SMALL CAMPAIGN — BIG RESULTS

The months of June and July (as endorsed by the federation calendar) saw a number of dedicated volunteers out campaigning, albeit quietly, for the VHCS HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE. This effort has been successful on two counts: raising money to build the project and raising the community's awareness of its importance. The HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE will have a unique role in diminishing prejudice in our community.

A legacy to future generations, a place to teach the universal lessons of the Holocaust: this dream came from the Survivors themselves — as did the initial funding for the project. The half million dollars they raised was the sum required to purchase from the JCC a 99 year lease on 4,000 square feet for the proposed facility. And now this summer's limited campaign, with generous donations received from non-Jewish as well as Jewish contributors, will see the building of the HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE proceed according to schedule. The official opening of this wonderful community resource is anticipated for early 1994.

Mindful of the overstretched, "over-campaigned" condition of our community, the VHCS Board decided on a low-key fund-raising effort. Nevertheless, the word is being spread and the community is beginning to understand the objectives of this centre. Information sessions took place at the homes of Marilyn and Rob Krell, Patty and Roberto Schwartz, and Beth and Leon Bogner. As a result of these gatherings, many more people have offered their assistance to this worthwhile enterprise.

A general campaign, reaching out to the entire community, is planned for the late spring of 1993 so that all who are interested in the HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE project will have an opportunity to participate. For information, please contact Sharon Harowitz, Campaign Co-ordinator, at 734-1182.

A CELEBRATION FOR THE "FOUNDERS"

Now that the Survivors' dream of a HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE is nearing reality, the time has come for the group who spearheaded this endeavour to celebrate together.

As Dave Shafran gazed with pride at the handsome architectural model of the future HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE at the Society's recent Annual General Meeting, he observed, "Many of us Survivors didn't believe it would really happen!" David and Lil Shafran decided they wanted to bring the FOUNDERS together so that they could all share this naches. On Sunday, August 30, the Shafrans are hosting a Founders' Brunch at their home. The celebration will provide an opportunity for this visionary group to come together to hear about and see the latest developments of the exciting project they initiated.

Please note that the FOUNDERS groups is not an exclusive club! Any Survivor who wishes to make a donation to the VHCS HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE automatically joins our list of FOUNDERS. We would be delighted to include your name. The names of the FOUNDERS will be appropriately displayed on the Donors' Wall of the new HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE.
FOUNDERS OF THE VHCS HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE

The Holocaust Survivors of this community have pledged to build the HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE as their legacy to future generations.

As of August 1, 1992, the following Survivors have become "FOUNDERS OF THE LEGACY"

Ben & Rita Akselrod
Lola Apfelbaum, in memory of Max Apfelbaum
Joseph & Ina Auerhahn
André & Maud Blitz
Susan Bluman
Allan & Erma Blumanfald
Larry & Esther Brandt
Leon & Moriah Dales
Sid & Mariette Doduck
Sam & Else Dunner
David & Grace Ehrlich
Joseph & Miriam Eisner
Abe & Miriam Erlichman
David & Regina Feldman
Elie & Rosa Ferera
Erika & Zoltan Fleischer
Ben & Rose Folk
Izak & Lili Folk
Ernest & Klara Forrai
Abe & Rachel Fox
Izzy & Bertha Fraeme
Berl & Luba Gempel
Eugenia Glassner
Irving & Noreen Glassner
Bill & Shirley Gluck

David & Aurelia Gold
Bernard Goldberg
Harry & Jeanette Greenhut
Sam & Lola Haber
Paul & Edwina Heller
Sam & Sella Heller
Leon & Evelyn Kahn
Ida Kaplan
Esther Kaufman
Jacques Kneller
Samuel & Michel Kornfeld
Estera Krell
Leo & Elizabeth Krell
Robert & Marilyn Krell
Philip & Celina Lieberman
Joseph & Rose Lewin
Leo & Jocy Lowy
Jack & Chana Margalit
Leon & Shirley Menkis
Chaim & Susie Micner
Abe & Goldie Miedzygorski
Michel & June Mielnicki
Lillian J. Nemetz
Ozjasz (Z"l) & Bernice Neuwirth
Henry & Resia Nortman
Jack & Henia Perel
Rubin & Jenny Pinsky
Reva Puterman
David & Lil Shafran
Jack & Estelle Sicherman
Harold & Bella Silverman
Joseph & Vera Sloyomovics
Bronia Sonnenschein
Eric & Rita Sonner
Leslie Spiro
Susie Stein, in memory of Karl Stein
Aaron & Terry Szajman
Tom Szekely
Isaac & Bluma Tischler
Maurice & Miriam Trojanowski
Robbie & Gloria Waisman
Sophie Waldman
George & Frieda Wertman
Regina Wertman
Daniel & Vera Wollner
Boris & Marie Wydra
Chaim & Eveline Zbar
Rubin & Mala Zilberman
Henry & Sala Zimmerman

