

VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE

ZACHOR

WINTER 2020

**TREASURED BELONGINGS: THE HAHN FAMILY
& THE SEARCH FOR A STOLEN LEGACY**

A UNIQUE GATHERING: CHILD SURVIVORS
CONVENE IN VANCOUVER

IHRA RECOMMENDATIONS ON TEACHING
AND LEARNING ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST



604.264.0499 | INFO@VHEC.ORG

WINTER 2020

ZACHOR

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IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU



REFLECTIONS ON LIBERATION 75 YEARS LATER

MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2020 | 1 PM

HILLEL BC, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
6145 STUDENT UNION BOULEVARD, VANCOUVER

Holocaust survivors are invited to participate in candle lighting

EVERYONE WELCOME *This event is free of charge*

The program is funded through our community's generous contributions to Federation Annual Campaign and by the Province of British Columbia. Holocaust Survivor Memoirs generously donated by the Azrieli Foundation.

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COVER: The Hahn Judaica Collection was one of the most prominent private Judaica collections of its time, rivalling those of the Rothschild and Sassoon families. Courtesy of the Hahn family.



TREASURED BELONGINGS

THE HAHN FAMILY & THE SEARCH FOR A STOLEN LEGACY

EXHIBITION EXTENDED HOURS & PUBLIC PROGRAMS

WEDNESDAY

EXTENDED HOURS 5 – 7 PM

- February 19
- March 25
- April 29

THURSDAY

GUIDED TOURS 2 – 3 PM

- February 6 • March 26
- February 20 • April 23
- March 12

SUNDAY PROGRAMS, 1 – 4 PM, WITH GUIDED EXHIBITION TOURS AT 1:30 PM

MARCH 22, 2:30 PM

Silent Witness: A Kiddush Cup Tells a Story of Loss and Restitution, 1933–2018

Dr. Sharon Meen, Hahn family researcher

A Kiddush cup, over 260 years old, tells a dramatic story of Jewish experience during and after the Nazi regime. The cup was one of the most highly praised pieces in the outstanding private Judaica collection of Göttingen entrepreneur Max Raphael Hahn. In March 1939, Hahn was forced to surrender the cup, as well as the rest of his silver Judaica and other precious metal items, to the Nazi regime. Through an extraordinary set of circumstances, the cup was not melted down and survived the war. In 2018, the cup was restituted to Michael Hayden, grandson of Max Raphael Hahn. Now it is a highlight of the current exhibit at the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre.

Dr. Sharon Meen is Research Administrator, Hahn Collection, and Historical Consultant to the VHEC exhibition, *Treasured Belongings: The Hahn Family & the Search for a Stolen Legacy*.

APRIL 26, 2:30 PM

How to Steal from Jews: True Stories from Nazi Berlin

Dr. Chris Friedrichs, Professor Emeritus of History, UBC

The Nazi regime not only murdered millions of Jews, it also relentlessly confiscated Jewish property from owners later sent to their deaths. A detailed case study can sometimes teach us more about this brutal process than broad generalizations. This illustrated lecture, based on documents in a Berlin archive, will describe the step-by-step process by which two elderly Jews in wartime Berlin were stripped of all their assets before being deported to the death camps—and shows how Nazi officials then fought with each other about what to do with the stolen property.

Dr. Chris Friedrichs is Professor of History (Emeritus) at UBC, where he taught for 45 years before his retirement in 2018. He is a specialist in German history and has been active for many years in Holocaust awareness education.

Bringing a Voice to the Silence

BY SHARON MEEN



Dr. Michael Hayden gives insight into his family's artefacts to VHEC Executive Director Nina Krieger and Education Director & Curator Dr. Ilona Shulman Spaar. Courtesy of Sharon Meen (L) and Nina Krieger (R).

"I realized I needed to bring voice to the silence," Michael Hayden told the audience at the 81st *Kristallnacht* commemoration presented by the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre. Other than an annual phone call from his father reminding him that "Tonight is *Kristallnacht*," Michael's father remained silent about the Holocaust. This silence continued after Roger Hayden's death in 1984. Although Michael brought 15 boxes of family documents from South Africa to Vancouver, the boxes sat unopened in his basement. Only 20 years later did Michael open them, discovering over 9,000 documents and photographs. In his address, Michael described his journey since first opening those boxes.

"My quest has been to learn about my grandparents, restore their identity, their individuality, and to

bring them out of obscurity. I know their story is not particularly unique, but they were. My purpose is to give them back human form and to rescue them from dreadful anonymity. What happened to my grandparents can illuminate what happened to so many. When I decided to open the boxes, I realized that I needed to know more about my family, to bring voice to the silence, to understand what really happened—how it influenced and molded my father and how this in turn molded me. I needed to go to the places where they lived and were killed. To know what is knowable—what they taught me, what they looked like, what they wore, how they spoke and how they were killed."

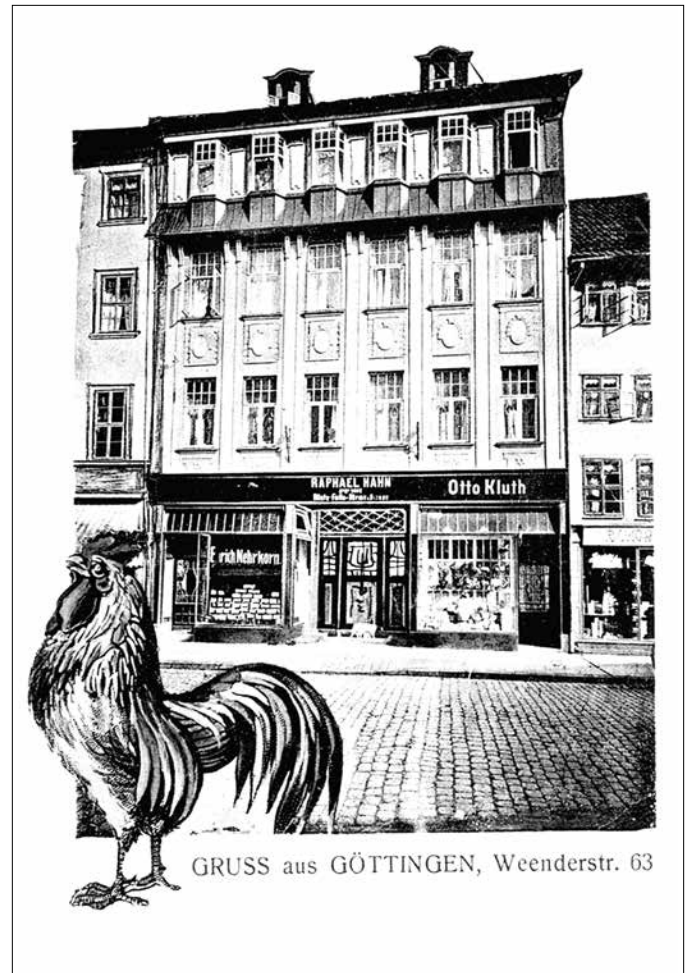
Drawing on the riches in the boxes, Hayden shared his grandparents' story: "The life of Max and Gertrud Hahn

was one of cultured and civilized elegance. They lived in Göttingen, a city of intellect, whose scientists had earned many Nobel prizes. Family life was warm: for Max's 50th birthday, my father and aunt dressed as Meissen porcelain to honour one of Max's many collecting passions. My grandfather was a 'deep collector'— and his Judaica collection was considered equal to those of Sassoon and Rothschild. Max was a successful businessman and entrepreneur. The Hahns owned about 40 properties, were important in the leather trade and, from 1926 on, operated a shoe factory called Gallus, the Latin word for 'Hahn' or 'rooster'."

After 1933, his grandparents showed remarkable courage and ingenuity, celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Hahn business, obtaining patents for new products, and enabling their children to emigrate. Even after the rampage through the Merkelstrasse home on



Max and Gertrud Hahn a year after the couple was married. Max was 37 years old when he married the then 24-year-old Gertrud. Berlin, Germany, March 1918. Courtesy of the Hahn family.



The exterior of Raphael Hahn's company *stammhaus* (head office). The rooster featured on this postcard alludes to the Hahn family name. This historic building still stands in Göttingen today. Göttingen, Germany, 1910. Courtesy of the Hahn family.

Kristallnacht, Max and Gertrud believed that reason and logic would prevail: Max would quickly be released from prison and they would emigrate. But their plan failed: the June 1941 German invasion of Russia rendered their Trans-Siberian Railway tickets for July 1941 useless. On December 6, 1941, they were deported from Hamburg to Riga-Jungfernhof.

Michael turned from past to present: "I recently went to Riga-Jungfernhof—and was stunned at the total silence about the 25,000 German Jews deported to Riga. No mention whatsoever at the railway station; even the somber and serious memorial in Bikernieki forest, the place of murder, is totally anonymous. Stones identify



Šķīrotava railway station in Riga, Latvia. Wikipedia Commons.

towns from which Jews were deported. I found stones and wrote their names and laid them on the Hamburg stone to give them back some identity. I said Kaddish and felt that I had reached a place of quiet where I knew their lives had ended and that this part of my journey was ended.”

