"And if in the distant future a Haman should rise again, 
bringing death and destruction to our people,
then let the memory of this day
give us hope and belief in hours of danger,
that we may never lose the conviction
that G-d will always be with us as He was today."

Those were the words I recited acting the part of Mordecai in a school play a lifetime ago. Little did the teacher who wrote those words, and I who recited them, know that a Haman, in the form of Hitler, would rise again. In those far off days there was a Queen Esther who saved her people from destruction - in our time there was no one who would, or could, have stopped the slaughter.

Bronia Sonnenschein, survivor

THE VHCS RESPONSE

Adam Dodek, a twenty year old Vancouver student studying at the Hebrew University, recently wrote in the Jewish Western Bulletin of a disquieting fall day he spent in Paris. On three occasions, at three places of remembrance, he observed Parisians and tourists treat those places cavalierly. He asked; "Is the Holocaust only another historical event that has left monuments (and) memorials, but few lasting imprints? I worry about the future when the survivors and the perpetrators and the witnesses are all gone. What will be left? Is nothing learned, remembered, cherished or protected?" Poignant questions, and disturbing in their implications.

Encouragingly, at least in Vancouver, the survivor community has decided to address the problems raised in Dodek’s article by building a Holocaust education centre in a location integral to the Jewish community and central in our city, the VJCC. In this centre, whose intitial construction is being endowed by the Survivors Legacy Fund and administered by the Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society, the education program for highschool students currently run once a year at UBC will be permanently housed and operated continuously throughout the school year. Also built-in to the Centre will be the VHCS archive of documentary and audio/visual materials, including over one hundred local Survivor accounts.

The survivors are bequeathing to our province, with community input, a Centre which fulfills an essential goal of our time and for the future; understanding and tolerance between people. This centre will be a place in which to learn from the magnitude of the Jewish experience of the Shoah and the greatness of our survival; an educational complex in which learning will be translated into tools for action tempered by understanding and compassion.

An Open Meeting sponsored by the VHCS on Sunday, March 3 at 7:30 pm will be held in the Zack Gallery of the VJCC to explain to the community the scope of this important project. To become involved in this exciting and vitally needed project or the Founders' Survivors Legacy Fund you are welcome to visit or phone our office in the JCC at 261-1180.

Ronnie Tessler, Executive Director

1. reprint courtesy of Jewish Western Bulletin
Phase III Developments: The Education Centre advisory committee has been convening under the chairmanship alternatively of VHCS president Rob Krell and board member and VHCS chairman of the JCC building committee Paul Heller. Several meetings have been held with architect Peter Reese of Spaceworks to apprise him of the Centre’s needs. The negotiating committee under chairman Robbie Waisman has been active as well. Ground breaking is planned for September of this year.

Kristallnacht, November 6, 1990: Sir Martin Gilbert addressed an audience of eight hundred on the subject of Why did It Happen. The event was co-sponsored by Canadian Jewish Congress and Beth Israel Synagogue with assistance from Temple Sholom, Schara Tzedeck, the VHCS and the Federation.

Sunday Series in 1990: Professor Ted Hill opened the series October 21 with a talk on Implications of German Reunification attended by twenty-eight people. Forty-five joined us for Art and the Holocaust December 2 with art critic Anne Rosenberg, artists Mala Zilberman, Nomi Kaplan and host Susan Quastel.

Photo Exhibit, Oct. 16 - Nov. 7, 1990: Co-sponsored and arranged by the VHCS with the JCC Cultural Arts department and the Jewish Historical Society, The Synagogues of Prague was shown at the VJCC Zack Gallery along with two talks by co-sponsor Paul Grunberger, whose material formed the exhibit.

Annual Yizkor Service, September 23, 1990: One hundred survivors and their families participated in the Annual High Holiday Yizkor Service organized by Leo Lowy and led by Rabbi Feuerstein at the Holocaust Memorial in Schara Tzedeck Cemetery.

Outreach 1990: David Ehrlich, Louise Sorenson and Robbie Waisman visited schools in and out of Vancouver. Bronia Sonnenschein was flown to Camp Hatikvah in August. Robbie Waisman was a guest speaker at an interfaith conference in Philadelphia and the Hadassah national convention in Vancouver.

Collections Committee: The committee, under chairman Rubin Pinsky, has met twice, advertised for artifacts, designed a form for cataloguing and made storage arrangements. The Society’s collection has grown with some fascinating and important additions, which are listed on the back page.

Publishing Committee: Chairman Barry Dunner is compiling a book of Victoria survivor accounts and photographs collected and edited by Rhoda Kaellis. Publication is scheduled for this spring for sale to schools and the general public.

Audio/visual Documentation: Project co-ordinator Tamara Genesove has summarized our collection of over one hundred tapes for a teaching guide and has added new interviews. A grant to fund ten teaching videos has been submitted.

Child Survivor Group: Two meetings of this new group under the society’s auspices have been held in private homes. For information call 261-1180.

Anne Frank in the World Exhibit: Meetings for this major October 1992 teaching exhibit have been regularly attended by Society representatives.