If you are a Survivor, and would like to make a donation to the VHCS HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE — we welcome your participation. Please call us at the VHCS office: 261-1180, or the campaign office: 734-1182.
SURVIVOR OUTREACH PROGRAMME

From February to July our survivor/educators, under the chairmanship of board member Rita Akselrod, made 23 visits to schools and other venues around B.C. and Ontario. This program reached approximately 1,850 students and adults. Participants and their places of invitation were:

Lola Apfelbaum, Agi Bergida, Else Dunner, Serge Haber, Chaim Kornfeld, Rubin Pinsky — March of the Living Program; David Ehrlich — Vancouver Art Gallery Facing History and Ourselves; Simon Fraser University History 300; Talmud Torah; Congregation Har El; Jack Gardner — Chemainus Secondary; Rene Goldman — Presentation House; Bill Gluck — March of the Living Program; Yale Secondary School; Rob Krell — Ottawa Jewish Community Yom HaShoah address; Lillian Nemetz — Beth Tikvah Hebrew School; Peter Parker — Balmoral Secondary; Adam Policzer — Presentation House; Ruth Sigal — Presentation House; CBC Radio; Vancouver Art Gallery Facing History and Ourselves; Vera Slyomovics — Point Grey Secondary; Bronia Sonnenschein — Handsworth Secondary; Burnaby North Secondary, Sir Charles Tupper Secondary; Templeton Secondary; McGee Secondary; UBC Hospital’s psychiatry residents; Camp Hatikvah; Louise Stein Sorensen — Mountain Secondary, Langley; Mary Jane Shannon School, Coquitlam; Robbie Waisman — Cranbrook, B.C.

We thank all those schools and special interest groups who contacted us.
For further information or booking, call Rita Akselrod through the Society office, 261-1180.

A STUDENT RESPONDS

Re: guest lecture by Mr. David Ehrlich, Simon Fraser University, June 16, 1992.

Dear Society Members:

On behalf of Professor Ronald Newton and the class of History 300 at Simon Fraser University, I would like to thank Mr. David Ehrlich for his lecture on June 16/92 on the topic of surviving the Holocaust.

As students, we are engaged in the process of learning how to be effective assessors of historical information, and we utilize many sources such as books, periodicals, archival materials and the like. However, all these sources pale by comparison to eye-witness accounts. Mr. Ehrlich’s poignant story and cautionary reminders gave historical process palpability.

As an Anglo-Canadian, I have never had to comprehend what it means to be persecuted and threatened; to live in a world that is uncertain and diabolical in its final analysis. I have studied some historical sources of the Holocaust in a Religious Studies course at Vancouver Community College under the instruction of Father James Roberts, but none of my readings, which at the time were extremely unsettling, had the impact of Mr. Ehrlich’s personal account. In my opinion, secondary sources do not convey what Mr. Ehrlich could; he stimulated our imaginations so that we could, probably for the first time, briefly gaze into a universe that was unspeakable.

I hope that the Society continues to go out into the student community to speak and apprise young people as to the depths that racism and prejudice can plunge.

Respectfully,

Mary-Anne MacDougall.
SPECIAL EVENTS TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

September 9: ANGELA GROSSMANN — EXHIBITION PREVIEW AND ARTIST’S TALK, Diane Farris Gallery, 1565 West 7th Avenue, 8:00 P.M. Diane Farris has offered her gallery to the VHCS for an exclusive preview prior to her official opening to meet Amsterdam painter Angela Grossmann. See enclosed invitation.

October 4: ANNUAL HIGH HOLIDAY MEMORIAL SERVICE, Schara Tzedek Cemetery, 2346 Marine Drive, New Westminster at noon. For information call Leo Lowy at 272-0068 or 261-1180.

October 28 – November 18: BEIT CHAIM: JEWISH CEMETERIES OF POLAND, PHOTOGRAPHY BY NAZAR TADEUZ. Co-sponsored with the VJCC cultural arts department in the Zack Gallery at the JCC.