Recently, two German museums have restituted items to Max and Gertrud Hahn’s grandchildren. At both ceremonies, a political representative asked the grandchildren for forgiveness: In Göttingen, Mayor Rolf-George Köhler said: “We want to ask for forgiveness but know that we have no right to this forgiveness.” In Hamburg, Senator Carsten Brosda, Minister of Culture and Media said: “I can only ask you for forgiveness of these crimes on behalf of the Senate of Hamburg.”

“These events and this asking for forgiveness have prompted me to ask: ‘Where am I in this process?’ What we learn from Germany is never to pledge allegiance to a government irrespective of its actions. We see a country that resists the trend of rewriting history evident in other European countries; acknowledges a shameful past through public memorials such as the Berlin Holocaust Memorial and the laying of *stolperstein* which give names to the nameless; and confronts its

difficult past through, as in one example, mandatory Holocaust education.”

“As for me personally, I’ve learned so much in this process. I have learned about my grandparents, what amazing people they were, what a loving family it was, what a tremendous loss this was. This silence that I carried for so many years was like a stowaway sitting on my shoulders and I have been able to liberate it and to think about where we are and where I am. I recognize the need for more dialogue, and I am starting to recognize my own German ancestry. I want to give up on toxic anger because forgiveness is even more important for the forgiver than for the forgiven. It allows one to move forward—not toward forgetfulness but toward some sort of resolution. I am now able to embrace a process I was unwilling to before. Memory does not wash away the pain, but there is some healing. Our grandparents are now part of our lives. My family was not annihilated. I am here to tell the story to my children and their children. We can move forward. The story continues. The silence has a voice.” ■

Dr. Sharon Meen is Research Administrator, Hahn Collection, and Historical Consultant to the VHEC exhibition, *Treasured Belongings: The Hahn Family & the Search for a Stolen Legacy*.

A Unique Gathering: Child Survivors Convene in Vancouver

BY PAT JOHNSON

It took more than four decades for the concept of “child survivors of the Holocaust” to emerge and for those who would be included in that category to recognize themselves as such.

Until then, says Dr. Robert Krell, their identities as survivors and the experiences of their early lives were diminished and dismissed.

“Child survivors of the Holocaust, never mind the circumstances—hiding, concentration camp, convents, caves ... not the issue—child survivors did not identify themselves because they were told by adults, ‘You were too young to remember, therefore you did not suffer,’” said Krell. “And if they did talk, they were told, ‘We don’t particularly want to hear from you, get on with your life.’”

Child survivors did, for the most part, get on with their lives. But in the late 1980s, and with the help of a groundbreaking 1988 book, *Children of the Holocaust: Conversations with Sons and Daughters of Survivors*, by

Helen Epstein, more and more child survivors began to see themselves as a distinct cadre of individuals with unique experiences.

In Vancouver, on November 1–4, hundreds of child survivors came together for the 31st annual conference of the World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust and Descendants. The event was co-chaired by Mariette Doduck and Krell.

Over the weekend, survivors, as well as second, third and fourth generations and spouses, participated in more than 30 workshops, numerous panel discussions and four plenaries, as well as a Shabbat dinner and a musical conclusion that was in turn solemn and celebratory.

Over 400 people attended the conference, with about half of those being from British Columbia, with others coming from South Africa, the Netherlands, Australia, France, Israel, Germany and Poland as well as all regions of the United States. Approximately 120 survivors, 200 second generation, 50 third generation representatives and 50 spouses participated. The event was open only to survivors and their families.

“This is an intimate gathering where they [survivors] can talk about things they cannot talk about anywhere else in the world, including, usually, with their families, because here there are facilitators to assist them,” said Krell, founding president of the VHEC, a psychiatrist and professor emeritus at UBC. “The facilitators are all psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, almost all themselves second and third generation.”

When Mariette Doduck was asked to bring the conference to Vancouver, she said she would only do so if she could



Keynote speakers Robbie Waisman and Éloge Butera with Dr. Robert Krell, conference co-chair. © 2020 World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust and Descendants.

get Krell on board. The pair have worked together, she said, since before the opening of the VHEC.

Workshops were tailored to generations. Survivors chose from discussions including: The memories and longings that still haunt me: Is it wise to share them? and What values and messages do we want to share with our children and grandchildren? Successive generations attended groups such as Dealing with the loss of our parents and How has being a grandchild of Holocaust survivors influenced who I am? There were also forums for intergenerational dialogue. Survivors met in evening groups based on country of origin.

Plenaries included a discussion on antisemitism of the past and present, featuring Dr. Catherine Chatterley, founding director of the Canadian Institute for the Study of Antisemitism. Chris Friedrichs, professor emeritus of history at UBC spoke on partnerships between historians and survivors in telling the truth about the Shoah. In another plenary, Vancouverite Robbie Waisman, a survivor of Buchenwald, and Éloge

Butera, a survivor of the genocide against the Tutsis of Rwanda, reflected on human rights activism. Krell's plenary address, which opened the conference on the Saturday morning, was titled The Future of Our Past: Informing and Inspiring Next Generations.

Doduck was most inspired by the commitment she witnessed from children of survivors who attended the conference.

"The second generation feel an obligation and they have this feeling all over the world. When they meet, they speak exactly the same feelings and yet they're not from the same country," she said. The importance of these annual gatherings is "the feeling of belonging. That is what it's all about," she said.

The conference featured an art installation, *Romanov: A Vanished Shtetl—A Living Monument in Art and Words* by Malka Pischansky. Rabbi Joseph Polak, child survivor of Bergen-Belsen and author of *After the Holocaust the*



An exhibition of *Romanov: A Vanished Shtetl—A Living Monument in Art and Words* by Malka Pischansky. Courtesy of Wendy Oberlander.

Bells Still Ring, led Havdalah services and co-led an intergenerational dialogue on identity and spirituality. On the Sunday evening of the conference, a commemoration took place, including Cantor Yaakov Orzech singing “El Maleh Rahamim” like no one I’ve ever heard in the world, according to Krell. “And after dinner we had some youngsters, including one of my granddaughters, sing Leonard Cohen’s “Hallelujah” and that transitioned into a program by Wendy Stuart and her singers in Yiddish and Hebrew that, within 10 minutes of reticence, had everybody on their feet and dancing.”

After the music was over, Krell said attendees “did not leave the room because they needed to be together, they stayed together.”

Rose Raport came to the conference with her son David and daughter Miriam. She recently celebrated two bar mitzvahs with her grandsons. “That’s my revenge to Hitler,” she said.

Coming to these conferences makes her proud of what she has accomplished in life.

“We share our experiences and we share that, even through shocking experiences during childhood, if you have the perseverance to succeed, you can do it,” she said. “It’s always in my head that I’m proud of myself.” Through her now-grown children, she said, she has been able to experience the *yiddishkeit* and traditional Jewish home she was not able to experience in childhood.

“It was fabulous,” said Karen (Gumprecht) Komar, who came from Newton Highlands, Massachusetts with a grandchild. “This is my fifth or sixth conference and I think this has been the best of them all. It’s just been wonderful being in Vancouver, seeing what a beautiful city it is and how lovely the people are who we’ve met.”

On Monday, as the final program in the conference, attendees visited the VHEC for a preview of the exhibition *Treasured Belongings: The Hahn Family & the Search for a Stolen Legacy*. Komar, who was born in

Hamburg, Germany, was astonished to find a direct family connection between one of the artefacts, a deportation record of the Hahn family, and her own Gumprecht relatives, who were apparently deported to their deaths in Riga, Latvia, in the same transport.

Halina Levitt, an attendee from Toronto who originated in what is now part of Ukraine, has been to several child survivor conferences.

“People sometimes ask me, why do you keep going?” she said. “I feel it’s like group therapy because all the people who attend have very similar experiences and so we understand each other. That’s a very important thing, because often you are with people who don’t have any idea as to what has happened, what hidden children were or what it means.”

One of the topics that interested her at this conference was aging and whether the past experiences of survivors impact their future and how they age.

“Quite a few of the members felt that, yes, they were very much affected,” said Levitt. “Lack of nourishment and so on, of course, affects the health.”

The World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust and Descendants conference was presented in association with the VHEC, the Kindertransport Association, Generations of the Shoah International and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

While thanking a huge cadre of participants and volunteers, Doduck and Krell both singled out joy Fai, Krell’s professional assistant, who volunteered to serve as registrar for the conference. In addition to assisting all attendees, especially Canadian ones, in preparing for the conference, Krell credits Fai with obtaining funding that ensured survivors who wished to attend would not be precluded by financial need. ■

Pat Johnson is, among other things, a writer and communications consultant.

