KRISSLALLNACHT
Commemorative Lecture
Sunday, November 6, 2011 | 7:30 pm
Beth Israel Synagogue, 4350 Oak Street

Jewish Heritage and Jewish Survival
Lessons from the Holocaust

DR. ANNA ORNSTEIN
Psychoanalyst, Boston Psychoanalytic Institute
Lecturer, Harvard University

Candle lighting ceremony in memory of the six million
Jews murdered in the Holocaust

Cover Image: Allan Drummond, Escape from Paris, 2005, modern reproduction of watercolor and ink on paper, 14 3/4 x 10 7/8 inches, courtesy Allan Drummond and Institute for Holocaust Education, Omaha, NE.
This year’s Kristallnacht lecturer, Dr. Anna Ornstein, is a unique personality. She is a giant in the field of psychiatry, psychoanalysis and child psychiatry. Anna is renowned for her contributions to the study of psychoanalytic self-psychology. Her psychiatric and child psychiatric training were completed at the University of Cincinnati where she continued on staff for most of her professional life. Dr. Ornstein is also a graduate of the Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis and following her later life move to Boston with her husband, Paul, is now also a supervising psychoanalyst at the Boston Psychoanalytic Institute and lecturer in Psychiatry at Harvard University.

There is yet another component to her illustrious career. She received her medical degree in Heidelberg, Germany. Another continent, another life. When I began to write about the psychology of Holocaust survivors and psychiatric treatment, I discovered Anna Ornstein’s brilliant article “Survival and Recovery” in Psychoanalytic Inquiry published in 1985. I first met Anna in Vancouver when she lectured at the UBC Department of Psychiatry. She had read some of my writings and we confirmed to each other that we were amongst a relatively few who were writing articles free from the usual professional jargon. In touch ever since, I grew to admire her work more and more. She seldom wrote about the Holocaust, her extensive work is primarily focused on self-psychology. But when she did write on survivors and survival, it was with understanding, compassion and insight, simply unavailable to those who were not there. She was.

At age 17, Anna and her mother were deported to Auschwitz from Hungary. Her father and two brothers died in the Holocaust. Her childhood sweetheart, Paul, survived a Hungarian forced labour camp. They found each other after the war, married and had three children. Anna revealed that she had begun to relate her story to her family at Passover seders, one chapter at a time. These chapters became a book published in 2004, titled, My Mother’s Eyes. My imagination led me to think of Anna as a teenager in Auschwitz looking into her mother’s eyes and seeing what: sadness? hopelessness? determination? Well, perhaps. But the title derives from the reality that her mother’s glasses that “she had worn all her life were taken away from her when she arrived in Auschwitz. I became my mother’s eyes and hands, and she, in turn, used her brains for both of us.” They relied on each other for survival. Anna felt that neither could have survived alone.

Her entire life has been informed and infused with her life experiences. Anna’s energy and curiosity, her inquiry into the human condition, her faith in meaningful relationships and the power of the psyche - all have enriched our understanding of human behavior. She is a powerhouse of creativity, a fearless explorer of what makes us tick. It should not surprise us (although it does) that Drs. Paul and Anna Ornstein’s three children are all psychiatrists, two of them psychoanalysts. They are blessed as well with five grandchildren.

Before we met in November 2010 at the Lessons and Legacies Conference at Florida Atlantic University, Anna and I had been asked to comment on a roundtable discussion of child survivors who were also all therapists with psychologic and/or psychiatric training. The result was that Anna’s comments and mine follow one another in Psychoanalytic Perspectives: A Journal of Integration and Innovation.

. . . . continues on page 9
Curious George, the little, brown, mischievous monkey, is one of the most iconic figures in children’s literature and a childhood favourite of many. However, few know that the illustrator and author of the beloved Curious George books, the husband and wife team of H.A. and Margret Rey, had to make an incredible journey to escape the Nazi invasion of Paris in 1940. The Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre presents this story in the exhibit *The Wartime Escape: Margret and H.A. Rey’s Journey From France*, produced by ExhibitsUSA and on view at the VHEC from October 17, 2011 to November 30, 2011.

*The Wartime Escape* details the Reys’ escape from France using 25 framed art prints by artist Allan Drummond, as well as supplemental archival images from the holdings of the de Grummond Collections of Children’s Literature at the University of Southern Mississippi. The exhibit is based in part on the 2005 publication *The Journey that Saved Curious George: The True Wartime Escape of Margret and H.A. Rey*, written by Louise Borden and illustrated by Allan Drummond (Houghton Mifflin Company, New York).