November 1: JANUSZ KORCZAK BENEFIT FILM & RECEPTION co-sponsored with the VJCC cultural arts department, 2:00 P.M., Varsity Theatre, 4375 West 10th. Tickets available after October 1 from the VHCS (261-1180), the VJCC (266-9111) or at the door. Adults $8, seniors and students $6. For further details, watch for the October issue of the Society newsletter, and the JWB.

November 22: VHCS SECOND GENERATION CONFERENCE WITH HELEN EPSTEIN of New York, author of Children of the Holocaust: Conversations with Sons and Daughters of Survivors, a seminal work on the second generation experience. This first ever Second Generation Conference in Vancouver will convene in the VJCC Wosk Auditorium from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM with an opening address to which all are welcome. Co-chairs are Alina Wydra and Randy Tischler. For information or to assist the committee please call 261-1180.

VHCS/VJCC THIRD ANNUAL FALL CULTURAL SERIES

YESTERDAY AND TODAY: THE CHILD’S EXPERIENCE OF THE HOLOCAUST
a film, discussion and performance series

October 29: ZVI NUSSBAUM: A BOY FROM WARSAW — 50 minute documentary on the child pictured in the famous photograph on the Warsaw Umschlagplatz showing a little boy with upraised arms. Nussbaum is now a physician living and working in New York. (8:00 PM, VJCC)

November 1: JANUSZ KORCZAK, A BENEFIT FILM & RECEPTION — powerful new film on the heroic director of the Jewish orphanage in the Warsaw Ghetto, by Agnieszka Holland, director of Europa Europa. (2:00 PM, Varsity Theatre)

November 12: THERESIENSTADT — short documentary on children who survived Theresienstadt followed by a moderated panel discussion with child survivors of concentration camps. (8:00 PM, VJCC)

November 19: AS IF IT WERE YESTERDAY — 60 minute documentary on the rescue of Belgian Jewish children and a panel discussion with Vancouver survivors of this experience. (8:00 PM, VJCC)

November 26: MARCH OF THE LIVING PRESENTATION — an evening of slides, readings, songs and poetry by the 1992 March of the Living students. The students and their mentors invite their families, friends and the whole community to attend this very special evening beginning at 8:00 PM in the VJCC Wosk Auditorium.

VHCS UPDATE 4
CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION announce a Second Generation International Art Exhibit to be held at Yad Vashem. They request assistance with contributions and help in locating second and third generation artists. For further information contact: Peppy Margolis, chairperson, Creative Expressions from Generation to Generation, 48 West 37th Street, New York, NY 10018-1408, phone (212) 564-9606, fax (212) 268-0529.

YAD VASHEM: The Valley of the Destroyed Communities will open this Succoth, October 14 and 15, in Jerusalem, Israel. For more information or an invitation write: International Society for Yad Vashem, 48 West 37th Street, New York, NY 10018-1408, phone (212) 564-9606, fax (212) 268-0529.

ASSOCIATION OF HOLOCAUST ORGANIZATIONS has lists from Germany, France and Belgium of those who perished in the Holocaust and those who went from Austria to Theresienstadt. Write Professor Bill Shulman, Holocaust Resource Center and Archives, Queensborough Community College, The City University of New York, Bayside, NY 11364, phone (718) 225-0378.

1992 NATIONAL REGISTRY OF JEWISH HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS: Published by the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors in cooperation with the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, Washington, D.C. This excellent book lists all known registered Canadian and U.S. survivors. It has three indexes: by name, by place of birth or town before the war, by place during the war. The Society has already been able to assist a Vancouver survivor in locating a long lost friend through the use of this registry and provided essential information to others. For further information or registration forms call 261-1180.

The Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society was incorporated in 1985 to do two things: remember and educate. Each year we remember at memorial services. We also remember through educating. The new VHCS Holocaust Education Centre, opening in 1994 in the JCC Phase III expansion, will house a museum and archive as an important part of its education program.

Please consider making the Holocaust Education Centre the permanent home for your photographs, diaries, letters, articles of clothing, objects, documents and original art works; anything that you feel explains and documents your ghetto, hiding, partisan or concentration camp experience.

Your authentic Holocaust records and artifacts will help us immeasurably in our task of remembering and educating.

For a private appointment please call Collections chairman Rubin Pinsky at 873-9842.
A RIVER IN GERMANY

by Krissi Hockley, Burnaby North Secondary School

Dedicated to Bronia Sonnenschein

This past spring, Mrs. Sonnenschein spoke to students at Burnaby North Secondary school about her Holocaust experiences, which culminated in a death march along the River Elbe from Dresden, Germany to Theresienstadt in Czechoslovakia, where she was liberated in April of 1945.