International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Adopts Updated Recommendations on Teaching and Learning about the Holocaust

BY NINA KRIEGER

The 34 member countries of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, including Canada, have adopted a new and updated resource entitled Recommendations for Teaching and Learning about the Holocaust, published in partnership with UNESCO. These recommendations, written by a group of international experts, are crafted to help educators and teachers with fact-based and educationally sound techniques for teaching the complex and nuanced history of the Holocaust. The publication—which is aimed at policymakers, textbook editors, curriculum planners, school administrators, as well as educators and teachers—provides compelling reasons for including the Holocaust in education, gives practical guidance in the search and selection of appropriate sources, and makes it easy to bring curricula in line with the latest research.

By combining many years of specialist experience with new knowledge on the topic, the recommendations empower educators and teachers to collaborate

across fields, develop their professional skills, and confidently teach about the Holocaust. Launched on December 4, 2019 at an event in Luxembourg City, which brought together representatives of ministries from the more than 30 countries that make up the IHRA, the Recommendations for Teaching and Learning about the Holocaust are part of the IHRA's work to strengthen, advance and promote Holocaust education, remembrance and research worldwide. The recommendations are published in time for the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz in 1945 and the 20th anniversary of the 2000 Stockholm Declaration, IHRA's founding document, and will be available in more than 20 languages by the end of 2020.

The full recommendations are available at www.holocaustremembrance.com/educational-materials/. ■

VHEC Executive Director Nina Krieger is a member of the Canadian delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.



Survivor Wall: Recognizing a Legacy of Community Builders

BY PAT JOHNSON



The survivor wall at Congregation Schara Tzedek. Courtesy of Illene Yu.

Robert Krell was a boy when his family joined Congregation Schara Tzedek upon their arrival in Vancouver as Holocaust survivors in 1951. The Krells were part of an influx of survivors who came to the city; they joined the Orthodox shul because it felt familiar and went on to reinvigorate life not only in the congregation, but in the wider Jewish community.

Krell thought about the impact these families had made and wondered why there wasn't a tangible

acknowledgement of the unique contributions made by this cohort of extraordinary individuals at the synagogue.

At a moving ceremony in May 2019, a tribute wall was unveiled commemorating those survivors and the impacts they made on the congregation and the city. Krell remarked: "We Jews have been diligent and faithful to memory in recording the names of those who perished in the Shoah. Perhaps, we have not been so thoughtful in remembering the remnants that survived."



Congregation Schara Tzedek published a tribute book to accompany the survivor wall. The survivor wall at Congregation Schara Tzedek. Courtesy Illene Yu.

Facing a post-Shoah world without a roadmap, these individuals gravitated to Schara Tzedek—even those like Krell’s father Leo, whose faith was destroyed in the Holocaust—and found not only spiritual rejuvenation but other individuals who would form for them the extended families they had largely or entirely lost during the war.

“It was a remarkable group of people and I worried that they might be forgotten, not of course, by their families, their sons and daughters and grandchildren, but by our unique community, the Schara Tzedek family,” said Krell. “And there were also survivors who had lost their first families, including their children, and had no children after the war. In fact, I do not know who recites Kaddish for them. But I think that their names should all be inscribed and remembered.”

Krell’s kernel of an idea found fruition when he went to Rabbi Andrew Rosenblatt, who responded enthusiastically. Hodie Kahn and Ed Lewin, with equal

enthusiasm, agreed to co-chair the effort to realize the dream. Together with committee members Karen Cohen, Odie Kaplan, Jack Micner and Lyliane Thal, the group commissioned artist John Nutter to create a tree of life rendered in sandblasted glass and include the names of 230 survivors of the Holocaust who made Vancouver home and Schara Tzedek their shul. At a dinner on May, 3, 2019, 350 people—some the survivors who are named on the wall of commemoration, as well as the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the 230 survivors—marked the occasion in what several people referred to as a “family reunion.”

Some among these families acknowledged that the existing Jewish community of the time was not as welcoming as they might have been. Krell noted that his mother had blood relations in the city but there was never an invitation extended for Shabbat. Hodie Kahn said: “I think some landings were softer than others. I am the daughter of survivors, both of whom committed

themselves to rebuilding lives in Vancouver after the Holocaust. It wasn't always easy for them in the early days. The community had its moments."

As a group, said Kahn, the survivors were "incredibly passionate and committed to creating new lives and part of that was building a shul and a community while they raised their families. They built a shul family and their own family simultaneously and I think it's really critical that we recognize this particular group because, pound for pound, they really did a lot for building up Schara Tzedek and Vancouver's Jewish community."

Kahn was struck by something that happened on the night of the dedication.

"It was striking to see so many families and descendants of people who are no longer with us return to Schara Tzedek, people who were part of other synagogues or have sort of dropped off the radar of Schara Tzedek a little bit, come back into the synagogue space and actually go back to the seats that their families had occupied when they themselves were growing up in the synagogue," she said. "It was coming home in a very, very profound way. It was beautiful."

In his remarks at the dedication dinner, Ed Lewin reflected on being part of the second generation of that extended Schara Tzedek family.

"Many of us grew up together and are friends with one another," he said. "There is a shorthand among us. Not everything must be expressed in words. A hug speaks volumes: 'I know you miss your parents. I miss your parents too and I know you miss mine. And I miss seeing them together.'"

Rabbi Rosenblatt said he knows of no similar tribute to survivors anywhere and he is pleased that his congregation has recognized the contributions of this distinctive cadre.

"There is something about this group that transcends ordinary friendship," he said. "They shared certain

experiences, a certain kind of instinct, and they came here and they essentially treated each other and each other's children like a newfound family."

The impacts they had as individuals and as families reinvigorated not only Schara Tzedek, he said, but those individuals and their children and, now, grandchildren helped start and sustain key communal organizations, including the Jewish Community Centre, Jewish Family Services and Vancouver Talmud Torah school.

"They are a unique group because they came here penniless and many of them did quite well financially," said Rosenblatt. "Many of them were what they like to call MDs"—sly slang for metal dealers. The Rabbi said he once asked one of those scrap metal dealers why so many Holocaust survivors had become disproportionately successful within the Jewish community.

"He said, 'you know, we all learned that no doesn't always mean no and that there's often another way to do things and we learned how to sidestep or jump over a few hurdles here and there.' This was a guy who was five-foot-nothing and used to haul refrigerators in the scrap metal business," Rosenblatt said with a laugh.

"They also came from a generation where they knew how to sacrifice," he added. "One of them tells the story about how his parents decided that a refrigerator was really a luxury that they didn't need. It's hard for us to imagine. We live in a generation where we use the word 'need' for the latest iPhone, which is almost indiscernibly different than the one we currently have.

"They had an internal fortitude that isn't found today. Because they had that sense of discipline, they were able to build fortunes and they were able to be philanthropists and they were able to create legacies for their children."

Those legacies are now permanently and tangibly recognized in the synagogue that became a focal point of their new lives after the Holocaust and where they found and built a new community after having lost so much. ■

Disappearance, Dolls and 'I love you's': Ilona Mermelstein's Family Story

BY SHYLA SELLER



Portrait of Ilona Mermelstein, circa age two, sitting on sled with doll, 1939.

In 2018 and 2019, the Hungarian child survivor Ilona Mermelstein donated a significant collection of documents and photographs to the VHEC. With the help of her grandson, Aron, a law student at the University of Calgary, Ilona communicated a deeply sad story about her grandparents and parents, one that, alongside the primary source materials in this collection, is an important contribution to the documentation of the Holocaust in Hungary.

