

Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society

For Education and Remembrance

950 West 41st Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 2N7 (604) 261-1180

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VHCS UPDATE

March 1992

A HOLOCAUST RESOURCE CENTRE FOR VANCOUVER

Progress Report

The Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society for Education and Remembrance has been working since its incorporation in 1985 to erect and administer a Holocaust museum, education and research centre. This centre is fast approaching reality. During the summer of 1991 an agreement was formalized between the VHCS and the JCC giving the new Holocaust resource centre nearly 4,000 square feet in the JCC's Phase III development. The survivor community, amongst themselves, became both the spiritual and financial founders of the project, ensuring that their dream of educating students about the Holocaust in a central, vibrant Jewish environment was possible.

Since then, creative and hardworking committees have been formed to bring this project to fruition. Other committees will be needed as we move through the various phases of the project. Recent developments have included choosing David Cunningham, an exhibit designer for the UBC Museum of Anthropology and an architect, to work with us developing the interior spaces of our centre and conceptualizing on paper an exhibit design for the Teaching Museum.

Furthermore, the Educational Advisory Committee has been meeting with Roberta Kremer of the Royal British Columbia Museum of Victoria to develop guidelines for the education program of the new Holocaust resource centre. Also under investigation is interactive educational computer and laser disc programming. David Cunningham is beginning to construct a maquette, or model, of the space, which houses a library and archive as well. Another committee is beginning to prepare guidelines for finishing a serene and dignified Commemorative Area designed by JCC Phase III architect Peter Reese.

The Executive, staff and Board of the VHCS are pleased to present further details at its Annual General Meeting, Sunday, June 14, 1992 at 7:30 p.m. in the Maccabee Room at Beth Israel Synagogue, 4350 Oak Street.

OUTREACH AND DOCUMENTATION

AUDIO-VISUAL PROJECTS: The Audio-visual Documentation Project is nearing completion of its synopses of over one hundred VHCS survivor and other eyewitness interviews. Bound copies will be prepared for availability to researchers and educators. A copy will be sent to the Fortunoff Library of Yale University as a guide to the VHCS tapes on file there. *Those wishing to be taped for the next sequence please call the office at 261-1180.*

The Audio-visual Teaching Tapes being prepared on a federal grant have an accompanying teachers' guide written by Shelley Faintuch. A cover for the package and the guides is also ready. Both audio-visual projects were co-ordinated by Tamara Genesove, supervised by Robert Krell and Ronnie Tessler, assisted by Janet Wilson with technical advice and assistance from Colin Bryant and Eli Gorn.

VHCS OUTREACH PROGRAM: Board member Rita Akselrod is Chairman of this very active committee. In 1991 twenty-six visits were made to schools and special interest groups. Since January she has been contacted by three schools for a total of four sessions. To make arrangements for a survivor visit to your school or group, Mrs. Akselrod can be reached through the office at 261-1180.

VHCS UPDATE

WANNSEE: The fiftieth year since the Wannsee Conference was marked at UBC at a program co-sponsored by the VHCS, Hillel and the UBC History Department with a special Commemorative Lecture by Professor L.E. (Ted) Hill. A discussion followed. The event was instigated by VHCS in conjunction with Professor William Nicholls and Zac Kaye, Executive Director of Hillel.

KEEPING THE MEMORY: Orders for the book have been received from local members, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, B.C. schools, Holocaust organizations in the U.S. and the libraries at Harvard and Yale.

SPECIAL EVENTS

RESCUERS OF THE HOLOCAUST: Held at Presentation House along with Nomi Kaplan's Kaddish, this travelling photographic exhibit paid tribute to non-Jewish (and Jewish) rescuers. On Sunday, February 16, artist Gay Block, and writer, Malka Drucker, spoke to a large audience about their project. Following strudel and coffee, Bill Nicholls introduced Ruth Sigal, Professor Rene Goldman and Adam Policzer, who spoke of their hiding experiences during the Holocaust. VHCS co-sponsored this event as well as sponsoring the visit of the artist and writer. Private donors and Congregation Har El assisted.

