees, such as MP Eleanor Rathbone. Gál writes about one such supporter in his diary.

{...} the Bishop of Chichester made a remarkable speech about the internment of refugees and the conditions in the camps. It seems to be the first time that a man in public life has dared to intervene on our behalf. Our case could not have been put in a braver or more committed manner [...]. But how did the noble lords receive this speech? There could not have been a more uncomprehending stance in regard to the injustice that has been perpetrated and which the Bishop characterized in such a lively and moving way.

Many of these refugees had already suffered in harsh prisons or concentration camps prior to their arrival in the UK. Amongst this group were some of Gál’s fellow internees, including Fritz Ball and Walter Bergmann.

Dr. Ball had suffered severe frostbite on his hands while a prisoner in Sachsenhausen concentration camp. Gál noted that despite the significant damage to Ball’s bow grip, Ball somehow managed to play the cello. After his arrival in the UK, he was interned.

For his part, Bergmann had been held in solitary confinement and tortured in a German prison. While in prison, he made the decision to give up law and devote himself to becoming
a professional musician. After arriving in the UK and just beginning to establish himself, he was likewise abruptly interned. During internment, Bergmann would work with another interned composer, the young Franz Reizenstein. Reizenstein had been a leading pupil of Paul Hindemith’s (at the Berlin Musikakademie), later studied in London with leading English composer Ralph Vaughn Williams (Vaughn Williams would later personally help secure the release from internment of many of the musician internees, including his former pupil, Reizenstein). While interned, Bergmann and Reizenstein presented many concerts together, some of which were informally given in the boarding houses in which the internees were housed. One such ‘house concert’ featured the last movement of Reizenstein’s Partita for flute and piano.

A more established composer than Reizenstein, Gál was nearly fifty years old when he was interned. He had enjoyed major successes in Germany in the 1920’s, with his works being performed by the prominent conductors of the day such as Fritz Busch. However, Gál lost most of his career momentum as a result of Nazi anti-Jewish legislation and the cultural dislocation that resulted.

Gál had been forced to step down as the Director of the Mainz Conservatory of Music, a prestigious music school in Germany, and his music was banned from publication and performance. He then returned to Vienna, only to be forced to flee with the 1938 Anschluss. The internment in Britain was the third time that his career was interrupted. Life continued to be insecure for the Gál family throughout the war years, even after Gál was released from internment in late September 1940 and the family reunited. Gál’s aunt Jenny and younger sister Edith would commit suicide in 1942, in order to avoid being taken to Nazi concentration camps. Tragically, Gál’s young son Peter committed suicide at about this same time. It is therefore especially sobering to know that Gál regarded his internment as the worst period of his life.

Despite the challenges he faced, Gál continued to compose. During his internment, Gál wrote a lovely trio for flute and two violins; the strange instrumentation reflects the limited instruments (and competent players!) he had in the camp. The work, which he named *Huyton Suite* (after the internment camp in which it was written) is technically challenging. Even in a “non-internment” concert situation the piece is musically difficult. Gál realised the perils of this trio but thought that if things went musically wrong, they could simply start again. After all, he reasoned, they weren’t performing in Wigmore Hall!

The trio was ultimately performed several times in Central Promenade Camp, an internment camp located on the Isle of Man. The performances were very successful as were the later performances of the camp revue called, appropriately enough, “What a Life!” This revue was a collaborative effort by many of the internees and the music, again written by Hans Gál and reflected the overall internment experience. It is a fascinating first-hand portrayal of internment from the internees’ viewpoint.

To my knowledge, the upcoming concert for the Chutzpah! Festival will be only the second performance in Canada of both of these Gál works (the first being my doctoral lecture recital at UBC in October 2010). We will also be performing selections from the Partita by Reizenstein and a song written in Canadian internment. Although I have presented this music in conferences in France and the UK, this is the first time I am presenting to a general Vancouver audience. It is an honour to be invited to do so.

**Suzanne Snizek is Assistant Professor of Music at the University of Victoria. She teaches flute, applied chamber music and a course on “Suppressed Music” (music and composers suppressed by the Nazi regime). She received her BM from University of Indiana- Bloomington, MM from UArts in Philadelphia and DMA (Doctorate of Musical Arts) from UBC.**
For over twenty years, Lithuanian-born and Israeli-raised Esther Shalev-Gerz has created installation and photographic work that addresses questions of collective and personal memory, of portraiture’s possibilities within contemporary discourses, and of the politics of representation, history, place and citizenship. The pieces in this exhibition are emblematic of her work and offer new ways to approach our relationship to these questions.