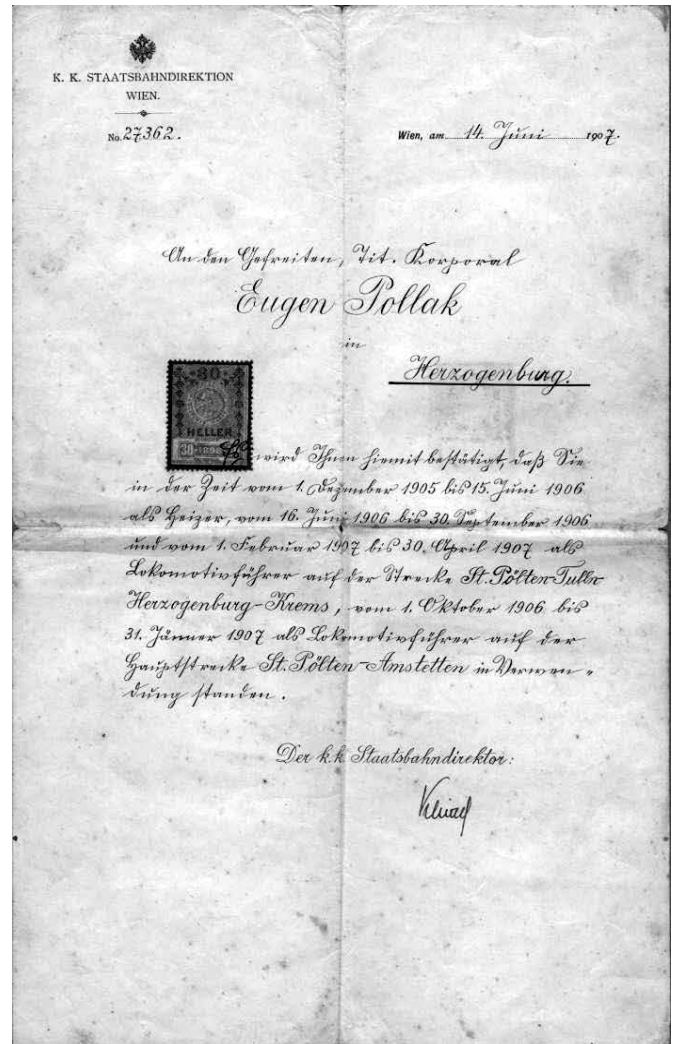
The records donated by Ilona date back to the early twentieth century, and are excellent examples of pre-war Jewish life and the extent of the integration of Jews into Hungarian society. Ilona's grandmother, Rozi Pollak, lost her first husband in the First World War; he disappeared, and the family never learned his fate. Rozi received benefits as a war widow, but because her husband was never found, and never declared dead, she was unable to remarry. She received a certificate of moral authority from Hungarian authorities and lived with Sandor Deneberger, the man Ilona always knew as her grandfather. Sandor served in the First World War for Hungary, and suffered what was then called "shell shock" upon his return. Ilona recalls that he played piano beautifully, volunteered in the community in support of local theatre projects and worked as a jeweller, running a successful business repairing and selling watches and other goods made of gold and silver.

In 1944, the successful Deneberger business was abandoned and its gold and silver confiscated by Nazi officials; both Sandor and Rozi were arrested by the local police chief and Nazi collaborator in their hometown of Tápiószele. Ilona remembers going over to her grandparents' home one morning, and finding them gone, the door to their home ajar.

Town rumours led the family to believe that Rozi and Sandor had been rounded up for being Communists along with other known Communists in the town. Later, however, the non-Jewish communists returned to Tápiószele, but not the Jewish prisoners. They were moved from a prison in Budapest, separated, and sent to various camps with other Hungarian Jews. Both Rozi and Sandor wrote postcards home to their daughter, Klára, who was in hiding with Ilona. Sandor was interned in Nagykanizsa, the closest internment camp to Tápiószele, and Rozi was interned in Kistarcsa, a transit camp. Postcards in the collection indicate a focus on daily family matters, and request lard, information about their daughter's wellbeing, and concerns about their home and neighbours. These postcards are the last communication received by the family from Rozi and Sandor.

Sandor was deported to Auschwitz, likely in late May, 1944. Rozi wrote a card home from Kistarcsa on June 29, 1944; she may have been anticipating her return home and did not sound concerned in her correspondence. The Hungarian Regent Miklós Horthy de Nagybánya had halted the deportation of Hungarian Jews around this time, in response to international pressure. Then, on July 14, 1944, Adolf Eichmann restarted the deportations. Rozi was among the last of the Hungarian Jews deported from Kistarcsa to Auschwitz.

While in hiding, Ilona remembers being very hungry, and the food she and her mother, Klára, relied on to survive included candy she'd pretended to feed her favourite doll. The two removed her doll's paper mâché head and retrieved the sweets she'd inserted into her doll's mouth while playing. This doll was deeply



Jeno / Eugen Pollák employment record, 1907.

connected to her survival; Ilona was able to keep it in the years after the war until one day she left it outside overnight, and it was ruined in a rainstorm. She held a burial service for the doll—she treasured photographs of it her entire life. These photographs, of Ilona with the doll that sustained her while she was in hiding, are now in the VHEC's collection.

After the war, Ilona and her mother came out of hiding and reunited with her father, Daniel, who had been forced into labour by the Hungarian government and worked on German military aircraft in Budapest. They fought to get Rozi and Sandor's home back after it had



Left to right: Portrait of Klára and Ilona, 1945. Portrait of Daniel Kiss, after 1945. Holocaust memorial, Tápiószéle.

been confiscated; a deposition supporting the family's claim is also in the collection. Eventually, the town of Tápiószéle built a memorial to their Jewish residents killed in Auschwitz, and Sandor's and Rozi's names are both inscribed, as are the names of Sandor's extended family and the parents of a Jewish doctor who had hidden with Ilona and her mother.

Ilona and her mother always told each other "I love you" before bed each night. This practice stemmed from a story Klára told her daughter about the night before Rozi and Sandor's disappearance. Klára was worried that her mother was working too hard, doing too much around the house, too much child care, pushing herself too hard; the family had to compensate for the loss of Klára's husband to the forced labour

camp. Klára yelled at Rozi in frustration, and the next morning Rozi was gone. Ilona tells about how, when her mother was in an old age home in the next village over from where she lived, every night, even in the worst snowstorm, when the staff of the care facility were sure no one would venture outside, she came to tell her mother she loved her, before Klára fell asleep.

I am grateful to Ilona, her grandson, and the VHEC's volunteer translator George Szasz, for their time and generosity while processing the papers and photographs in this remarkable collection of materials. The collection can be browsed in its entirety here: <https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/collections/729> ■

Shyla Seller is the Archivist of the VHEC.

Collections Department News

BY SHYLA SELLER

The VHEC has recently completed a digitization project funded by the IK Barber BC History Digitization Project: all issues of *Zachor*, and issues of its predecessor, the *VHCS Update*, are now available for research and reference on our website.

These newsletters and magazine communicate with VHEC members and the wider public about the Centre's programs, events and current issues related to human rights, social justice and Holocaust education. They feature original writing from Holocaust survivors, their families and other community members, including teachers and students.

This digitization project, completed by Archives Assistant Lorenzo Camerini, makes the history of the Centre more accessible; we encourage our members to explore these early issues of the newsletter. Eventually these will also be entered in the library catalogue on collections.vhec.org.

The VHEC is grateful to the Library and Archives of Canada's Documentary Heritage Communities Program (DHCP) for funding to arrange and describe institutional records documenting our commemorative and educational events. The DHCP invests \$1.5 million annually to ensure that Canada's continuing memory is documented and accessible to current and future generations. The program is designed to work with local documentary heritage organizations, in order to increase their capacity to better sustain and preserve Canada's documentary heritage. Members of the DHCP

team offered the VHEC technical advice in the areas of preservation processes, standards and equipment.

This past fall the VHEC completed its grant-funded collection, cataloguing and access activities related to our symposia and events programming, going back to the early 1990s. By working on these materials we will be able to better provide information about and access to records documenting Holocaust commemoration in BC over a 35-year period.

Do you have documentation relating to pre-1994 events organized by the VHCS? If so, please contact Shyla Seller, Archivist, to learn more about our work documenting the history of Holocaust educational and memorial event planning prior to the opening of the doors of the VHEC.

Following the conclusion of his contract at the VHEC, Lorenzo Camerini accepted the role of Archivist at the Arolsen Archives in Bad Arolsen, Germany. The Arolsen Archives are an international center on Nazi persecution with the world's most comprehensive archive on the victims and survivors of National Socialism. The collection has information on about 17.5 million people and belongs to UNESCO's Memory of the World. It contains documents on the various victim groups targeted by the Nazi regime and is an important source of knowledge for society today.

For further information and to search the online archive: <https://arolsen-archives.org/en/> ■



VHEC Collections Website Receives Provincial Recognition

In October 2019, the VHEC received the Award of Merit: Excellence in Collections from the British Columbia Museums Association for our Collections Management System, which provides access to Western Canada's largest collection of Holocaust-related artefacts, survivor testimonies, archival materials and publications.

The Award of Merit recognizes recent excellence in collections best practices, which may include innovative approaches to collecting, collections management, preservation, repatriation, collections-based research, dissemination and accessibility.

This is a very significant achievement and we are honoured to receive acknowledgement for our collections activities from the BCMA. Visit our award-winning collections website: <https://collections.vhec.org/>



The Award of Merit is a wooden owl hand-carved by David and Anna Hall of Comox, BC. Courtesy Illene Yu.

VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE COLLECTIONS

Many Holocaust survivors and their families have Holocaust-related artefacts, even the smallest of which can tell an important story. Artefacts can support research and education, and reach a broad audience through the VHEC collections website and the Centre's exhibitions and programs.

THE VHEC COLLECTS MATERIALS RELATED TO:

- the Holocaust and the experience of Holocaust survivors;
- the experience of antisemitism and efforts to leave Europe as the result of the rise of Nazism and increased persecution;
- the experience of liberation, and the immediate post-war period including the experience of refugees in Displaced Persons camps;
- post-war immigration of Holocaust survivors to Canada;
- the experience of Jewish refugees interned in Canada;
- Nazi-produced propaganda and other documentary evidence of antisemitism;
- Anti-Nazi propaganda produced during the prewar, wartime, and immediate post-war period;
- Pre-war Jewish life in Europe.

