



Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society

For Education and Remembrance

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

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WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

"We need to speak out before the year 2000, because 2001 will have different issues." Ida Kersz wrote these words in a report on the Hidden Child Conference in the Holocaust Memorial Foundation of Illinois newsletter. While VHCS child survivors attending this NYC conference for Hidden Children returned home rededicated to Holocaust education and remembrance as the youngest generation of witnesses, they should not have to bear the full responsibility. Below and inside this newsletter are some of the ways our community helps ensure the memory.

The Second World War

Zoe Howard, age eleven

A long time ago there was a terrible thing
That perished six million Jews.
The Second World War, a drastic event
Which was too cruel to be true.

On two meals a day, on water and bread
They cried and hoped to survive.
Children grew pale, women grew weak
While men strived to stay alive.

But one cold morning, the Allied forces came
To save the few Jews alive.
And so the Holocaust came to an end
Many losing a child, husband, wife.

From Auschwitz to Dachau, the Jews stayed in fright
Waiting day after day.
Some died in showers, some starved to death
And some closed their eyes to pray.

At the end of each day they slept
Wondering when it would end.
Or if they would ever see again
Their parents, sibling or friend.

Therefore we must learn, and never forget
The agony felt by these Jews.
And understand what occurred then
To make it never happen to you.

Kiddush in Bolivia

Dan Propp, second generation

I remember Kiddush in Bolivia
A handful of children we were
The rabbi's, the lawyer's, the beggar's
The grocery store owners, and me

Gestapo, German, Yiddish
Eyes that reflected the tide
Schiller, Goethe, Talmud
A difficult mixture to hide

Tin mines, coca leaves, eucalyptus
Escape to this world of thin air
9,000 foot altitude
The expressions our people did wear

We the children now scattered
Middle aged memories growing old
The legacy of our parents
Is a story that must be told

I remember Kiddush in Bolivia
A handful of children we were
The rabbi's, the lawyers, the beggar's
The grocery store owner's, and me

ANNUAL HIGH HOLIDAY MEMORIAL SERVICE:

12:30 PM, Sunday, September 15

Schara Tzedek Cemetery, 2346 S.W. Marine Drive, New Westminster

information: Leo Lowy, 272-0068

May you and your families be inscribed

VHCS REVIEW

YOM HASHOAH UNVEILING OF NAMES: On Yom HaShoah, April 11, eighty new names were unveiled on the memorial at Schara Tzedek Cemetery by members of their families.

ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE HOLOCAUST: The sixteenth annual Symposium on the Holocaust for highschool students, co-ordinated by the Standing Committee on the Holocaust and Canadian Jewish Congress and assisted by the VHCS, was again addressed by over twenty of our survivor/educators at two days of overflow seminars. VHCS executive member Robbie Waisman convened the teachers' caucus on both days.

HIDDEN CHILD CONFERENCE: Members of the Child Survivor Group and some spouses attended the May conference in New York City in May. VHCS president Robert Krell conducted two sessions at this international symposium of two thousand former children in hiding.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Society members elected an expanded board of twenty-three survivors, second generation and members of the community. A special vote to increase the board size recognized the increased work of the Society and the needs of the building project. Reports were given by the president, treasurer, executive director and building committee. Rebbetzin Shayndel Feuerstein, principal of the Vancouver Torah Acadamey and second generation, spoke about her thoughts and experiences on the Federation Mission to Poland and Israel.

PHASE III BUILDING PROJECT: The VHCS, represented by negotiations chairman Robbie Waisman, legal counsell Joel Altman, president Robert Krell and executive director Ronnie Tessler, signed an agreement and 99 year lease with the VJCC for a four thousand square foot area to be developed by VHCS as a centre for Holocaust documentation, research, archives, library, education and program centre and museum. Planning is now underway.

OUTREACH: Survivors Chaim Kornfeld and board member Bill Gluck visited camp Hatikvah and spoke with the campers at their annual Holocaust Remembrance programs in July and August. In June, David Ehrlich spoke to students at Maillardville Secondary in Coquitlam.

CHILD SURVIVOR GROUP: continues to meet monthly in private homes. For information please call co-chairs Lillian Nemetz at 738-8260 or Ruth Sigal at 261-5233. Child survivors who were sixteen in 1945 are welcome. An annual fee of \$18.00 is being suggested to cover expenses.

AUDIO/VISUAL DOCUMENTATION PROJECTS: Working with federal grant monies received last spring, project co-ordinator Tamara Genesove has three twenty-five minute teaching versions of survivor testimonies from Klara Forrai, Lillian Nemetz and Bronia Sonnenschein ready for the last stages of production. A guide for teachers is being written by second generation educator Shellie Faintuch.

COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE - RECENT GIFTS:

Gerda Frieberg - catalogue

Rubin & Mala Zilberman - photographs & explanations

Celina Lieberman - *Art of the Holocaust* by Janet Blatter & Sybil Milton

Sigmund Sobolewski - photographs, documents; artifacts and manuscript on loan

Bronia Sonnenschein - photographs and translations

Fraidie Martz - copy of published article

Ronnie & Barry Tessler - books

Holocaust Memorial Resource & Education Centre of Central Florida - bibliography

Morres Kleermaker - collection of wartime Dutch Nazi and resistance newspapers

Elizabeth Greenberg Kavanagh - special gift of large collection of Holocaust related books

Graham Forst - photo exhibit and posters

Paul Grunberger - Austrian immigration documents

Avraham Harshalom - memoires

Dr. Kurt Wallersteiner - history of Jews of Ulm to WWI

Shirley Cohn - account of Holocaust memorial dedication in Budapest and visit to Kisvarda

For gifts or loans of archival material, please call Collections chairman Rubin Pinsky 873-9842.

Donations of new books, videos and journals are tax receiptable:

for information call 261-1180.

VHCS UPCOMING

ANNUAL HIGH HOLIDAY MEMORIAL SERVICE: The annual High Holiday memorial service has been arranged by Board member Leo Lowy to take place beside the Memorial at Schara Tzedek Cemetery, 2346 Marine Drive in New Westminster at 12:30 PM, Sunday, September 15. For transportation and information contact Leo Lowy at 272-0068.

LECTURE SERIES: The 1991 fall lecture series/course, co-sponsored with the VJCC Institute of Adult Jewish Studies, will run on six consecutive Thursdays at the JCC from 8-9:30 PM beginning Thursday, October 10. Please see insert for details. TBA - an evening with architect Anne Lewisohn who will speak on the National Holocaust Museum Project in Washington D.C. Society members will receive a discount on this course.

KRISTALLNACHT: Sunday, November 10, 7:30 PM at the Beth Israel Synagogue Dr. Nechama Tec, Polish survivor and professor of sociology at the University of Connecticut, will deliver the annual address commemorating the Night of Broken Glass entitled: *When Light Pierced the Darkness*. Prof. Tec's area of study is the Righteous Gentile. There will be a special presentation to a Righteous Gentile previously honoured in Jerusalem by Yad Vashem.

NEWS

Serving on the VHCS Advisory Committee are international scholars, writers and human rights leaders Erwin Cotler, Yaffa Eliach, Martin Gilbert and Eli Wiesel.

Keeping the Memory: Fifteen Eyewitness Accounts of Victoria Holocaust Survivors, transcribed and written by Rhoda Kaellis and edited and published by the VHCS, will be launched on Sunday, November 3 at Temple Emanu-el in Victoria at a reception to honour the survivors.

The **Audio/Visual Documentation Project** is ready to resume after the High Holidays. We now have in our archive 103 eyewitness accounts, with duplicates stored in several locations, including the Fortunoff Library at Yale University. Copies are made for witnesses and their families. The exceptional quality of these profound interviews secured the Society a \$23,100 federal grant to produce educational tapes for teaching purposes. If you are ready to be interviewed and contribute your personal testimony, please contact the office at 261-1180 for an appointment. This significant history gathering project is of invaluable importance in countering Holocaust denial.

The **VHCS UPDATE** is interested in publishing short stories of about seven hundred and fifty words written especially for the newsletter, eg. reminiscences of your town, memories of holiday celebrations or your school days. A photo can be included. Please call the office at 261-1180 to make arrangements.

A **Special Gift** from Mrs. Elizabeth Greenberg Kavanagh has increased the size of the VHCS library five fold. Her generosity has created a solid base for the future of our collection. A life-long bibliophile, Mrs. Kavanagh donated over one hundred books on Holocaust-related topics and anti-Semitism.

Society member Michel Mielnicki recently testified at the trial of Auschwitz-Birkenau ramp selection officer SS Unterscharfuhrer Heinrich Johannes Kuhnemann in Duisburg Germany.

The Western Association of Survivor-Friends and Families extend an invitation to their **3rd annual dinner** Sunday, October 27 at Schara Tzedek Synagogue. Guest speaker is Prof. William Nicholls. Please call convenors Katie Freilich 683-8085 and Michel Mielnicki 266-7701 for tickets.

The Shaya Kirman Foundation for Yiddish annual concert is at 8:00 PM, Saturday, October 12, 1991 at the VJCC. Featured artists are **Dora Wasserman**, artistic director of Yiddish theatre at the Saidye Bronfman Centre and Myrna Rabinovitch and the Odessa Klezmer Band. Co-sponsored by the VJCC. Tickets available at 266-9111 or at the door.