Within the retrospective are works dealing specifically with the Holocaust, as well as memorialization, identification and historical representation. Between Listening and T elling: Last Witnesses 1945-2005 (2005) — a commemoration of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau — is one such display. For this multimedia piece, Shalev-Gerz worked with the testimonies of sixty survivors now living in Paris to create a three-channel video installation that shows the same film on each screen, with a seven-second time-lapse between each one.

The second work finds Shalev-Gerz returning to her childhood house in Vilnius, Lithuania in Still/Film (2009). This exhibit falls into two parts. One series of photographs show the house where she lived until she was eight; the second shows the site of the house from which her mother was forced to flee when she was nine, which Shalev-Gerz discovered by chance in the nearby town of Alytus.

WHITE-OUT: Between Telling and Listening (2002) departs from the Holocaust to explore and disclose the space between telling and listening. Through a video portrait of Åsa Simma, a woman who is both Sami (the indigenous peoples of Northern Sweden, Finland, Norway and Russia) and Swedish, Shalev-Gerz challenges ideas of identity and belonging. Like her previous works, WHITE-OUT presents a portrait of sorts — one comprised of fugitive stories that exist fleetingly between the actual and the fictional, between the imagined and the experienced.

The Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre is partnering with the Belkin Art Gallery to develop educational programming for post-secondary audiences. One such event, slated for March 2013, will be a round-table discussion, open to the public, about the current state of Holocaust memorialization and representation in Canada, Europe and beyond. We look forward to building organizational links, and enriching community understanding of these issues through art.

For additional information about the exhibit and the UBC Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, go to www.belkin.ubc.ca

Shelly Rosenblum, Ph.D. is the Curator of Academic Programs at The Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery. She has previously held teaching posts at Brown, Wesleyan, and UBC. Shelly is currently at work on a manuscript, Sentimental Spectacles: Literature and Visuality in Antebellum American Culture, which investigates the relationship between literary sentimentalism and mid-century visual institutions.
Vancouver Art Gallery (VAG) presents a major retrospective of the career of acclaimed American comic artist Art Spiegelman in early 2013. Opening on February 16, CO-MIX: A Retrospective of Comics, Graphics and Scraps will feature work from Spiegelman’s early underground comics from the 1970s to his more recent illustrations and comic art.

MAUS, the work that in its myriad forms has consumed the artist throughout his career, represents a significant portion of the exhibit. Published between 1978 and 1991, this two-part autobiographical graphic novel juxtaposes Spiegelman’s father’s experience during the Second World War with an account of the strained relationship between father and son in the present. Spiegelman originally published sections of Maus in RAW, an influential comics anthology that he created and edited along with his wife, Françoise Moully, from 1980 to 1991. RAW included work by comic artists from around the world, many of whom would later receive considerable acclaim, and the magazine evidences Spiegelman’s skill as an editor and his expansive understanding of the language of the medium. The exhibition will include research material, preliminary sketches, photographs and storyboards related to the production of MAUS, along with material that reveals RAW’s legacy. Spiegelman’s narrative and formal innovations in MAUS would prove influential to a new generation of comic artists.

The VAG is collaborating with the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre to provide educational programming which, while increasing the appreciation of comics as an expressive medium, will also provide the opportunity to reflect on the Holocaust and its survivors. School tours and workshops will be available at the VAG for grades 10, 11 and 12 from March 5 to April 25. Call 604.662.4717 for more information or to make a booking.

The Vancouver Art Gallery is grateful to The Arnold and Anita Silber Family Foundation for its generous support of the upcoming Gallery exhibition Art Spiegelman, CO-MIX: A Retrospective of Comics, Graphics and Scraps on view at the VAG between February 16 and June 9, 2013.

For additional information about the exhibit and the Vancouver Art Gallery, go to www.vanartgallery.bc.ca
8TH BIENNIAL SHAFRAN TEACHERS’ CONFERENCE
FEATURING FACING HISTORY AND OURSELVES
BY LEORA SCHAEFER

The Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre is pleased to feature Leora Schaefer of Facing History and Ourselves, Canadian program, for its 8th Biennial Shafran Teachers’ Conference, a day-long event that attracts educators from across British Columbia and beyond. For more than 35 years, Facing History has been dedicated to fostering thoughtful dialogue in classrooms and communities about issues of tolerance and civic responsibility.

Facing History’s resources, seminars, and public events help teachers and students link historical events to the everyday issues people face in their own lives, providing opportunities for learners of all ages to recognize the importance of civic participation and learn from the courage and resilience of others. Through a rigorous investigation of the events that led to the Holocaust and other key moments in history, students learn to combat prejudice with compassion, indifference with participation, and misinformation with knowledge.