Types of materials in the VHEC's collections include albums, diaries and scrapbooks; correspondence and stamps; education and research materials; identity documents; travel documents; propaganda; photographs; publications including rare books; ephemera; religious belongings; and audio-video recordings.

For more information about donating to the archives and collections, please contact the VHEC directly.

COLLECTIONS.VHEC.ORG
604.264.0499 | collections@vhec.org



Library Acquisitions: Discover some of the newest additions to the VHEC

BY SHANNON LABELLE

Auschwitz : not long ago. not far away.

EDITED BY ROBERT JAN VAN PELT, WITH LUIS FERREIRO AND MIRIAM GREENBAUM
NEW YORK : ABBEVILLE PRESS PUBLISHERS, 2019

Library call number: REF 940.5317 A932au 2019 (Reference Collection)
Catalogue record: <https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/7895>

The persecution of the Jews in photographs. The Netherlands 1940–1945

RENÉ KOK AND ERIK SOMERS
ZWOLLE, NETHERLANDS : WBOOKS, 2019

Library call number: 949.2071 K79p
Catalogue record: <https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/7900>

Schara Tzedek Shoah survivors tribute book

CONGREGATION SCHARA TZEDECK
VANCOUVER, BC : CONGREGATION SCHARA TZEDECK, 2019

Library call number: REF 971.133 S311 2019 (Reference Collection)
Catalogue record: <https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/7669>

Stolen legacy : Nazi theft and the quest for justice at Krausenstrasse 17/18, Berlin

[REVISED AND UPDATED EDITION] / DINA GOLD
CHICAGO : ABA PUBLISHING, AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION, 2016

Library call number: 940.5314 G61s
Catalogue record: <https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/8096>

White bird : a wonder story

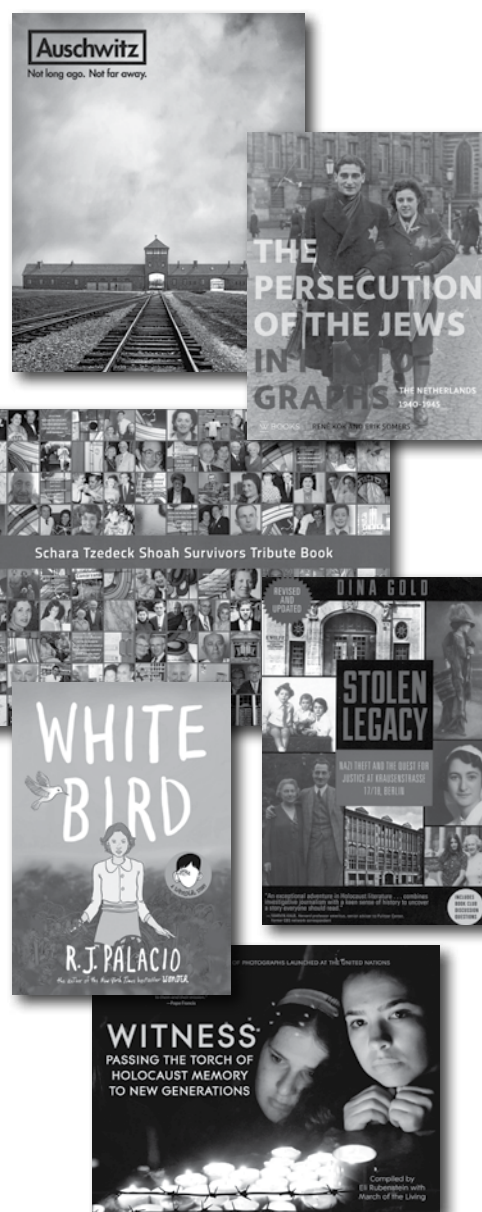
R. J. PALACIO
NEW YORK : ALFRED A. KNOPF, 2019

Library call number: J FIC PALw
Catalogue record: <https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/8085>

Witness : passing the torch of Holocaust memory to new generations

COMPILED BY ELI RUBENSTEIN WITH MARCH OF THE LIVING
TORONTO : SECOND STORY PRESS, 2015

Library call number: 940.5315 M315 2015
Catalogue record: <https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/8313>



Everyone is welcome to access library materials at the VHEC during the Centre's open hours. VHEC members and BC teachers have borrowing privileges. The library collection can be searched online in the VHEC Collections catalogue: <https://collections.vhec.org/>. To request any of the titles above or to inquire about other new library items, please contact the Librarian at library@vhec.org.

Embracing the Past: A Glimpse Into My Recent Visit to Kiev

BY LUCIEN LIEBERMAN



Lucien Lieberman visiting the Babi Yar Memorial, Kiev. Courtesy of Lucien Lieberman.

Late in November 1928, two brothers, Leo Lieberman (33) and Sam Lieberman (29), embraced at the Calgary Canadian Pacific Railway station. Sam was escorting their parents back to Russia after a five-year stay in Alberta. The parents were elderly and could not manage the trip on their own. Sam expected to return to Canada once their parents were settled in Kharkov. He never returned. Their last words were about Leo's new winter coat. "Leo, I like your coat. Where I am going you can't find such a coat." So, the brothers exchanged garments. They were not to meet again until 1966 when Leo and his wife Clara went to the Soviet Union to try to find family.

I grew up in Calgary aware of the fact that my parents had both left large families in Russia and that the Second World War had devastated those families. Sam's story was tragic. He worked in Moscow in the 1930s as a translator. When the war came he was taken into the army and survived four years in combat roles. He was wounded. In

1946 he was arrested, charged and tried for the offence of being "antisocial to the regime" and sent to the Gulag where he labored for 10 years in a camp beyond the Arctic Circle. After Stalin's death he was discharged and allowed to return to his city of last residence, Chernivtsi in the Ukraine. There he married a younger woman and, at the age of 57, fathered a son, Gregory (Grisha).

In 1991, after both my parents died, I received a letter from another branch of the Lieberman family who had left the dissolving Soviet Union and arrived in New York. Within months I arranged a visit to this family in Brooklyn. The following year, the Brooklyn cousin brought her 14-year-old son to sit on the bimah at Beth Israel Synagogue at my son Jeffrey's bar mitzvah. In subsequent visits with this family in New York we learned that Grisha had a daughter Tina, who had established a singing career in the Ukraine. In fact, she was the Ukrainian's star candidate in the 2006 Eurovision

Song Contest at age 21. When we learned she was going to appear in a concert in Brooklyn we arranged for Jeffrey to meet her. After this meeting, we contacted Grisha by phone in Kiev. This was followed by many Skype visits, and in May 2019, we arranged an eight-day visit to Kiev.

Although we stayed with Grisha and Svetlana in their two bedroom apartment, many of the arrangements for our visit were made by their daughter Tina. On day five, Tina arranged for a guided tour of Babi Yar with an English-speaking local woman, Ludmilla. Babi Yar is now a beautiful treed park approximately a kilometre square in the northwest outskirts of Kiev. On September 29, 1941, Nazi troops rounded up Kiev's 34,000-strong Jewish Community and massacred the lot within 48 hours. Victims were shot and buried in the ravine. The Nazis then rounded up the local Romani people and residents of mental hospitals and extended the killing. During the two-year Nazi occupation over 100,000 bodies were dumped into the Babi Yar ravine. When the Red Army recaptured the city in 1943 there were only 80,000 people in Kiev, one-fifth of its former population.

After the end of the Second World War the victorious allies set out to research that period of history which we now define as "The Holocaust." Two key researcher/writers were the Russian Jewish journalists Ilya Ehrenburg and Vasily Grossman. Both men were prominent Red Army war correspondents who witnessed first-hand the fighting on the Eastern Front. When it came time to distribute their work, the Soviets refused to publish a Russian edition. The work was published in the West as the "Black Book." A copy resides under lock and key in the VHEC library as a rare book. The Russian leadership decided that the information within it contained too much about nationalist collaboration with the invading Nazis.

Fifteen years later, the famous youthful Russian poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko, who had a reputation in the Soviet Union akin to Elvis Presley in the West, wrote a poem entitled Babi Yar; the poem's first line reads "No monument stands over Babi Yar." Moscow authorities

had kept the story under wraps but then allowed a Russian magazine to publish a serialized documentary novel by Anatoly Kuznetsov, a resident of Kiev. Kuznetsov was only 12 years old when the massacre occurred in his neighborhood. He buttressed his boyhood recollections by studying the leaflets, posters and newspapers of the occupation period, interviewed persons who had survived and wove the whole into a striking narrative. The publication (also available in the VHEC Library) was a sensation and caused the Communist government in Moscow to initiate plans for monuments to be placed on the site. The first and largest made no mention of the death of Jews but instead used the words "Soviet Citizens." The most impressive monument commemorates the over one million Ukrainians (mostly youth) who were shipped as slave labour to work in



Lucien Lieberman with daughter Leanne Lieberman in the park at Babi Yar. Courtesy of Lucien Lieberman.