GIFTS AND DONATIONS

*Your generous contributions help the Society fulfill its mandate of Holocaust documentation, education and remembrance.
For Tribute Cards please call Grace Ehrlich 327-8064, Regina Feldman 327-3358, or 261-1180.*

DONATIONS

Thank you to our many good friends for their donations:

Rose Folk, Norman Archek, Naomi Frankenberg, Dr. Ernest Frinton, Frances Hoyd, Mancy Koenigsberg, Clifford Margolis, Len Daniel, Ilse Franck, Kurt Wallersteiner, Jack Diamond, Joseph Auerhahn, Gary Averbach, Sheila Anzarut, Louise Stein Sorenson, Stuart Fine, Dr. G. N. Berman, Kenneth Freedman, Joseph Gabor, Jacques Kneller, Frances & William Switzer, Joseph Cohen, Julian Smith, Renee Bellas, Ronnie & Barry Tessler, Bob Bluman & Nancy Newman, Harry Herman, Vlado Hopner, Renia & Morris Perel, Zvi Lubinszki, Pat Dolan, Selma Shindler, Paul Grunberger, Dr. Art Hister, Jennie Rootman, Dr. Peter Suedfeld, Sandi Buitenkant, M. & S. Epstein, Freda Kaplan, Al Szajman, Ralph Barer, Marilee Sigal, Harry Greenhut, Bernard Goldberg, Dr. P. Munns, Ruth & Hy Ross, David Youngson, Sam Znaimer, Dr. L. Jacobovic, Marianne Tatar, Tom Szekely, Dr. A. Herstein, Helene Josefowicz, Mr. & Mrs. Hall Leiren, Gita Silver, Samuel & Miriam Rothstein

TRIBUTE CARDS

IN MEMORY OF: Israel Lederman, father of Susie Micner & Goldie Miezugorski: Mr. & Mrs. H. Silverman, Regina Wertman; Charles Rozen, brother of Esther Brandt: Regina & David Feldman, Art & Terry Szajman, Bertha & Izzy Fraeme, Jocy & Leo Lowy; Charles Rozen, brother of Marie Doduck: Regina & David Feldman; mother of Ken Fox: Marie & Sid Doduck, Jocy & Leo Lowy, Lyliane Thal; mother/grandmother of Dr. & Mrs. D. Segal family: Carol, Michael, Bianca & Joshua Jackson; mother of Sharon Chercover: Jocy & Leo Lowy; father of Mike Rogers: Lyliane Thal; Gisele Warren, sister/in-law of Sam & Else Dunner: VHCS Board, Ronnie & Barry Tessler; Anne, wife of Leon Holz: Jacques Kneller; daughter of Rosalie & Alfred Joseph: Jenny & Rubin Pinsky; Esther Rosenblatt, mother/grandmother of Dr. J. Rosenblatt family: Michael, Carol, Bianca & Joshua Jackson; parents/grandparents of Maja, Martin, Andrea & Michelle Mindell: Michael, Carol, Bianca & Joshua Jackson; Mrs. Thal, mother of Larry Thal: Harry & Rachel Wosk, Art & Terry Szajman, David & Regina Feldman; wife/mother of Steve Blitz & son: Grace & David Ehrlich; mother/grandmother of Gloria Rosner & family: Carol Jackson; mother of Gary Romalis: Esther Kaufman, Larry & Lyliane Thal; to Michael Jackson in memory of Monty & Tipta Jackson: Bianca & Joshua Jackson; father/grandfather of Dr. Robert Huber & family: Michael, Carol, Bianca & Joshua Jackson; father of Ted Margulius: Esther & Larry Brandt; mother of Nita Levy: Larry & Lyliane Thal; Harold, Husband of Lottie Ames: Jocy & Leo Lowy.

SPEEDY RECOVERY: Murray Kenig: Regina & David Feldman; Kira Landsberger: Regina & David Feldman; Morley Koffman: Lil & Dave Shafran; Joe Neuwirth: Art & Terry Szajman; Herschel Wosk: Art & Terry Szajman; Sid Hechter: Grace & David Ehrlich; Mr. M. Chernov: Jocy & Leo Lowy; Sam Martz: Jocy & Leo Lowy; Klara Forrai: Ronnie Tessler; Dr. Anna Balla: VHCS Board; Sella Heller: Goldie Cooperband.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: Dvori & Michael Balshine: Esther Kaufman, Larry & Lyliane Thal; Esther & Larry Brandt's 40th: Art & Terry Szajman, Jocy & Leo Lowy, Chaim & Susie Micner; Bertha & Seymour Levitan 25th: Jenny & Rubin Pinsky; Ben & Esther Dayson: Jocy & Leo Lowy.

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY: Bette-Jane Israels: Lyliane Thal; Lev Pekelni: Regina & David Feldman; Bronia Sonnenschein: Vivian & Ben Herman & family; Sam Martz: Jocy & Leo Lowy; Maurice Jarvis: Jocy & Leo Lowy; Molly Ross: Grace & David Ehrlich; Sam Martz: Jocy & Leo Lowy; Rubin Pinsky: VHCS Board, Ronnie & Barry Tessler.

MAZEL TOV: Rabbi & Mrs. Shlomo Crandall, birth of daughter: Carol, Michael, Bianca & Joshua Jackson; Debra Youngson & Brent James engagement: Carol, Michael, Bianca & Joshua Jackson; Leo Lowy, retirement: Esther Kaufman, Joe & Bernice Neuwirth, Larry & Esther Brandt, Bill & Irene Brandt, Izzy & Bertha Fraeme, Jack & Margaret Fraeme.

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