Founded by educators in Brookline, Massachusetts in 1976, Facing History has grown into an international organization with more than 150 staff members. Through nine offices in North America, an international hub in London, and educational partnerships that span the globe, Facing History has established itself as a premier educational organization delivering high-quality classroom strategies, content, and lessons for teachers and students. An estimated 29,000 educators are currently using our program, reaching more than two million students each year.

Facing History has been working informally in Canada since 1981, helping teachers and students confront our global histories as well as our Canadian histories. Since opening an independent office and becoming a registered Canadian charity in 2008, we have reached more than 700 educators. In partnership with the Toronto District School Board, Facing History developed a Grade 11
course called Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity. Approved by the Ontario Ministry of Education, students in seven school boards in over 35 schools are currently enrolled in the course.

In 2012, six Facing History classrooms from four Ontario schools took part in a project that connected professional artists with students. The topic was using art to memorialize history and change the future. The project kicked off with students exploring the art of painter and Holocaust survivor Samuel Bak, whose work — featured in many Facing History resources — explores themes of memory and loss. Participating educator Erin Ledlow said the project fit right in with her existing course goals. “What is the best way that we should respect this history?” Ledlow asked her class. “Bak asks those questions in his paintings and they fit well with the themes we were already talking about in class.”

Facing History and Ourselves staff arranged for local artists to visit each classroom and supported students as they created their own piece of art — works of spoken word, sculpture, mixed media and photography. Students then shared their work on an interactive website before meeting in person to brainstorm ways they could use their works to bring awareness and change. “The students feel strongly that other people learn about this history, which was my ultimate goal,” Ledlow said.

This project is scheduled to relaunch in spring 2013 with a powerful second installation that will explore identity, hatred, history and hope through spoken word. This will conclude with a public performance of juried student works in Toronto.

The program for the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre’s 8th Biennial Shafran Teachers’ Conference will provide BC educators with access to Facing History and Ourselves pedagogical strategies and material.

For registration information, contact: education@vhec.org or 604.264.0499.

Leora Schaefer directs the Canadian program of Facing History and Ourselves, which includes professional development opportunities for teachers, curricular initiatives, and educational events for the greater community. Leora works with public and Catholic school boards as well as independent and Jewish day schools.

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8TH BIENNIAL SHAFRAN TEACHERS’ CONFERENCE
FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2013
8:30AM - 3:30PM
WOSK AUDITORIUM
JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE
950 W 41ST AVENUE, VANCOUVER

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Society and Individual: Questions of Identity

“Who am I?” is a question all of us ask at some time in our lives. It is an especially critical question for adolescents. As we search for the answer, we begin to define ourselves. Answers to this question help us understand history, ourselves, and each other.

We and They: Creating the Other

Throughout history, communities have classified people into groups in order to establish boundaries on membership. Understanding these communities, demands an awareness of who is included and who is excluded, as well as what factors are used to make the decisions about who belongs.

Breakout Sessions

OPTION A: Human Behaviour: Range of Choices
History is not inevitable, but is rather the result of ordinary people making choices. This session will consider the factors that influence an individual’s choices during times of atrocities, and what it takes to stand up to injustice and to become an upstander.

OPTION B: Salvaged Pages: Integrating Diaries from the Holocaust into the Classroom
This session will look at strategies to integrate Holocaust diaries into the classroom. While many are familiar with the Diary of Anne Frank, we will examine other adolescent diarists.

Choosing to Participate

Many young people wrestle with the question, How can I make a positive difference in the world? The civic choices — both large and small —made by citizens have impacted their community, nation, and world. By looking at case studies of individuals who have made a difference, we will explore the tools required to create change.
Raoul Wallenberg was born on August 5, 1912 into one of Sweden's most prominent banking families, nicknamed “the Swedish Rockefellers.” In 1939, Wallenberg formed a partnership with a Hungarian Jewish refugee living in Sweden, building a successful import-export business. He travelled to Hungary several times and became increasingly concerned about the plight of the Hungarian Jewish community.

The Germans invaded Hungary on March 19, 1944. By July, nearly 500,000 Jews had been rounded up and sent to concentration camps by the Nazis, but there were still 200,000 Jews left in Budapest.

Wallenberg's business flourished, but he did not find it inspiring; he wanted to do something more meaningful, something that mattered. He found his calling when Iver Olsen, representing US President Roosevelt’s newly formed War Refugee Board in Sweden, contacted him. Wallenberg was asked to carry out a US financed rescue mission while posing as a Swedish legation secretary.