German war plants. Many did not survive this period.

Today there is little evidence of a deep ravine, only undulating terrain. There are numerous monuments, some remembering the many children killed, several with Hebrew inscriptions and a beautiful bronze wagon which depicts a typical Roma caravan. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union the Ukrainian Government invited the State of Israel to erect a monument. This was constructed in the form of a large menorah.

During our tour I informed our guide Ludmilla that in Vancouver I was involved with Holocaust education and wondered if there was such a thing in the Ukrainian school curriculum. Her response was adamant: there was very little being done. She explained that since Ukraine has moved toward the West and away from Moscow, the war in the Eastern Borderlands is causing Ukrainian authorities to accentuate nationalist leanings, especially in the youth population. Where nationalism is taught there is little enthusiasm to discuss past collaboration with the Nazis. Still, Kiev wants to attract tourist dollars and trade with countries such as Israel so there are some historical sites to attract the Jewish traveller. Babi Yar is one such site.

During the week that we were in Kiev a new president was sworn in. Volodymyr Zelensky is the first Ukrainian president with a Jewish background.

Babi Yar is possibly the most prominent site representing the Holocaust in the former Soviet Union. My father had six brothers and sisters alive in 1941 when the Nazi invasion took place. The majority



Lucien Lieberman and his cousin Grisha in front of the State of Israel's monument in Babi Yar. Courtesy of Lucien Lieberman.

were moved east with their families to Tashkent in Uzbekistan. A brother and a sister and their respective spouses were caught in a roundup of Jews in the city of Lugansk in Eastern Ukraine. They were murdered. For me, their bodily remains are in the ravine at Babi Yar. Their names, Monos Lieberman and Rosa Lieberman, have been inscribed for 25 years at the Holocaust Memorial in New Westminster.

Our visit to Kiev was eventful and emotional. My burly cousin Grisha embraced me at the airport on our departure and said, "Remember Lucien, you are my dear cousin and I am the son of Sam." ■

Lucien Lieberman has a degree in chemical engineering, an MBA and worked for 30 years in investment banking. This background served him well as Treasurer for the VHEC, a role he performed from 1992 to 2010.

The Spies

BY IRENE N. WATTS

In 1940, during the Second World War, I was evacuated with my school from London, England to a small town in South Wales, to escape the bombing. After a long train journey we finally arrived at the town hall, and waited for strangers to look us over and choose their evacuees. The pretty youngest children were chosen first.

A year earlier, I had arrived in England by *Kindertransport*, a Jewish refugee with an unpronounceable name (Kirstein) from Berlin, Germany. These rescue trains saved almost ten thousand children from the Nazis.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams wanted a blonde four-year-old girl; however, they were persuaded to take me instead, even though I was almost nine and had straight, light-brown hair.

Aunty and Uncle, as I was asked to call my new foster parents, put me in the spare bedroom and seemed disappointed when I said I no longer needed a rubber sheet over the mattress.

There were no books or games in the house, Uncle Gwylm and Auntie Lillian had no children; I was bored most of the time, but they were kind to me. They introduced me to strange new foods like jelly and laverbread, which looks like seaweed but tastes deliciously of herring.

I learned the words of the Welsh national anthem and Auntie Lillian showed me off proudly to her friends. "This is Irene, our little evacuee," she said and the ladies stared at me and whispered to each other in Welsh about the little foreigner.

One afternoon, dawdling on my way home from school, I noticed two rough-looking men, standing at the corner lamp post. They sounded very suspicious, and were talking in what I thought must be a foreign language. I understood the words "Hitler" and "invasion."

The men wore heavy boots, white mufflers and cloth caps. They didn't look at all like Uncle Gwylm, who wore a suit to work. Suppose they were spies? I immediately convinced myself that they were. Warnings about spies were everywhere. I had read the posters which said, "Walls have ears."

I hurried to the bank where Uncle was Assistant Manager.

"Hello Bach (little one)," he said. "Shouldn't you be at home having your tea?"

"Uncle," I said, feeling very important, my imagination working overtime, "I overheard spies plotting, I saw them."

He motioned me to be silent. "Not in front of the customers," he said, and led me into a tiny office and shut the door. "Now then what's all this about spies?"

"I heard some men talking about Hitler, and invaders landing on the coast. Of course I didn't understand all the words."

Uncle Gwylm said, "Can you show me where you saw them?"

"Yes," I said. He held out his hand to me, and off we went down High Street.

"Over there," I said. "I saw them standing near that lamp post. But they've gone now." Uncle asked me if I'd recognize them again; I was sure I would. We walked around the small town, and at intervals I'd spot some innocent booted miners going home after their long shift down the coal mine. And I'd whisper, almost convinced, to Uncle, "that looks like them."

NO LONGER ALONE

I hadn't enjoyed myself so much since I left London. Uncle Gwylim never doubted me for a minute.

"We'll go to the police station and report," he said. Inside the station a familiar poster reminded me that "Careless talk costs lives." Wasn't I doing just that? I was helping the war effort, I told myself.

Police Sergeant Jones, who was large, red-faced and kind said, "Now then Bach, don't be frightened, I'm just going to take down the particulars." I wasn't in the least bit frightened. Actually, I was hoping he would take my fingerprints.

As the Sergeant asked me probing questions and carefully wrote down my answers, my story grew: the spies acquired exaggerated features and their conversation now included references to air raids, parachutes and secret meetings. By now I was deeply immersed in my drama and no longer sure what was truth and what was fiction.

No one asked me what language the spies spoke. The adults assumed, I suppose, that the men were speaking in German, a language I had almost forgotten in a year and a half of trying to turn myself into a proper English girl. I don't think it occurred to Uncle and Sergeant Jones that the men were speaking in Welsh, as most people did in that small town in South Wales, inserting a few words of English here and there. It was those few words that I had overheard and understood, and magnified into a spy story.

"Dioch yn fawr." Thank you very much, Irene. "Be sure and let your uncle know if there are any further developments." The kindly Sergeant showed us out.

From time to time I'd mention that I thought I might have seen the men again, but I knew my moment of glory was over. I had not quite learned the difference between truth and fiction. No one ever mentioned the incident again. ■

Irene N. Watts was born in Berlin, raised in the UK and emigrated to Canada. She is the author of numerous books and plays for children and young people, among them *Goodbye Marianne* and *No Pets Allowed*. She lives in Vancouver.

THANK YOU TO OUR DEVOTED VHEC VOLUNTEERS!

OUTREACH SPEAKERS

Janos Benisz, Amalia Boe-Fishman, Lillian Boraks-Nemetz, Alex Buckman, Mariette Doduck, David Ehrlich, René Goldman, Serge Haber, Jannushka Jakoubovitch²¹, Robert Krell, Claude Romney, Martha Salcudean²¹, Louise Sorensen, Peter Suedfeld, Tom Szekely, Robbie Waisman; Coordinator: Rita Akselrod.

TEACHER ADVISORY

Ryan Chapman, Eyal Daniel, Mark Figuera, Stephanie Henderson, Kit Krieger, Andrea Webb, Anna-Mae Wiesenthal, Emily Winckler.

DOCENTS

Anna Bruder, Reva Dexter, Sylvie Epstein, Kieran Forry, Belinda Gutman, Helen Heacock Rivers, Gloria Joachim, Dodie Katzenstein, Vivian Kerenyi, Lise Kirchner, Ethel Kofsky, Uma Kumar, Lucien Lieberman, Ellen Millman, Herb Mills, Gita Silver, Rina Vizer, Anita Willson.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Alex Buckman, Bonnie Elster, Avrel Festinger, Chris Friedrichs, Debby Freiman, Norman Gladstone, Kathy He, Helen Heacock-Rivers, Ethel Kofsky, Kit Krieger, Rachel Lando, Ella Levitt, Herb Mills, Agnieszka Stadnik, Al Szajman, Ronen Tanne, Stan Taviss, Peter Zetler.