The Reys were German Jews who met and married in Brazil before the Second World War. In 1936, they took a honeymoon to Paris and enjoyed the city so much they decided to stay. There, they worked on the sketches and storylines that would eventually become *The Adventures of Curious George*, the Reys’ first picture book featuring the rascally monkey and his friend the Man in the Yellow Hat. However, the Nazis invaded the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Belgium and France on May 10, 1940, and quickly advanced towards Paris. Realizing that France would soon be conquered and that they were no longer safe, the Reys decided to flee south and escape across the French-Spanish border, before eventually finding refuge in the United States. They joined the twelve million other refugees who fled the German invasion.

Many bicycles in Paris had already been sold to other escapees, and the Reys were unable to purchase bicycles to pedal out of the city. Instead, H.A. cobbled together bicycles out of spare parts to carry the couple south. They took few possessions, but their valuable manuscripts went with them in their bicycle baskets. Little did the Reys realize how critical this decision would be. They cycled and took various trains south to the city of Hendaye, where the Spanish Consulate approved their transit visas. Having immigrated to Brazil...
before their Parisian honeymoon, both of the Reys were Brazilian citizens with Brazilian passports, and this detail granted them transit visas through Spain and Portugal that French officials denied to many others.

The Reys sold their bicycles and boarded a train to Spain. On the train, an encounter with a French official demonstrated the importance of Curious George to the Reys’ journey. As the official checked the Reys’ papers, he suspected they may be spies because of their German accents. He asked H.A. to open his satchel, but upon encountering the Curious George illustrations, he let them go on their way. The Reys successfully crossed into Spain on June 22, 1940, a mere week after the Nazi invasion of Paris. As they would later say in a telegram to their bank, they had a “very narrow escape.”

The Reys travelled through Spain, continuing on to Lisbon, then Rio de Janiero, before arriving in New York City in October of 1940. Just a year later, Curious George was published, bringing the story of the little brown monkey to children all over the world.

Over the course of the Reys’ journey, the Nazi army conquered France, marking the beginning of an occupation that would last until 1944. On June 22, 1940, the French government surrendered and signed an armistice with the Nazis that established a German-occupied zone in the north, and a new “free” French government in the south, which was known as the Vichy regime. Although officially neutral, the Vichy government collaborated with the occupying Nazi German forces, passing laws that discriminated against Jews. Foreign-born Jews were particularly targeted for discrimination, and eventually deportation. The collaboration of the Vichy government facilitated the arrest, deportation, and murder of over 75,000 Jews from France in extermination camps including Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The Reys’ escape was narrow indeed; however, their story of escape was not common. Many Jewish refugees found the world’s doors closed to them as they tried to flee Nazi persecution. Most Western nations refused to grant Jews sanctuary, and the visas the Reys received were precious commodities. During the Holocaust, Canada admitted approximately 5,000 Jews - one of the worst records of any of the world’s refugee receiving countries.

This exhibit provides visitors with an opportunity to engage with the story of two individuals who survived the Holocaust and who made a lasting contribution to the lives of many generations of children through their books. By considering these contributions, it also allows us to reflect on the magnitude of cultural loss that occurred as a result of the murder of more than six million individuals over the course of the Holocaust, as well as appreciate the resiliency of the individual, creative human spirit.

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VHEC Sunday Openings

OCT 23, & NOV 27, 2011
1:00 – 4:00 PM

CHILDREN’S STORYTIME | 2:00 PM

Children ages 3 to 6 will listen to the story Curious George Rides a Bike, sing songs and have more fun than a barrel full of monkeys!

To reserve a spot please contact us at 604.264.0499 or info@vhec.org
Parental supervision required

Allan Drummond, Hans and Margaret at work and Chateau Feuga, 2005, modern reproduction of watercolor and ink on paper, 14 3/4 x 10 7/8 inches, courtesy Allan Drummond and Institute for Holocaust Education, Omaha, NE.
Andrew Karsai was born in Slovakia. He immigrated to Canada in 1968 to escape the Communist regime. Until then, he wrote poems in Slovak, but the new world opened new vistas in the poet’s imagination and afforded him a long look into his past, questioning how to make sense of it and how to fit it into his new Canadian reality and the English language. This combination resulted in bold images that evoke the absurd in his verse bordering on the surreal. A testimony to this can be found in the riveting illustrations of Janet Lee’s art, accompanying the 60 poems in this fine volume aptly titled Random Convergences.