Wallenberg arrived at the Swedish embassy in Budapest, Hungary on July 9, 1944. Soon after his arrival in Budapest, Wallenberg designed “protective passports,” printed in yellow and blue with the Three Crowns of Sweden, and distributed them to approximately 20,000 people. He worked day and night, aided by a staff of 300 Jewish volunteers. He also bought several houses that became known as Swedish “safe houses” where up to 15,000 Jews lived under his protection.

Just before the Russians took the city, Wallenberg learned that the Germans planned to destroy the Jewish ghetto and murder the 70,000 Jews living there. He told the German commander he would see him hanged by the Russians for war crimes if the murder plans proceeded. Wallenberg was successful in his final, and biggest, rescue effort.

After the Russian occupation, Wallenberg went with his driver, accompanied by three Soviet officers, to meet with the Soviet commanders on January 17, 1945.

“I don’t know whether I am in custody or a guest,” said Raoul Wallenberg as he said goodbye to his friends. He was never seen again.

Years later, Russian authorities claimed that Wallenberg died of a heart attack in Lubianka Prison in 1947.

However, according to the Swedish-Russian Wallenberg Commission, there are many indications that Wallenberg may have lived much longer than 1947, and that he died in 1989, in prison, the year his relatives received his personal belongings.

On Vancouver Raoul Wallenberg Day (January 20, 2013), join us as we honour the memory and actions of Raoul Wallenberg and a fellow diplomat, Angel Sanz Briz, known as “the Angel of Budapest,” the Spanish ambassador in Hungary saved the lives of thousands of Jews during the Holocaust by lodging them in “Spanish Safe Houses.” Learn about the civil courage displayed by these individuals, and others, when they placed themselves in danger and disobeyed the orders of their superiors to save Jewish lives.
THE AFTERMATH OF TRAUMA: PTSD, RESILIENCE AND POST-TRAUMATIC GROWTH

BY DR. PETER SUEDFELD

In the first few decades following the end of World War II, mental health professionals who examined and treated young and adult Holocaust survivors reported enough similarity of specific symptoms to be labeled as a new illness or syndrome.

They created diagnoses of “concentration camp [or KZ] syndrome,” “survivor syndrome,” and the like. The specific symptoms included anxiety, depression, irritability, memory flashbacks, sleep disturbances including nightmares, guilt feelings about having survived, psychosomatic problems (headaches, digestive upset, chest pain, etc.), sensitivity to and avoidance of reminders of the experience, pessimism about the future, flattened emotions and inability to feel pleasure or joy (“anhedonia”), feelings of continued danger, persecution and insecurity, trouble concentrating, and difficulty in forming close personal relationships. There were no solid facts as to the appropriate treatment or eventual outcome; many professionals thought that the outlook was very grim. Survivors were not expected to be able to return to (or in the case of child survivors, to ever achieve) normal family and work lives.

These syndromes were eventually recognized in other groups of people who had experienced traumatic situations (combat, natural disasters, persecution, violent crime, etc.), and were relabeled Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, perhaps better known as PTSD. To be diagnosed as having PTSD, the patient must experience a number of the symptoms summarized above, to a degree that they seriously interfere with having a normal life. People who have only a few of these symptoms, which do not seriously disrupt their life, are not diagnosed with PTSD.

The professional view about Holocaust survivors themselves has changed through the years. In the early postwar period, psychiatrists and psychologists saw survivors who had severe symptoms or were involved in claims for compensation. The professionals were staggered and stressed from hearing about the horrible experiences survivors had gone through, and were in any case trained and ready to recognize and treat mental problems. As a result, there was a general assumption that PTSD afflicted all of the survivors. But in later years, researchers began to collect information from “community samples” — survivors who were not patients but were recruited for interviews and other research initiatives from sources such as synagogues, Jewish community organizations, and later, survivor organizations. The picture began to change. Incidentally, one of the earliest researchers who recognized this was the late Dr. John J. Sigal, the brother of Cecil and brother-in-law of Ruth Sigal, one of the founders of our Child Survivor Group.

The field of psychology is now significantly expanding its focus, with increasing attention to human strengths, virtues, and abilities: the movement known as “positive psychology.” This is not meant to de-emphasize, much less to ignore, problems that call for professional help; rather, it is the recognition that outside help is not always necessary and that the human condition includes many counterbalancing characteristics. Nor is this view novel, but the several strands of relevant theory and research are coalescing to form a coherent world-view.

A major component of that world-view is growing research on resilience. Resilience is the ability to cope effectively with stressful, including traumatic, events. It may mean that the person can overcome the negative effects of the experience and resume, continue or, in the case of children, develop a life that is not prevented from normal functioning in the aftermath of stressful experiences. Most recently, the study of resilience has expanded with the recognition that overcoming stress and trauma may in fact result in deeper positive emotions: self-confidence, optimism, enjoyment

continued on page 10
of life, stronger emotional ties with others (both those close to oneself and larger groups, including humanity in general), and more altruistic values. The term “post-traumatic growth” has been attached to this phenomenon, a simplistic summary of this being “What doesn’t kill you, makes you stronger.”