VHCS is a co-sponsor, along with the Seattle Holocaust Resource Center, Oregon Holocaust Resource Center and the William O. Douglas Institute for the **Teaching the Holocaust to New Generations Conference** in Seattle organized by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. The conference will be addressed by scholars familiar to Vancouverites. Professors Hubert G. Locke and Christopher Browning. Also speaking is Sybil Milton, co-author of *Art of the Holocaust*.

UPCOMING

YOM YASHOAH: Thursday, April 30. Please watch for further details on the cemetery service and the annual Canadian Jewish Congress Pacific Region Commemorative Address in the evening at Temple Sholom. For further information call the VHCS office at 261-1180, or CJC at 261-8101.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS: VHC President, Dr. Robert Krell will be addressing the following: the *22nd Annual Scholars Conference on the Holocaust in Seattle, Washington*, the *Conference on the Identification and Treatment of the Aging Holocaust Survivor* in Miami, Florida, and is the guest speaker at Ottawa's Yom Hashoah community observance.

SPECIAL NOTE: April 29, 1993 is the 50th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOOKS: The JCC Golden Age Club lounge, in room 203, has 200 large type and other books in Yiddish. Call 266-9111 and speak to co-ordinator Gisi Levitt for information.

FILM SERIES: The Jewish Festival of the Arts Society's 4th Annual Jewish International Film Series is running Sundays and Mondays, May 10 and 11 for seven weeks. This year's Holocaust related film will be *The Assault*. For information call 266-0245.

ART EXHIBIT: The JFAS is also opening an exhibit at Temple Sholom Gallery April 15, by artist Anthony Martin. His paintings feature Jewish artists who belonged to the School of Paris before they were murdered by the Nazis.

ELSEWHERE

CHILD SURVIVOR CONVENTION: 5th annual Convention of Holocaust Child Survivors April 27 – May 6 in Jerusalem will join the March of the Living teens. Visits to important Holocaust and Israeli sites included. Call (212) 366-6678 or (718) 266-4865 evenings and weekends for details.

SECOND GENERATION CONFERENCE: Second International Conference of Children of Holocaust Survivors, Jerusalem July 5 – 10. (Form available at VHCS office or write 2nd Generation Conference, Peltours – Te'um Congress Organizers, POB 8388, Jerusalem 91082, Tel. 972-2-617402 or Fax 972-2-637572). An excellent agenda has been arranged.

SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER: Fourth Mission to Eastern Europe, May 7 – 18. Visits to Warsaw, Lodz, Krakow, Prague and Budapest. Limit 36 participants. (Brochure in VHCS office or contact Rhonda Bord, Director, Eastern Region Office, Tel. (212) 370-0320 or Fax (212) 883-0895.)

YAD VASHEM: Archival materials of Eastern European provenance have recently been released for viewing by Yad Vashem. Included are names and details of death camps, killing sites, ghettos, Nazi files, reports and testimonies. Six former Soviet controller countries are involved including: East Germany, the Baltic States and Rumania as well as the archives of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee. For details write Yad Vashem, POB 3477, Jerusalem 91034, Tel. 751661, Fax 433511.

REQUESTS

LITHUANIAN HOLOCAUST DATA SOUGHT: OSI of the U.S. Justice Department and the ADL are seeking Holocaust survivors with knowledge of the persecution and murder of civilians in the Joniskelis district between 1941 and 1943. English and non-English speaking witnesses welcome. Contact Elliot Welles, Director, ADL task force on Nazi war criminals, Tel. (212) 490-2525.

MAUTHAUSEN: ADL and OSI wish to locate Holocaust survivors who were imprisoned in either sub-camp of the Mauthausen system: Gusen I between June 1942 and August 1943 or Loibl-Pass between the summer of 1944 and May 1945. Gusen I includes: Deutsche Erdund Steinwerke, Steyr-Daimler-Puch and Messerschmidt plants, two quarries, a sandpit and an S.S.-Bekleidungs-lager. Contact Elliot Welles at the ADL, 823 United Nations Plaza, NY, NY 10017 or Betty Shave, Senior Trial Attorney, Office of Special Investigations Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice, 1400 New York Avenue, N.W., 11th floor, Bond Building, Washington, D.C. 20530.