The past and the present confront each other in Karsai’s poems like two strangers about to meet at an intersection of two cultures. He writes about the everyday life of an immigrant crossed with memories of Slovakia and the Holocaust.
The tone in the poet’s verse oscillates between anger, disbelief, irony and disenchantment with the human condition and often the tongue in cheek observations of relationships and situations. Through the use of surrealistic imagery mixed with the element of the absurd, the poet confronts us with scenes of human folly as in the poem *The Ship*. The poem is reminiscent of Thomas Becket or Kafka in their depictions of the absurd where nothing happens and nothing seems real.

In another poem *Iron Ore Dust*, Karsai uses surrealistic imagery that liberates the subconscious mind with its imaginative force and reveals the secrets within. The sequence here may well be that of a dream, a state of mind whose subconscious probes the disappointment with the world but seeks release in love.

In many of these poems we become aware that ultimately what remains is memory and the act of remembrance that endures and is timeless when all else passes. Janet Lee’s art compliments Karsai’s poems with her use of surrealistic imagery. Both artists are on a journey of discovery not of the outer landscape but the landscape of dreams and an inner vision of the world. Finally in the poem *United Nations*, we find wry humour that lifts up the volume and the dexterity of the poet in his use of rhyme and free verse.
We had barely gone to bed that spring evening in 1942, when we heard loud knocks on our front door. My brothers and I were at the door in seconds where we found our parents and the Chief of Police, Mr. Clement who said “Maurice, get your valise. I received orders to arrest you in the morning.” We waited in silence, while my father got dressed. He hugged mother and turned to us, but the policeman pushed him out. “Hurry, hurry, before the German Soldiers come” and they were gone. We stood there crying. Mother prepared some hot chocolate. We drank it mixed with our tears.

We lived in Molenbeek-St-Jean, a district of Brussels, where my father was well known and well liked. He and his friends had been active in the years leading up to the war criticizing the Nazi groups that had formed in Belgium since Hitler’s rise to power. Several of my father’s friends had already gone underground and now it was his turn.

My mother warned us that one day, she too would have to join my father and about a month later, our friend the Chief of Police returned to get her. That same day, a woman came to care for us. A week later on April 8, 1942, instead of preparing us for school, the woman helped us pack some clothes. We followed her, dragging our little bundles to an orphanage on the chaussee d’Alsemberg. She hugged us, rang the bell and left.

The big black door opened slowly and a young woman let us in to what would be our home until Liberation. That first night was terrible! I was in a strange bed, in a big dormitory, with many eyes staring at me. I was cold and terrified. The fact that my mother was not there to kiss us good night and that I could not hug my father, my hero, filled me with dread. It was also my birthday. I was 11. I buried my head in a pillow and cried myself to sleep.

Life at the orphanage was very difficult. Management knew that we were Jewish. The man in charge was a decent fellow but the woman was something else. Nasty. Every week or so, she would harass a child to no end. I was often the target of her beatings. What seemed to upset her the most, was my apparent lack of reaction to her abuse. “Cry,” she would scream at me, “Cry, you Juda.”

We were also perpetually hungry. Many times, I would sneak into the kitchen to try to steal some food. One day, I was caught and was taken before the entire orphanage assembly, where I had to take my pants down and received a beating from the manager. It left my behind so black that I could not sit properly for a long time. I was determined to run away from this hell. I tried several times, but was always caught by the police and returned to the orphanage. And so, a kind of life went on for over two years. It was a life of tears, frustration and unhappiness until October 4, 1944, when we were finally reunited with our parents.
(Winter 2007). As an additional surprise, the section concludes with a poem by our own Lillian Boraks Nemetz, “An Ancestral Dance in Jewish Prague.”

On November 6th, I will be delighted to welcome Dr. Anna Ornstein who will speak on the topic of Jewish Heritage and Jewish Survival: Lessons from the Holocaust. In the past the professional and lay literature focused almost exclusively on the psychological damage survivors of the Holocaust might have suffered. In this presentation, Dr. Ornstein will discuss the ways in which Jews and Judaism survived this and previous persecutions.

The VHEC Collection and Archives has been the recipient of a number of interesting and unique donations this year. These items, which include photographs, documents and wartime correspondence, are currently being accessioned into the collection.