Where do Holocaust survivors stand? We all retain some negative effects of the Holocaust experience, from episodes of grief to nightmares. Probably none of us is without some symptoms of post-traumatic stress. And yet, by the same token, few of us have full-blown PTSD. It is important to acknowledge that symptoms and strengths (and growth) can coexist.

No one who has attended a survivors’ gathering, or even our recent Chanukkah party, can still believe that we don’t enjoy life: the music and the dancing sometimes go on most of the night. So does the eating — it was remarked a while back that while spouses and guests at a post-meeting meal ordered sandwiches and salads, the child survivors tended to order desserts. Do we not have close emotional ties with others? Second generation offspring may complain about their parents’ child-rearing practices (what offspring don’t?), but few feel that they were or are unloved or that their parents were not always there for them. We have loving spouses and friends to about the same extent as any other group, and probably argue with them to the same extent as well.

Can we do productive work? There is no doubt about that, either. Financial success is not the main criterion. Regardless of their occupation or income, survivors value work that contributes to society, calls upon their best endeavours and enables them to care for their loved ones. The average occupational level of survivors, according to my research, is in the middle to upper-middle class range, and the educational level of child survivors is above the average in the country. As we look around at our own community, we see people who have been active in many occupations and professions, exerting their best efforts to maintain themselves and their families and in many cases reaching levels of solid success and respect. In addition, our contributions to community and religious organizations, charities, educational programs including Holocaust education, and other volunteer work, have been considerable.

At least half a dozen child survivors have received the Nobel Prize in every area where it is given, from peace to literature to the sciences and economics (the latter including Daniel Kahneman, who for some years taught in the Department of Psychology at UBC). Many others became outstanding businessmen and philanthropists; one had a military career that included command of the U.S. Army’s Berlin Brigade, and one was a Cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church.

As for mental and emotional health, a study conducted by a student, Lindi Cassel, and myself found very few complaints of PTSD symptoms, with the exception of sleep disturbances. Another study found that survivors sought psychological or psychiatric help at an only slightly higher rate than the North American Jewish population in general. Survivors were optimistic, trusted other people and the world, looked back on their life with considerable contentment, and faced the facts of aging with equanimity and a high degree of self-respect.

A colleague of mine, the American psychiatrist Jerrold Post, has suggested that we study “survivor pride” as well as “survivor guilt.” What didn't kill us may have made us stronger, but at the very least it showed us how strong we really are. Interestingly, while others attribute our survival to our own psychological and physical abilities, survivors themselves are more likely to recognize, in addition, the roles of luck and of help from others. Without denying the latter, perhaps we should take a new look around, give due credit to the strengths we have shown since 1945, and both feel and express our pride in each other and ourselves.

Dr. Peter Suedfeld is Dean Emeritus of Graduate Studies and Professor Emeritus of Psychology at the University of British Columbia, and a VHEC Survivor Outreach Speaker.
GET WELL
Vera Wollner, Get better quickly. Judy Kalla
Issy Rogowski, Speedy recovery. Jack & Karen Micner
Gabriel Milton, Speedy recovery. Jack & Karen Micner
Rob Markin, Speedy recovery. Art Toft
Fay Davis, Refuah Shlema. Ode & Ida Kaplan
Alan Farber, Speedy recovery. Ode & Ida Kaplan, Les, Karen, Courtney, Bailee & Brayden Cohen
Dave & Dorothy Mundie, Refuah Shlema. Debbie & Eddie Rozenberg
Shirley & Stanley Schwartz, Speedy recoveries. Anita Shafman, Mark & Debby Choi
Adele Moscovitz, Speedy recovery. Rose Jordan, Grace & David Ehrlich
Stanley Sunshine, Speedy recovery. Ida & Ode Kaplan
Sidi Schaffer, A successful recovery. Ike & Louise Soresen
Alan Farber, Speedy recovery. Jack & Karen Micner
Annette Small, Refuah Shlema. Rome & Hymie Fox
David Feldman, Speedy recovery. Aron, Sam & Al Szajman, Gloria & Robbie Wasiman