SPECIAL REQUEST

Army Vis of Abbotsford is trying to locate a man known as "Karel," hidden by his family in Holland at Heelsumseweg 33, Wolfheze, Gelderland in 1944. "Karel" was approximately 15. Vis' grandparents, Jon and Grietje Aarsen protected several friends and family, moving them from place to place as necessary. This included staying at the Psychiatric Hospital in Wolfheze. The family would very much like to make contact again with "Karel" (possibly an assumed name). If you have information please call or write Army Vis, 34272 Cedar Avenue, Abbotsford, B.C., Canada V2S 2W2, Tel. (604) 859-1497.

GIFTS AND DONATIONS

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

DONATIONS

Olga Schwartz
Isaac and Judy Thau
Helen Hooper
Helen Berger
Jannushka Jakoubovitch

Walter, Jean and Tody Schillinger in memory of Ernst Schillinger
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hochfelder
Leonard Bessner in honour of Rabbi Balla's birthday
Emmy Krell in memory of Jacob Stelzer family

RECENT GIFTS

The VHC requires artifacts, photographs and documents for its new Holocaust Education Centre and Museum. To donate or loan archival material please call collections chairman Rubin Pinsky, 873-9842. Donations of new books, videos or a substantial library are tax receiptable. Please call 261-1880. Used books and videos are appreciated.

Jewish Federation of
Greater Vancouver — collection of ghetto money
Ruth Dolgin — Judenstern
Maurice Smith — documents, photos and collection of
German Italian wartime artifacts
Willie Cooper — copies of photo and articles
Jack Gardner — documents from life in Displaced
Persons Camp, documents about
Stary Sambor
Susan Quastel — photo, two volumes
Het Weinreb-rapport

Rita Weintraub — article, Talking Books Tape on
capture of Adolf Eichmann
Ernie and
Klara Forrai — postwar materials
Jan Kedzierski — books, commemorative stamps,
Jewish cufflinks
Ronnie Tessler — books
Yad Vashem — teaching materials
Ned Bibick — A/V tapes on Serbian treatment
of Jews during WWII, articles

TRIBUTE CARDS

The VHC welcomes your assistance through Tribute Card purchases. To order a card please call Grace Ehrlich at 327-8064, Regina Feldman at 327-3358 or the office at 261-1880.

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY

Meta Zalkow by Else and Sam Dunner

Al Kooper by Randy and Joyce Ling

SPEEDY RECOVERY

Sid Doduck by Huberman, Cristall, Hutchinson

Sam Belzberg by Carol and Michael Jackson and family

SYMPATHIES TO

Bernice Neuwirth, in memory of husband Osjaz,
by Esther Kaufman

Bernice Neuwirth, in memory of husband Osjaz,
by Rose and Ben Folk

Joe Segal, in memory of his brother,
by Esther Kaufman

Joe Segal, in memory of his brother,
by Lyliane and Larry Thal

Walter Schillinger and family, in memory of
brother Ernst, by Lil and Fred Lepkin

Mrs. J. Newstone, in memory of her sister,
by Jocy and Leo Lowy

Mrs. G. Sherman and family, in memory of husband
and father, Gerald, by Jocy and Leo Lowy

Mrs. G. Sherman and family, in memory of husband
and father, Gerald, by Grace and David Ehrlich

Mrs. S. Zack, in memory of husband Sidney,
by Jocy and Leo Lowy

Mrs. S. Zack, in memory of husband Sidney,
by Aaron and Zelda Kalensky

Michael and Kristina Berman and family, in memory
of father and grandfather, by Carol and
Michael Jackson and family

Rosalind and Howard Karby and family, in memory
of father and grandfather, by Carol and
Michael Jackson and family

Ruth Fleischer, in memory of Michael Sillmans,
by Lyliane and Larry Thal

Ruth Fleischer, in memory of Michael Sillmans,
by Esther Kaufman

Ruth Fleischer, in memory of Michael Sillmans,
by Lil and Dave Shafran

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