The Collection was recently the recipient of a donation of seven Henri Pieck lithographs from Buchenwald. Henri Pieck (1895-1972) was a Dutch architect, painter and graphic artist whose images from Buchenwald, where he was imprisoned by the Nazis, are very moving. Pieck's images depict "undisguised, the deplorable conditions of the camp." Many of his drawings of Buchenwald were made immediately after the war, drawing from sketches that he made secretly in the camp. Pieck's original drawings are housed at the National War and Resistance Museum of the Netherlands in Overloon.*

Additionally, the Collection received the donation of a mounted square piece of lace from the lace factory of M. Meyer and Company. Founded by Max Meyer in the 19th century, the Cologne based business was a prosperous and well-known lace producer for the European fashion industry before being Aryanized during the Holocaust. The story of the company and Meyer family was featured in the 1999 VHEC exhibit Broken Threads: The Destruction of the Jewish Fashion Industry in Germany & Austria.

Many thanks to all of those who generously donated items to the archives and collection.

**TRIBUTE CARDS**

March 22 – July 15, 2011

**GET WELL**

Deborah Davis, Get Well. Karen & Les Cohen

Ida Kaplan, Hope you’re feeling better. Gloria Waisman, Gerri London & the Survivor Drop In Group

**THANK YOU**

Alex Buckman, Thank you. March of the Living Calgary and Holocaust Education and Remembrance Committee, Calgary Jewish Federation

Martin & Paulette Fishman, Thank you. The Vaisler Family

Alex & Charlene Zbar, Happy Pesach. Gail, Gerry & Betty Whitley Goldstein

Stan Taviss, In appreciation. Julie & Henry Gutovich, Louise Sorensen

Dr. Barry Tessler, In appreciation. Ruth & Bud Wolochow

Marina Vinnitsky, Thank you. Celia Brauer

Robbie Waisman, Thank you. Holocaust Education & Remembrance Committee, Calgary Jewish Federation

Cantor Michael Zoosman, Thank you. Celia Brauer

Tony Uccheddu, Thank you. Gloria Waisman, Gerri London & the Survivor Drop In Group

**MAZEL TOV**

Oren & Elana Bick, On the birth of Leora Sara. Safta Betty Mintzberg

In honour of Seth Book’s Bar Mitzvah.

Marty & Janet Braverman, On Landon’s graduation from University with a BA and BMusic.

Susan, Joe, Michelle, Jenna & David Stein

Ariella Zbar, On your graduation from Medical School. Betty Whitley

Ariella Zbar, On your acceptance to the Queen’s Medical Residency Program. Gerry, Gail and Betty Whitley Goldstein

Wai Young, Mazel Tov. Irving & Sharon Kates

Lillian Boraks Nemetz, On being the keynote speaker for Yom HaShoah 2011. Alex Buckman

Marla Guralnick, For all your efforts in supporting a great cause. Alan Shuster & Kathryn Young

Freda Abegov, Happy 60th Birthday. Debbie, Eddie, Mira, Naomi & Aliya Rozenberg

Ben Akselrod, Happy 90th Birthday. Evelyn Kahn, Mark, Hodie, Saul & extended Family


Leonard Brody, Happy 40th Birthday! Jan, Alisa, Katie & Noah Kaplan

Avi Costin, Happy 60th Birthday! Debbie & Ed Rozenberg

Ken Davidsonson, On your special birthday. Anita Shafran & Family


Esther Frohman, Happy Birthday! Susan Quastel

Paul & Edwina Heller, On your 75th Anniversary. Leyla & Abe Sacks

Paul Heller, On your Special Birthday. Lillian Boraks Nemetz

Robert Israel, Happy 60th Birthday! Debbie & Eddie Rozenberg & Family

Evelyn Kahn, Happy Birthday. Ben & Rita Akselrod

Robert Krell, For your article in the National Post. Bill Gruenthal

Robert & Alicia Matas, On your 40th Wedding Anniversary. Rosa Ferera

Janos Mate, Happy 65th Birthday. Grace Robin and Family, Sharyn & Sol Pavon

Karen Micner, Happy Mother’s Day. Tamara & Mimi Micner

Naomi Nelson, Happy 60th Birthday! Debbie & Eddie Rozenberg & Family

Conelia Oberlander, On a Special Birthday. Frieda Miller & Danny Shapiro

Reva (Rebeka) Puterman, Happy Birthday. David Feldman, Chaim & Susie Micner, Myles Wolfe & Barby Solomon-Wolfe