MAZEL TOV
Agi Bergida, On your 80th Birthday. Evelyn Kahn, Ida Kaplan
Elan Suissa, On your Bar Mitzvah. Debbie & Eddie Rozenberg
Harry Hammer, On your 80th Birthday. Debbie & Eddie Rozenberg, Gail, Gerry & Betty Whitley-Goldstein
Mariette Doduck, On receiving the QE II Diamond Jubilee Medal. Tom Szekely, Jody, Harvey, Rebecca, Anieh & Eli Dales
Ab De Beer, On your Special Day. Inge Manes
Isaac Thau, On your 60th Birthday. Jack & Gloria Altman
Deborah Hodge, On publication of your book. Irene N Watts
Brayden Cohen, On graduation. Alan, Corinne & Jordan Margulius
Evelyn Levine, Happy Birthday. Alina Wydra
Klara Noik, Special Birthday. Andrew & Betty Karsai
Robert Krell, On the Elie Wiesel event. Barb, Ron, Marnie & Lewis Krell
Frieda Miller, Mazel tov. Bernard, Carole, Lauren, Alexandra, & Syndee Fried, Maureen & Arthur Kaell, Teresa Richmond, Seymour Levitan, Fran Ritch, Saul Apfelbaum, Mark Kahn, Myriam Fontaine, Judy Oberlander & Mark Waxler, Michael & Maggie Calhén, Fran Grunberg, Susan Quastel, Eleanor Braude, Barrie & Ellen Yackness, Robert & Marilyn Krell, Fran Ritch, Dan Sonnenschein
Helen Aiko, On the 100th anniversary of ABC Recycling! Thyrza Cohen & Tom Santanove
Jeremy Bowman, On your Birthday. Derek & Lyn Hamill
George Rosenberg, On your Birthday. Ken & Linda Glasner, Shelley & Perry Seidelman
Hugh McLellan, In honour of the Law Firm’s 20th Anniversary! Jack Micner & Staff, Spy Hawkins Micner
Dr. Med. Eva Umlauf, Special Birthday. Janko Karsai
Ashley Krismann, Happy Birthday. Joan & Peter Karas
Clare Prasow, On your 90th Birthday. Joanne & Steve Emerman
Stan Taviss, On your 80th Birthday! Jean & Harvey Gerber, Sarah & Jim Armstrong, Frieda Miller & Danny Shapiro
Ken & Leah Levitt, On your very special anniversary. Les & Karen Cohen & Family
Leonor Etkin, Happy 80th Birthday! Amalia & Kris, Boe Fishman, Jan, Paul, Ben & Family
Binky Segal, Happy 75th Birthday! Amalia & Kris, Boe Fishman, Jan, Paul, Ben & Family
Shoshana Fidelman, Happy Birthday. Doreen Horwitz
Ian Penn, On your Special Birthday. Frieda Miller & Danny Shapiro
Alex Chervin, On your 95th Birthday. Susan Spier
Paul Heller, Happy Birthday. Tamara Frankel
Alex & Colette Buckman, On your 50th Wedding Anniversary. Manuel & Merle Rootman
Beth & Leon Bogner, On your Wedding Anniversary. Marilyn Moss & Sam Hanson
Michael James, Happy 85th Birthday! Mendy & Lana Landa
Bailie Shapiro, Happy 70th Birthday. Mendy & Lana Landa
Harold Groberman, On your Special Birthday. Peter & Marla Gropper
Ida Kaplan, Thinking of you. Ruth & Eve Wooloch
Jan Fishman, Happy 90th Birthday. Amalia Boe – Fishman
Bari Lamond, On your graduation. Marcie & Jeffrey Simons & Family
Agi Bergida, On your Special Birthday. Rita & Ben Akselrod
Jaap Hamburger, On reaching Associate Composer in the Canadian Music Centre. Joan Berlow
Leonard Broitman, On your 90th Birthday. Survivor Drop-In & Gloria & Gerri
Leonor Etkin, On your 80th Birthday. Survivor Drop-In & Gloria & Gerri
Arnold Shine, On your Special Birthday. Les & Karen Cohen & Family
Evelyn Charach, On your Special Birthday. Les & Karen Cohen & Family