OUR SINCERE APOLOGIES FOR ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS

GET WELL

Myer Grinshpan, Get well. Lillian Boraks-Nemetz
 Felicia Folk, Get well. Ida Kaplan, Odie Kaplan
 Karen Micner, Refuah shlema. Merle & Les Ames
 Les Cohen, Get well. Al Szajman
 Stella Mattuck, A full and speedy recovery. Julie Gutovich
 Zmira Rosenthal, Refuah shlema. Art Toft
 Ben Keil, Get well. Sylvie & Mark Epstein
 Esther Weinstein, A full and speedy recovery. Julie Gutovich
 Robert Krell, Refuah shlema. Deborah & Henry Ross-Grayman, Lillian Boraks -Nemetz, The Child Survivor Group

SYMPATHY

Toni Wertman, On the loss of your father, George Wertman. Mark Hundert & Lynda Beyea, Hyla & Michael Davis, Harry & Lily Schachter, Seymour & Susan Morris, Jeannie Berg & Kevie, Rosy & Emory Honig, Isabella, Yona, and Vlad Meltz, Anita & Meyer Balter, Harry & Andrea Bricks
 Annette Wertman & family, On the loss of your father and grandfather, George Wertman. Odie & Ida Kaplan, Deborah Snider & Eric Fielder, Mark & Debby Choit, Harry & Andrea Bricks
 Frieda Wertman & family, On the loss of your husband, father & grandfather, George Wertman. Ida & Odie Kaplan, Gerri & Mark London, Philip & Sherry Levinson, Jody & Harvey Dales, Lyle Pullan, Aron, Sam, and Al Szajman, Deborah Snider & Eric Fielder, Mark & Debby Choit
 Charles Wertman, On the loss of your father, George Wertman. Jody & Harvey Dales, Aron & Neri Tischler
 Jean Gerber, On the loss of your husband, Harvey Gerber. Marilyn & Robert Krell
 Belinda & Sam Gutman & family, On the loss of your father & grandfather. Helen Heacock Rivers & Jason Rivers
 Tom Winkler, & family, On the loss of your mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Vera Rozen. Hymie & Rome Fox, Faye & Richard Elias
 Phillip Winkler & family, On the loss of your mother, grandmother and great- grandmother, Vera Rozen. Sheila Archek
 Donna Moscovich & family, On your loss. Lillian Boraks-Nemetz
 Tracy Mammon & family, On your loss. Philip & Sherry Levinson
 Sharon Pavony, With sympathy. Michelle Wittenberg
 Rev. Joseph Marciano & family, On the loss of your sister, Miriam Marciano. Hymie & Rome Fox, Jocy Lowy
 Craig Diamond & family, on the loss of your father, grandfather and great-grandfather, Charles Diamond. Rome & Hymie Fox

Norman Street, On the loss of your brother, Michael. Edward Pascal & Kathy Evans
 Blanca Abramson, On the loss of your husband. Odie Kaplan
 Linda Glasner, On your loss. Ricki Thal
 Tony Wertman & Isser Dubinsky. Our sympathy. Anita & Meyer Balter
 Raquel Hirsch, On the loss of your Mother. Sylvie & Mark Epstein
 George Salcudean & family, On the loss of Martha Salcudean. Eddy & Pnina Granirer, Robert & Marilyn Krell, Louise Sorensen
 Tzvia Estrin & family, On the passing of Aaron. Robert & Marilyn Krell
 Nanci Segal & family, On the loss of your mother, mother-in-law and grandmother and great-grandmother. Les & Karen Cohen
 Debra Davis & family, On the passing of your sister, sister-in-law and aunt. Les & Karen Cohen and family
 Marie Doduck, On the passing of Vera. Shirley Barnett
 Sheldon Kuchinsky & family, On the loss of your beloved mother, mother-in-law and grandmother. Les & Karen Cohen and family, Faye & Richard Elias
 Milt Fischbein & Max, On the loss of your dad and father-in-law, Joe. Brad Freedman & Pam Wolfman, Raffi and Benny.
 Ronnie & Susie Hayut, On the loss of your father and father-in-law, Joe.
 Jerome Adirim, On your loss. Richard Lowy & Jocy Lowy
 In mrmory of Rosa Ferera. Nora Ferera-Pullmer & Lisette Ferera
 Gail Wenner & family, In memory of your mom, Irene. Lew Pullmer & Nora Ferera
 Jan Thompson, In memory of your mom, Charlotte. Lew Pullmer & Nora Ferera
 Mel Krajden, On the loss of your brother. Gail Butt
 Harv & Michelle Eker, On the passing of your mother, Sara. Steven & Suzanne Garfield & Sam
 Andre & Rita Gabay, On the loss of your mother. Mireile & Marshall Stern
 Peter & Marla Gropper, In memory of Zoe Gropper. Alan & Shana White
 Ron Rozen & family, On the loss of Vera Rozen. Gerri & Mark London
 Liane Palminrose & family, on the passing of your father, grandfather and great-grandfather, Bill Ornstein. Hymie & Rome Fox
 Henia Perel, Anita, Caren & Liza & Families, On the loss of Jack Perel. Larry & Miri Garaway, Perry & Shelley Seidelman, Ida & Odie Kaplan, Fay & Roy Weiss, Evelyn, Mark, Hodie, Saul & Sheryl Kahn, Hymie & Rome Fox, Robert Haber, Al Szajman & family, Gary & Diane Averbach

Anita Perel-Panar & family, On the loss of your father, grandfather & great-grandfather, Jack Perel. Al Szajman & family
 Barry Pomerantz, In memory of Philip Pomerantz. Robbie & Gloria Waisman
 Caren Perel & family, On the loss of your father, grandfather & great-grandfather, Jack Perel. Ellen & Stephen Cronk, Geoff & Myriam Glotman, Phil & Sherry Levinson, Faye & Richard Elias, Michael Fish & Christina
 Cathy Paperny & family, On the loss of your father & grandfather, Maurice Paperny. Lucien & Carol Lieberman, Norman Gladstone & Birgit Westergaard, Lillian Boraks-Nemetz, Amalia Boe-Fishman
 Cyndi Ankenman Zlotnik, On the loss of your mother and grandmother, Brenda Ankenman. Hymie & Rome Fox
 Mort Dodeck, On the passing of your wife, mother and grandmother, Irene. Marilyn & Robert Krell,
 Debbie Litvack & Shayna & Jillian, On the loss of your father & grandfather Mark. Lainie Shore
 Moe Milstein, On the loss of Bella. Jane & Steven Shadley.
 Lily & Billy Lister & family, On the passing of your father & grandfather, Issy Burstyn. Mark Rozenberg
 Gail Mainster, On the loss of your father. Nathan & Susan Fox, Jocy Lowy
 Neil Thomsen & family, On the loss of your mother & grandmother. Miriam Friedberg
 David & Ruthie Chudnovsky, In memory of your father. Neil & Judy Kornfeld
 Ronald Wosk & family, On the loss of your mother, Pearl Fishman. Amalia Boe-Fishman
 Roxie Lewin, In memory of your grandparents. Ljubica & Rade Simovic
 Sandi Gladstone, In memory of your father BG Gladstone. Norman Gladstone & Birgit Westergaard
 Larry & Beryl Wolfson, On the passing of Harvey. Anita Shafran
 Zena Simces, Neil Simces & Family, On the passing of your mother and grandmother, Rae Simces. Hymie & Rome Fox, Sharon Cohen & Elliot Peranson
 Isaac Thau, On the loss of your aunt. Aron & Neri Tischler
 Debbie Herbst, On the loss of your father, Sam. Anita Shafran & Family
 Isser Rogowski, On the loss of your mother and your brother. The Micner family, Faye & Richard Elias
 Isser Rogowski, In memory of your mother Chasia Rogowski. Claire Osipov
 Ellen Moscovitz, On the loss of your mother. Philip & Sherry Levinson
 Jay & Shelley Lippman, On the loss of your mother. Anita Shafran
 Neil Thomsen & Family, On the loss of Bente Nathan Thomsen. Louise Sorenson

Jack Chivo, On the loss of your brother, Darell. Evelyn, Albert, Jane & Steven Amar

Earl Hardin & Family, On the passing of Rosalie Hardin. Peter & Marla Gropper

MAZEL TOV

Evelyn Kahn, Hodie Kahn, Mark Kahn, Saul Kahn, A VHEC classroom resource book set has been donated in your honour. Max & Cyndi Mintzberg

Ida Kaplan, On your 98th Birthday. Tommy & Lenore Gelfand, Ruth Wolochow, Eve Wolochow

Julie Gutovich, On your 99th Birthday. Roxanne Eichhorn

Jocely Lowy, On your 90th Birthday. Joel & Mia Mackoff, Sheila Gendis

Danny Wollner, Happy 92nd Birthday. Vera Bakonyi

Gordon Diamond, On receiving the Order of Canada. Robert & Marilyn Krell

Amalia Boe-Fishman, In honour of the work you do. Jan & Carol Fishman

Gerri London, On your 75th Birthday! Susan & Joe Stein

Bob Markin, Happy Birthday. Art Toft

Gloria Waisman, On your 80th Birthday. Morley & Fay Shafron, Birgit Westergaard & Norman Gladstone, Grace & David Ehrlich, Rita Akselrod, Barb & Roy Izen, Tilley Levine & Sheryl, Rochelle Eker, Amalia Boe-Fishman, Derek & Marilyn Glazer, Lillian Boraks-Nemetz, Hymie & Rome Fox