Molly Ross, Happy Birthday. Grace & David Ehrlich

Mrs. Judy Breuer, Happy Birthday. Barrie and Ellen Yackness

Dora Rozenberg, Happy Special Birthday. Eddie, Debbie, Mira, Naomi & Aliya Rozenberg, Mark, Jacob, Talya & Nirit Rozenberg, Rome, Hymie, Aylee, Danya & Alden Fox

Dr. Isaac Stoffman, On your special birthday! Peter & Marla Gropper

Irene N. Watts, Happy Birthday. Lillian Boraks Nemetz

George Wertman, On your 90th birthday. Robert & Marilyn Krell

Daniel Wollner, Happy Birthday. Vera Bakonyi, Bakonyi Family

Alex Zbar, Happy Birthday. Gail, Gerry and Betty Whitley Goldstein

In Honour of Bruce Dobson. Anonymous

**SYMPATHY**

In memory of Kitty Heller. Anonymous

Alla & Tony Bush & Family, On the loss of your father and grandfather, Michael. Sally, Sid & Alex Coleman & Miedzygorski Family

Saul Cohn & Rick Testa, On the loss of your wife and mother, Sara. Gerri London, Gloria Waisman & the Survivor Drop-in Group

Lou Zivot & Carla Cooper, In memory of Laurie. Debbie & Ed Rozenberg & Family

Ken Sanders & Sharon Cooper, In memory of Laurie. Debbie & Ed Rozenberg & Family


Christine Derek, In memory of your mother, Anne. The Second Generation Group

Marcushamer Family, In memory of Michelle’s Mother. Debbie & Ed Rozenberg
Howard & Gail Feldman & Samantha, In memory of your son and brother, Ben. Aiden, Hymie and Rome Fox

Donna Felgar & Family, In memory of Brahmi. Debbie, Ed, Mira, Naomi & Aliya Rozenberg

Shirley Fitterman & Family, On the loss of your father and father-in-law, Donald. Les & Karen Cohen & Family

Monte & Marcy Glanzberg, On the loss of your Mother & Mother-in-law. Wendi & Barry Vaisler & Family, Neri & Aron Tischler, Beth and Leon Bogner, Mark, Jacob, Talya & Nirit Rozenberg

Mrs. Gelfand, In memory of your sister, Leah. Ruth & Bud Wolochow & Family


Ruth Huberman, On the loss of your Father. Anita Shafran

Alex Jackson, On the loss of your Mother. Neri & Aron Tischler, Mark, Jacob, Talya & Nirit Rozenberg


Janine & Sam Krikler, In memory of Sam’s father, Bob Krikler. Debbie & Ed Rozenberg & Family, Les & Karen Cohen & family

Gaynor Levin & Family, On the loss of your Father & Grandfather. Mark, Jacob, Talya & Nirit Rozenberg, Nora Ferera-Pullmer, Rosa Ferera, Lew David & Rachelle Pullmer


Mrs. Mia Mackoff & Family, On the loss of your Dad. The Lowys

Alex Magil, On the loss of your Father. Janice Masur & Tom Szekely


Mrs. Lucy Meepos, Condolences to you and your family. Mendy & Lana Landa


Max & Sharon Morton, In memory of your brother, David. Shoshana & Moshe Fidelman

Allan Nortman, On the passing of your son. Robert Krell & Family

Michel Mielnicki, In memory of June. Robert & Marilyn Krell, Gary & Sheila Romalis, Ben & Rita Akselrod, Gloria & Robbie Waisman, Anna Ezekiel, Brian & Sidnee Bell

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SAVE THE DATE

HIGH HOLIDAY CEMETERY SERVICE
Prof. Richard Menkis & Rabbi Hillel Goelman

**Sunday, October 2, 2011 | 12:30 pm**
Schara Tzedeck Cemetery, 2345 Marine Dr, New Westminster

KRISTALLNACHT COMMEMORATIVE LECTURE

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Dr. Anna Ornstein | *Jewish Heritage and Jewish Survival: Lessons from the Holocaust*

THE WARTIME ESCAPE
Margret and H.A Rey’s Journey From France

**October 17 – November 30, 2011**
Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre

Allan Drummond, *Hans and Margaret at work and Chateau Feuga*, 2005, modern reproduction of watercolor and ink on paper, 14 3/4 x 10 7/8 inches, courtesy Allan Drummond and Institute for Holocaust Education, Omaha, NE.