SYMPATHY
Mrs. M. Goldstick, In memory of Wilf. Helen Aiko
Ed & Debbie Lewin & Family, In memory of your mother & grandmother, Rose Lewin. Sara & Mark Clodman, Meredith, Neil & Harley, Barbara Buchanan, Paul Heller & Irene Bettinger, Jeff & Jowna Wachtel, Norman Gladstone, Rob & Marilyn Krell, Sally, Sid & Alex Coleman & Miedzygorski Families, Sari, Adam, Brenley & Jenna Markowitz, Vivian & Jeff Claman & Family, Phil & Sherry Levinson, Marion & Leo Gottlieb, Imerman Family
Karen & Les Cohen, In memory of your mother, Rose Lewin. Alan, Corinne & Jordan Margulius, Sally, Sid & Alex Coleman & Miedzygorski Families, Jeffreie, Marcie & Toni Simons, Linda, Peter, Sam & Matthew Hough, Imerman Family, Sherry & Phil Levinson & Family
Elie Soroano & Family, In memory of Corinne. Rosa Ferara
The Family of Rachele Leah Fox, On your loss. Beryl & Buddy Kofman, Jac & Lila Mydlarski
Nathan & Susan Fox, In memory of your mother, Rachele Leah Fox. David, Marla, & Joshua Rootman, Les & Tracy Ames, Merle & Manuel Rootman
Michael Fox, On the passing of your mother. Les & Tracy Ames, Morley & Fay Shaftron
Avi Dolgin, On the loss of your wife, Ruth. Lew Pullmer & Nora Ferera-Pullmer, Patricia & Marshall Wilensky, Roberta Kremer
TRIBUTE CARDS

Chris & Rhoda Friedrichs, In memory of your son-in-law, Joe. Gloria & Robbie Waisman, Debby Freiman & David Schwartz

Ellen, Chris & Rhoda Friedrichs, In memory of your husband, father & son-in-law, Joe. Frieda Miller & Danny Shapiro

To honour the memory of family members.

Anonymous


Family of Izak Folk, On your loss. Pauline Babins, Jack Olsen, Robert Haber & Arlene Tully

Yolanda Babins, On the passing of your Uncle Ignatz Folk. Jeff & Iowna Wachtel


Bergida Family, on the loss of your husband, father & grandfather, Tibor Bergida. Helen & Bob Coleman, Myra Saslaff

In memory of my Mother, Father & paternal Aunt. Helene Josefovicz

Rosalind & Howard Karby, On the loss of your daughter, Debra Karby, Birgit & Norman Gladstone, Art & Arlene Hayes, Debby Freiman & David Schwartz

Bob Samuel, In memory of your Father. Ev & David Levine

Linda & Joel Werner & Family, On the loss of your Father & Grandfather. Evelyn Levine, Odie Kaplan, Peter & Marla Gropper

Sue Cohene, On the loss of your Mother. Lew Pulmer & Nora Ferera-Pulmer, Esty Sternberg

Danny Rosenzweig & Marilyn Sherman & Family, In memory of Marilyn’s father, Fred Sherman. Debbie & Eddie Rozenberg

Betty Mendelsohn & Family, In memory of your Mother. Art Szajman, Joyce Lowy

Bernie & Sandra Bressler, In memory of Sandra’s father, Ralph Drabinisky. Debbie & Eddie Rozenberg & Family

Marvin & Rachelle Enkin, In memory of Marvin’s mother, Rose Enkin. Eddie & Debbie Rozenberg

David Bogoch, In memory of your mother, Margaret Bogoch. Paul Heller & Irene Bittenger

Gary & Richa Freedman, On the loss of your father & father-in-law. Gerry Rudy

Hilda Ben Dan, On your great loss. Gloria & Robbie Waisman & Family

Ben Folk & Family, On the loss of your brother & uncle, Ignatz. Ida & Odie Kaplan

Barbara Minuk, On your loss. Karen & Jack Micner & Family

Robyn Hanson, In memory. Jocy Lowy

Noam & Valerie Dolgin, On the loss of your Mother & Mother in-law. Karen & Les Cohen & Family

Ellen Yackness, On the loss of your Mother. Gloria & Don Hendin

Gary & Sheila Romalis, On the loss of your brother, Lorne, Susan & Steve Tick

Mitzi Rattner, Our deepest sympathies. Mendy & Lana Landa

Jennifer & Alan Brookstone, On the loss of your Mother & Grandmother. Les & Karen Cohen & Family

Clive Levinson, On the loss of your Father. Neri & Aron Trischler

Linda Semi, In memory of Max Drummer. Steve, Dori, Chelsey & Alana Whiteside

Amnelle Drucker, In memory of your mother, Denise Gauier. Norman & Birgit Gladstone

Mervin Rose & Family, on the loss of your wife & mother, Honey. Arlene Tully & Rob, Sam & Karen Haber

Robert & Shelley Cohen, In memory of Celia Millman. The Shipman Family

Amalia & Kris Beo-Fishman & Family, On the loss of your brother & uncle, David. Survivor Drop-In & Gloria & Gerri