River of terror
river of death
the river that bleeds
of pain and human sacrifice
6 million lives
drowning
the ashes of evil
the last remains
of the Third Reich
lost forever
flowing in a river
somewhere in Germany
disguised
so innocently
don’t be fooled
never be fooled by him again
“Heil Hitler ... Heil Hitler!!”
the water doth gurgle
a chant so hauntingly quiet
that even the fish
can’t hear them
The screams
of the children
as they’re ripped away
drowning

the fear, the pain, the sorrow
of a race
wiped out drowning
with the ashes
flowing in a river
somewhere in Germany
The Nuremberg Trials
1945 – 1949
found them guilty
murder, enslavement, looting
other unspeakable atrocities —
tortures, medical experiments, rape
these monsters of war
guilty of crimes
so cruel and unjust
sentenced
to death
yet the memories
are forever
immortal these monsters
they live on
their ashes
flowing ..... free in a river
known by the very few
as “The River of Terror”
somewhere in Germany.
**RÉSUMÉ**

by Elizabeth Stern

Mrs. Stern, a survivor of twelve years incarceration in Siberia, is writing her testimony in memoire form. Following is a poem she wrote in Canada thirty years after leaving Europe behind.

Hungarian and Rumanian
Were both my mother tongues.
Jewish, as well as German
Were spoken in our house.

French I started when I was ten,
Latin I studied at thirteen.
At eighteen I spoke Italian,
Under the blue skies of Italy
On the shores of the Mediterranean.

Oh, how I was longing later
For those beautiful blue skies,
While in prison in U.S.S.R.,
Outside, world-wide over,
Bombs were pouring from the skies!

In prison, stinking cells, diarrhea,
Furuncles, infested with lice.
Then, the gruesome trip to Siberia
Where I landed wondering, "Why?"

In the Gulag, it was in Russian
That I learned not to speak.
How to be silent, frightened,
And often how to be sick.

The lessons I learned in Siberia
No school nor teacher can teach.
How a stolen potato can taste
Without being washed, cooked or peeled,
For hunger had no time to waste!

The knowledge I gathered there
Form a living encyclopaedia:
The characters in the labour camps,
The field work, the guards and the barracks.
The one who survived became a hero,
But as person, reduced
To nothing more than zero!
The stories of the people,
Their backgrounds and beliefs,
The experiences I got there
To describe will take me years.

After twelve years of ordeal,
Returned to the civilized world,
it wasn't food, but knowledge
That I hungered for:
I entered Budapest University
At the age of thirty-four.

Then, in nineteen fifty-six,
In my fourth year of studies,
The Revolution in Hungary
Disturbed the last of my dreams.
I was urged to leave the country,
To avoid more bloodshed and fears.

I came to Canada, "Glorious and Free".
I learned to speak English
In a spirit without fears.
For what is the use of a language
Without the freedom of speech?
GIFTS AND DONATIONS

Your generous contributions help the Society fulfill its mandate of Holocaust documentation, education and remembrance.

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Richard Nathans: in memory of Robert R. Nathans & Selma Drissman Nathans
Dr. Ianny Kornfeld: in memory of his parents Rika & Leo Kornfeld

RECENT GIFTS

Dr. Leon Komar: post-war books printed in Poland
Presentation House: audio tape of C.B.C. interviews
Jack Gardner: collection of 22 original documents
Lois Ruth Dolgin: audio tape of C.B.C. interview
Michel Mielnicki: documents, photographs and artifacts
Barry Dunner: book
U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council: catalogue and teacher’s guide

Thanks to our many donors — in less than one year our library has reached 380 historic and contemporary volumes.

TRIBUTE CARDS

The VHC gratefully acknowledges contributions through tribute cards. To order a card call Grace Ehrlich 327-8064, Regina Feldman at 327-3358 or 261-1880.

THANKS

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SYMPATHIES

To Mr. & Mrs. Y. Messenberg, in memory of Israel from Lillian Nemetz
To Dora Gray, in memory of her husband Irio from Rabbi Avraham & Esther Tauby
To Rosemarie Glassman and family, in memory of her mother from Lillian Nemetz
To Serge Haber, in memory of his nephew from the VHCS Board

VHCS SPECIAL THANKS

To our volunteers: Shoshana Dayan, Melody Yue, Bronia Sonnenschein, Cara Loeb and Rena Vizer.
For donations of office equipment: Tobie Sandornirsky & Marion Casarier.

Remember, for there is, there must be, hope in remembering. — Elie Wiesel