



Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society

For Education and Remembrance

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

Volume 4, Number 2

VHCS UPDATE

May 1992

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

The Board of the Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society for Education and Remembrance advises its members of the Annual General Meeting at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, June 14, 1992 in the Maccabee Room of the Beth Israel Synagogue, 4350 Oak Street in Vancouver, British Columbia. All members in good standing are welcome to participate in the business of the Society.

1. President's Report
2. Executive Director's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Nominations and Elections
5. Special presentation on the Holocaust Education Centre Building Project

Dated at 950 West 41st Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. on the 14th day of May, 1992.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Mariette Doduck, Secretary

Please note: only members in good standing may vote on issues or in elections. Nominations to the Board will be accepted up to two weeks prior to the meeting (June 1, 1992). Nominees must be endorsed by six members in good standing with the Society. Please watch the Jewish Western Bulletin for publication of the slate.

*Please tear off and mail to 950 West 41st Avenue,
Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 2N7*

1992 VHC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Annual Dues: \$18.00 _____ Name: _____

Family Membership: \$30.00 _____ Address: _____

Donation: _____

Total: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (B) _____

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The Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society,

950 West 41st Avenue,

Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 2N7

VHCS UPDATE

YOM HASHOAH: The annual VHCS Shoah memorial service, organized this year by Serge Haber, was again held at the memorial at the Schara Tzedek Cemetery. Community rabbis and survivors conducted the service. The six commemorative candles were lit by members of the Second Generation. Rabbi Yitzchak Wineberg officiated, Rabbi Wilfred Solomon delivered the eulogy, and Robbie Waisman made the opening remarks on behalf of the survivor community. Kaddish was led by Rabbi Avraham Feigelstock.

MARCH FOR THE LIVING: VHCS participated in the planning of a six week orientation program for the students who left on the biannual March For The Living to Poland and Israel on April 26. The Society provided three programs including an evening of private visits with survivors, five of whom are VHCS Board members.

SURVIVOR OUTREACH PROGRAM: Since January, Outreach Chairman Rita Akselrod has received over twenty requests for survivors to address students in places as diverse as North Vancouver, Abbotsford, Cranbrook, Chemainus and the Vancouver Art Gallery 'Facing History and Ourselves' program. Visits to schools or special interest group can be arranged by calling the office, 261-1180.

COLLECTIONS: Chairman Rubin Pinsky reminds the community that we are still actively seeking photographs, documents, mementos and objects for the Teaching Exhibit of the new Holocaust Education Centre. The Exhibit, and the interior of the Centre itself, is being designed by David Cunningham, formerly of the National Gallery of Canada and now exhibit designer at the Museum of Anthropology at UBC. Mr. Pinsky can be reached at 873-9842 or through the office. Private visits can be arranged.

AUDIO VISUAL PROJECTS: The first four educational kits containing a survivor's testimony and accompanying teacher's guide are ready for publication. The next four will be taped this month, as a dialogue between long term Auschwitz prisoners Michael Mielnicki of Vancouver and Sigmund Sobolewski of Alberta. The 105 tapes of the Oral History Project are now listed with the Canadian Oral History Association, which is compiling a comprehensive Canadian inventory in conjunction with the Social Services and Humanities Research Council and the National Archives of Canada in Ottawa. Tammy Genesove, Project Co-ordinator, has also readied for immediate publication an extensive guide to the oral histories.

PUBLICATIONS: *Keeping the Memory*, which continues to be ordered from around the country, is now listed with Canadian Books in Print, published by the University of Toronto Press and the only complete English listing of Canadian books available to libraries, booksellers and researchers across Canada and elsewhere. Our book is also listed with the Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Programme (CIP) of the National Library in Ottawa.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS: Robert Krell, VHCS President, gave the keynote address at Ottawa's Erev Yom Hashoah commemoration, April 29, 1992. David Ehrlich and Ronnie Tessler will be speaking to the Har El Brotherhood, May 28 on the North Shore.

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE BUILDING PROJECT

- I. Mrs. Sharon Harowitz has begun work as Campaign Co-ordinator for the VHCS Holocaust Education Centre Limited Campaign, authorized by the Federation for June and July of this year. Sharon can be reached week days in her office, located at Schara Tzedek Synagogue, 3476 Oak Street, phone or fax 734-1182.
- II. Recent meetings between Project Chairman Art Pouchet, Ronnie Tessler, designer David Cunningham, JCC Director Gerry Zipursky and architect Peter Reese have produced an exciting use of the space allotted us. Cunningham has also constructed a large *maquette*, or model of the Holocaust Education Centre which will be on display at the Annual General Meeting, June 14, 1992.
- III. The Education Policy for the Holocaust Education Centre prepared by Roberta Kremer of the Royal B.C. Museum in Victoria is now in the final stages. Roberta's committee of advisors included Professor Graham Forst, Donna Bryman of the Vancouver Museum, Susan Rome of the Vancouver Art Gallery, Murray Bowman of Point Grey Secondary School and Odie Kaplan, Multicultural Advisor in the Burnaby School District.

ELSEWHERE

Lillian J. Nemetz

The genesis of the Child Survivors Group in Vancouver took root one evening at the JCC when I accidentally ran into Dr. Robert Krell.