David Bogoch & Family, In memory of your Mother. Sherry & Phil Levinson & Family

Sarah Neiman, In memory of your Mother. Sherry & Phil Levinson & Family

In memory of my mother, Vivian Claman

In memory of Fanny Ehrman. Robert Haber & Arlene Tully

In Memory of Oscar Ehrman. Robert Haber & Arlene Tully

THANK YOU

Beth & Leon Bogner, In appreciation. David & Susie Zacks, Ken & Linda Glanser

Daniel Kalla, In appreciation. Har El Sisterhood

DONATION

Nadine Delikatny, Merry Christmas. Lori Barer

THANK YOU TO OUR OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

OUTREACH SPEAKERS 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 Romero, Louise Sorensen, Peter Sudfeld, Tom Szekely, Peter Voermei, Robbie Waisman, Coordinator: Rita Akselrod

DOCENTS Alexandra Campagnaro, Rajiv Cowasjee, Pamela Cyr, Reva Dexter, Sylvie Epstein, Brooke Fowler, Debby Freiman, Philippa Friedland, Belinda Gutman, Stefanie Ickert, Arlene James, Dodie Katzenstein, Lise Kirchner, Uma Kumar, Lucien Lieberman, Ivan Linde, David Machat, Ellen Millman, Renée Neuschul, Cathy Paperny, Adriana Reynoso, Gita Silver, Rina Vizer, Billy Walker-Lane, Heather Wolfe

SPECIAL PROJECTS Alex Buckman, Alexandra Campagnaro, Amalia Beo-Fishman, Sarah-Jane Kerr-Lapsley, Alan LeFevre, Gerri London, Jack Micner, Stan Taviss, Kevin Veltheer, Gloria Waisman, Robbie Waisman

Our apologies for any errors or omissions
INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24
7 PM
NORMAN & ANNETTE ROTHSTEIN THEATRE
950 WEST 41ST AVE., VANCOUVER

RECEPTION & “ENEMY ALIENS” EXHIBIT VIEWING
50-950 W 41ST AVE., VANCOUVER
5 - 6:30 PM

ISLAND OF ROSES: TRAGEDY IN PARADISE
L’isola delle rose: la tragedia di un paradiso
A DOCUMENTARY FILM BY REBECCA SAMONÀ

Director Rebecca Samonà travels with her mother to Rhodes, Greece and tells the story of her family’s survival during the Holocaust.

PROGRAM INCLUDES:
• Coro Folkloristico Italiano di Vancouver (Vancouver Italian Folk Chorus)
• Candle lighting by Holocaust survivors in memory of those who perished

FREE ADMISSION | RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED

CONTACT THE ISTITUTO ITALIANO DI CULTURA: icvancouver@esteri.it or 604.688.0809 ext. 21

Please note: Seats are held until 10 minutes prior to start time

With sponsorship of the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre, Istituto Italiano di Cultura in Vancouver and Norman & Annette Rothstein Theatre, under the High Patronage of the President of the Italian Republic and under the auspices of the Consulate General of Italy.

CHUTZPAH! FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24
7 PM
NORMAN & ANNETTE ROTHSTEIN THEATRE
950 WEST 41ST AVE., VANCOUVER

MUSIC IN INTERMENT
This musical evening highlights pieces originally written and performed by German and Austrian refugees from Nazism in British internment camps.

TICKETS: Adult $27, Senior $23, Student $18 (+HST and nominal service charge)
AVAILABLE AT www.ticketstonight.ca or phone 604.684.2787

PUBLIC LECTURE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28
7:30 PM
WOSK AUDITORIUM
950 W 41ST AVENUE, VANCOUVER

“ENEMY ALIENS” EXHIBIT VIEWING
50-950 W 41ST AVE., VANCOUVER
5 - 7 PM

“BETWEEN MEMORY AND COMMEMORATION: EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY OF THE AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU STATE MUSEUM”

ALICJA BIALECKA

Alicja Bialecka heads the Educational Programs Section at the International Center for Education about Auschwitz and the Holocaust, Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, in Oswiecim, Poland. Her lecture, which opens up the VHEC’s 8th Biennial Shafarik Teachers’ Conference, examines education at sites of memory.

Presented by the VHEC in partnership with the CENES Department, UBC and with support from the Polish Consulate General of Vancouver.

Admission is free of charge but space is limited. Please RSVP to education@vhec.org or call 604.264.0499
PRESENTED BY
CONSULATE OF SWEDEN
VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE
AND SECOND GENERATION GROUP OF VANCOUVER

VANCOUVER RAOUl WALLENBERG DAY

1:30 PM | SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 2013
VANCITY THEATRE, 1181 SEYMOUR STREET, VANCOUVER

The Budapest Angel
El ángel de Budapest
A FILM BY LUIS OLIVEROS

*The Budapest Angel* tells the story of Spanish Charge d’Affairs to Hungary, Ángel Sanz Briz, who daringly saved Sephardic Jews during the Holocaust.

ADMISSION BY DONATION | RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

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