Norman Gladstone, Happy Birthday. Hamish & Arlene Gladstone

Shirley Schwartz, Happy Special Birthday. Beth & Leon Bogner

Jenna Stein, On your graduation from UBC. Arthur & Anna Wolak

Judy Breuer, On your 70th Birthday. Ellen & Barrie Yackness

Ruth Wolochow, On becoming a Great Savta. Odie Kaplan

Marcy Schwartzman, On your special birthday. Phil & Sherry Levinson

Irwin Altman, On your 60th Birthday! Jack Altman

George & Caroline Shindler, On the birth of your grandchild, Kasper. Ron & Caroline Shindler

Peter Suedfeld, On being awarded the Officer of the Order of Canada. Irene N. Watts, Helen Heacock Rivers & Jason Rivers

Michael Levy & Rita Brown, Mazel tov! Mendy & Lana Landa

Sam & Bernice Carmeli, Adam, Ilana & John, On the birth of your granddaughter and niece, Noa. Merle & Bruce Ames, Glenda Saitowitz

Mariette Doduck, On the birth of your great-granddaughter, Noa Olivia. Glenda Saitowitz, Merle & Bruce Ames

Robert & Marilyn Krell, On your grandson Leo's Bar Mitzvah. Phyllis & Michael Moscovich

Monte & Marcy Glanzberg, On your 70th Birthdays. Michael Levy & Rita Brown

Anne Hirsch, Happy 95th Birthday. Jocely Lowy

Janos & Noni Mate, Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary. Larry & Miri Garaway

Robert Krell, In appreciation. Mark Dwor

Jack Huberman & Gord Boyd, Congratulations. Herb & Leah Mills

Julian Lewis, On your Bar Mitzvah. Joy fai

Gloria & Robbie Waisman, On your 61st Wedding Anniversary. Rome & Hymie Fox, Mark & Gerri London

Danny Pekarsky, Happy Birthday. Lana & Mendy Landa

Hymie & Rome Fox, On your 40th Wedding Anniversary. Sandy Shuler & Doug Foulkes

David Kirkpatrick, Happy Special Birthday. Annica Carlson

Russel Kling, Happy Birthday. Jason Smolensky

Rita Akselrod Happy Birthday. Agi Bergida, Esther Chetner & John Cooper

Mariette Doduck, Happy Birthday. Ellen & Barrie Yackness

Ruth Wolochow, Happy Birthday. Ida Kaplan

Jerome Adirim, Happy Birthday. Larry & Susan Goldstein

Hinda Avery, Happy Birthday. Ted & Shirley Cohn

Roberta Kremer, In your honour. Elizabeth & Graham Johnson

Dodie Katzenstein, In your honour. Cecil & Ruth Hershler

Roxie Lewin & Ben, On your wedding. Emmy Matte

Eric Freilich & Allie, On your marriage. Julie Martz & Tim Oberlander

Marcus & Erin Brandt, On your new baby. Al Szajman

Ralph & Helen Hoffman, In your honour. Dennis Hoffman

Gerri & Mark London, Happy Anniversary. Robbie & Gloria Waisman

Robert Krell, On the success of the conference. Harold & Marla Groberman

Robert Krell & Mariette Doduck, On the successful conference. Deborah & Henry Ross-Grayman

Ilana Strummer, On your special birthday. Moshe & Shoshana Fidelman, Revi & Michael Ross

Rita Rolling, Happy Birthday. Shoshana Fidelman

Frieda Miller, On your Special Birthday and on establishing the Avrum & Goldie Miller Memorial Endowment Fund of the VHEC. Maureen & Arthur Kaell, Murray Robins, Mara & Mike Gibney, Josh Freed, Ingrid Peritz, Karen & Stephen Kline, Joe & Karen Gold, Perry & Emmy Maerov, Francie & Jon Nobleman, Simon Berlin & Michele Lefebvre, Irwin

Miller, Leib & Bettina Zeisler, Mel & Pia Guralnick, Talia Bronstein & Josimar Dominguez, Gerry Bergeron & Sally Spilhaus, Leyland & Lise Pitt, Tim Shah & Celia Culley, Paula Brook & Shaw Saltzberg, Elizabeth & Henry Wood, Art Hister & Phyllis Simon, Judy Shapiro & Richard Bronstein, Ellen Shapiro, Rachel & Adam Manolson, Noa Bronstein & Tomer Diamant, Ayala Manolson, Elyse Therrien & Fares Boulos, Teresa Richmond & Doug Ward, Leonard Schein & Barb Small, Reva Adler, Henry Neider & Miriam Gerson, Alvin Wasserman & Cathy Moss, Bernard & Frances Fried, Beverly Kort & Ray Schacter, Morris Manolson & Petra Kuehl, Robert Stern & Laurel Putt, Ed & Debbie Lewin, Ron & Beverly Imerman, Jeffrey Dvorkin & Elizabeth Barrett, Israel Lyon & Nan Weiner, Martha & Ron Burnett, Jody & Harvey Dales, Ted Zacks & Linda Mann Zacks, Robert & Marilyn Krell, Nina Krieger & Chris Kowal, Alissa Horii Rogachevsky & Bram Rogachevsky, Gillian Bowman & Mark Mirotnick, Janos & Noni Mate, Leslie & Cecilia Maerov, Judy Oberlander & Mark Wexler, Barbara McCann & Bharat Shah, Deb & Paul Finkleman, Jesse Shapiro & Hillary Kaell, Rebecca Shapiro & Kieran Shah, Hymie & Rome Fox, Linda Rogachevsky, Yosef Wosk, Jenny Fried, Bernard Fried & Carol Bick, Florence Fried & Nelson Asikowski, Judith Wright & Arlin Hackman, Yosef Wosk

THANK YOU

Mariette Doduck, In appreciation of your co-chairing the World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust & Descendant's Conference. Ron & Barb Krell

Robert Krell, In appreciation of your co-chairing the World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust & Descendants Conference. Ron & Barb Krell

Abe Grossman, Thank you. Ed Pascal

Roxanne Eichhorn, Thank you. Julie Gutovich

VHEC Board & Staff, Thank you. Julie Gutovich

Odie Kaplan, In appreciation. Ruth Wolochow, Eve Wolochow

Eddie Rozenberg, Thank you. Ruth Grunau

Robert Krell, In your honour. Julia Oversloot-Berg

Sharon Meen, In appreciation for your work on the VHEC's "Treasured Belongings" exhibition. Chris Friedrichs

Robert Krell, Thank you. Joanna Wasel

Norman Gladstone, Thank you. David & Ellen Bogoch

Robert Krell, With appreciation. The Family of Marvin & Rita Weintraub

To send a tribute card call
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February 8-13, 2020

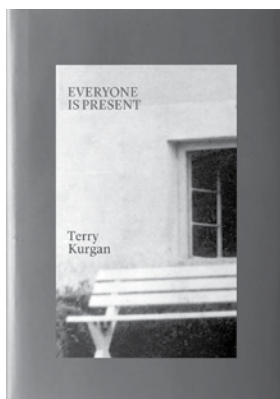
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BOOK FESTIVAL



THE VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE POLYGON GALLERY PRESENTS



Everyone Is Present: Essays on Photography, Memory and Family

BY TERRY KURGAN

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9 | 4 - 5 PM

THE POLYGON GALLERY 101 CARRIE CATES CT, NORTH VANCOUVER

ADMISSION BY DONATION



Everyone is Present is Terry's first work of creative non-fiction. The fact that the book has achieved dual award recognition is testament to Terry's ability to move between photographs and writing, to see how images and texts may be 'read' for insights about the world and about what it means to be human.

The richly satisfying essays are part memoir, part detective story, part investigative reportage, depicting her quest to unravel, through the few photos remaining, her family's epic journey across Europe as they flee Nazi occupation, country by country, and then through the Middle East to India, until they finally reach Cape Town, South Africa.

Terry Kurgan is an eminent South African artist and writer based in Johannesburg. Her innovative, often groundbreaking work has been described as having the unique capacity to combine high art with intimacy, tragedy and popular culture. She has exhibited and published widely in South Africa and internationally, and has received numerous fine art awards.

2020 Teachers' Conference

Holocaust Education: New Strategies and Best Practices for the Classroom

FEBRUARY 14 (PRO-D DAY), 9 AM - 3 PM

VANCOUVER TECHNICAL SECONDARY SCHOOL

REGISTRATION AND FURTHER INFORMATION AT WWW.VHEC.ORG

The day-long conference will feature concurrent workshops facilitated by teachers and educators at the forefront of Holocaust education with curricular links to courses including Genocide 12, Social Studies 10 & 11 and History 11. In break-out sessions, teachers will learn about advanced lesson plans, activities and resources supporting Holocaust education in the classroom.

Presented by the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre in partnership with the Azrieli Foundation and the British Columbia Social Studies Teachers' Association.



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