"Rob," I blurted out, "I need to do something, talk to someone. I walk around with my Holocaust past and have no one to share it with, who can I talk to?"

Rob look at me with his all-knowing eyes and without the slightest hesitation said three words, "Phone Ruth Sigal."

A phone call led to a meeting. Ruth and I met for lunch and looked at each other with total amazement.

"I didn't know that you were a survivor," she said, "you never talked about it."

I hadn't known Ruth was a survivor either.

Over lunch we made some plans for the first group meeting of child survivors and that's how last December 1991 the Child Survivors Group in Vancouver was born.

A year later I am happy to report that we're doing well. There is more than enough to talk about when we meet each month. At first we began by telling our stories. Everyone's was different yet familiar, and in some ways similar. It was a strange yet rewarding experience to be among people who share the most important part of your life: your lost childhood.

After a while we got to know one another and over time have become a family of "siblings."

Some of us attended the Hidden Child Conference in New York, and for most, this event became a milestone and a breakthrough towards the realization that there were many others like ourselves. This gave us all the more reason to continue meeting, as much emphasis at the conference was placed on child survivors meeting together and helping one another to overcome our unbelievable histories.

Recently, our group met at Rob Krell's for an afternoon with Nechama Tec, who spoke at Kristallnacht that evening. Nechama gave us a great boost when she told us that she felt a bonding within our membership that she had not witnessed at many other similar gatherings she had attended. She, like the many speakers at the Conference, said that in order to help us to live with our past we must help each other, and that is what we do when we meet. We talk and share. We watch videos of different events that took place during the Holocaust. We remember. As we sit and watch these events in complete silence, I feel a kinship and a brotherhood amongst us.

Like any other group, we are developing goals. One of them, hopefully, will be a newsletter with contributions from our members. We will then send this letter to other child survivor groups in the world hoping to make further contact with those like ourselves. Our second project, still in its embryonic stages, may be an outreach to the local second generation group, who are inactive at the moment and perhaps unaware that they are the continuum of a process that must be kept alive.

This is the process of passing on the knowledge, the word, that, like the torch at Yad Vashem, must reach the heart of every Jew and non-Jew in the world. It is the educational process that throws light on ignorance, misconception, racism, and the denial of Shoah.

We have much to do for one another and for the community, and with God's help and the help of our members, we shall try to succeed.

GIFTS AND DONATIONS

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

DONATIONS

Emil Pozniak
Nancy Gabor
Dennis & Joyce Hoffman
Murray H. Shapiro
Saul Klarer
Myra Elson
Ya'akov N. Miles
Freda Kaplan
Jack Diamond
Stanley & Odile Winfield

Emmy Krell
Josef & Ina Auerhahn
Frances Hoyd
Clifford Margolis
Dr. Brahm Lerner
David Laniado
Samuel Znaimer
Susan Quastel — in
memory of her parents
Len L. Daniels

Marilee Sigal
Robert & Marilyn Krell
Ann Herstein
Dr. Andrew Seal
Stephen Cheinkes
Ronnie & Barry Tessler
Dr. Peter Suedfeld
Tobie Sandomirsky
Odie Kaplan
Robbie Waisman

Ms. Helen Bauer
Susan Bluman
Zvi Lubiniski
Shelley Faintuch
Micha Menczer
Mr. & Mrs. Leo Krell
Robbie Waisman
Joe & Miriam Eisner
Paul Meyer
Helene Josefowicz

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.

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Anonymous | — artifacts from Eichmann trial |
| Steve Drysdale | — ghetto money |
| Jack Gardner | — original documents from Camp Foehrenwald |

WISH LIST

More artifacts, photos and documents!
An office calibre telephone, typing chair and electric typewriter
Contributions to the video and library purchase funds (tax receipts issued)

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.

SPEEDY RECOVERY

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| To Leo Lowy from: | Evelyn & Leon Kahn, Abe & Goldie Miedzygorski, Lil & Dave Shafran, Board of the VHCS, Fay & Morley Shafron, Esther Kaufman, Robbie & Gloria Waisman, Regina & David Feldman |
| To Regina Feldman from: | VHCS Board, Ronnie Tessler, Abe & Goldie Miedzygorski, Lil & Dave Shafran |
| To Estelle Sicherman from: | Regina & David Feldman |
| To Esther Pelman from: | Regina & David Feldman |
| To Abe Miedzygorski from: | Lil & Dave Shafran |

HAPPY PURIM

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|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| To Regina Feldman from: | Abe & Sarah Bialoglowsky |
| To Art & Terry Szajman from: | Abe & Sarah Bialoglowsky |

IN TRIBUTE

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| To Dr. Martin Lapkin from: | Regina Feldman |
|----------------------------|----------------|

MAZEL TOV

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|---|-------------------------------|
| To Ruth & Cecil Sigal on the birth of a granddaughter from: | Sharon Harowitz & Bob Willmot |
| To Rabbi Ronnie & Karen Cahana on the birth of a daughter from: | VHCS Board |

SYMPATHIES TO

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|--|---|
| Bernice Neuwirth, in memory of her husband from: | Art & Terry Szajman, Evelyn & Leon Kahn |
| Mrs. I. Kramer in memory of her husband from: | Regina & David Feldman |
| Peter Barnett in memory of his father from: | Larry & Lyliane Thal |

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