Unveiling of Names: Names have been collected for a third unveiling to take place on Yom HaShoah, April 11, 1991. The unveiling and reading of names will take place at noon during the annual Yom HaShoah service at the Memorial in Schara Tzedeck cemetery. Planning was co-ordinated with the Canadian Jewish Congress Yom HaShoah committee.
UPCOMING

LECTURE SERIES 1991: February 24 Literature and the Holocaust, moderated by Professor Graham Forst with writers Lillian Nemetz and Fraidie Martz in the JCC Zack Gallery at 7:30 pm. March 24 Swing to Swastika, a film followed by resistance, partisan and ghetto music and discussion with Miriam Breitman and Oscar Jason, 7:30 pm in the Zack Gallery. Light refreshments following.

OPEN MEETING ON PHASE III DEVELOPMENTS: SUNDAY, MARCH 3 AT 7:30 PM IN THE VJCC ZACK GALLERY. A PRESENTATION ON THE VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST SOCIETY EDUCATION, PROGRAM AND ARCHIVE COMPLEX.

YOM HASHOAH, APRIL 11, 1991: Noon - Memorial service and unveiling of names at the Holocaust Memorial, Schara Tzedek Cemetery, 2346 Marine, New Westminster. Evening - Annual commemorative address at Beth Israel Synagogue 7:30 pm, 4350 Oak Street. Guest Speaker Toronto survivor and Holocaust education activist Gerda Frieberg. For details call 261-1180 or CJC at 261-8101.

ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE HOLOCAUST, MAY 8 & 9, 1991: For highschool students, held at UBC. Featured speaker Israeli survivor and author Lilli Kopecky. For details or to volunteer call 261-1180 or Canadian Jewish Congress at 261-8101.

REQUESTS

Wallenberg Project, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden: If you were directly or indirectly saved by Raoul Wallenberg, worked with him or the Swedish legation, were in the underground or resistance organization in Budapest contact Richard Holm, Raoul Wallenberg Project, St. Larsgatan 5, Str., S-752 21 Uppsala, Sweden. Phone 011-46-18-181570.

Special Investigation, Department of Justice, USA: Survivors with information on activities of the Ukrainian Police (ukrainische Polizei) in Brezazany, Lwow, Podhajce, Rawa Ruska, Stanislowow, Stryj, and Wisniowczyk and of the Byelorussian Police (weissrutheenische Schutzmannschaft) in Baranowicze, Koldyczewo, Myr, Nowogrodek, Slonim, Stolpce and Turzec during WW II call Bernie Farber at Canadian Jewish Congress in Toronto (416) 635-2883.

NEWS

March 12, 1991: Robert Krell speaks on Healing Their Wounds: Psychotherapy with Holocaust Survivors and Their Children at an Interfaith Symposium, JEWISH CHRISTIAN RELATIONS: AN ONGOING CONVERSATION, 7 pm at St. Marks College, 5935 Iona Drive, UBC campus at the corner of Chancellor and Wesbrook.


April 16, 1991: Professor Rene Goldman will speak on Personal Reflections: Recollections of a Child Survivor of the Holocaust in France. As above.

Second Generation Family Trip to Poland, April 24-May 3, 1991: Tour of major Polish Jewish cities, sites and camps and Anne Frank House, Jewish Museum and Synagogues in Amsterdam. $1990 from Toronto. For details contact the Toronto Jewish Congress Holocaust Remembrance Committee (416) 625-2883.
GIFTS, BEQUESTS AND DONATIONS

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

For Tribute Cards call 261-1180, Grace Ehrlich 327-8064 or Regina Feldman 327-3358

RECENT DONATIONS

L. Pat Dolan, Dr. Carol Herbert, Paul Meyer, Dr. Charles Pollick, Marianne Rev, Gita Silver, Dr. Samuel Rothstein, Frieda Ullman, Charles Wertman

TRIBUTE CARDS

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY: Susan Bluman from Ruth & Saul Wyne, Julius Balshine from Esther Kaufman, Lyliane & Larry Thal & family

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY: Henia & Jack Perel; Renia & Morris Perel from Lil & Dave Shafran

HAPPY NEW YEAR: Dr. & Mrs. Saul Gelfand from Grace & David Ehrlich

SPECIAL BAR MITZVAH: Harry Toban from Esther Kaufman, Lyliane & Larry Thal

IN MEMORY OF: Mrs. S. Charach by Gloria & Robbie Waisman; Esther Rosenblatt by Gloria & Robbie Waisman; Jean Ruder by Harriet Permut & Ian Bager; Rya Gutman by Ruth & Cyril Sigal; Alice Grodsky by Carol Herbert; Moric Schonfeld by Emmy Krell, Esther Kaufman, Lyliane & Larry Thal; sister of Zelma Charkow by Esther Kaufman, Lyliane & Larry Thal

$25,000 to education fund - anonymous

BEQUESTS

$25,000 to education fund - anonymous

RECENT GIFTS

Karl Taussig - 1946 petition on cloth to Eleanor Roosevelt from German Jews in Kazakhstan

Richard Smith - ten original photographs from Bergen Belsen

Sid Gritz, Boulder, Colo. - copies of personal photographs taken during liberation of Buchenwald

Harold Silverman - concentration camp money and original photographs

Irio Gray - copies of personal photos, Yiskor album and ad to build Jewish memorial

Robbie Waisman - photographic copies of personal liberation album, articles and camp money

Bronia Sonnenschein, Rubin Pinsky - copies of family photographs

Gisele Warren - original photographs

Charles Davis - video set "Winds of War"

Dr. Leon Komar - copy of German decree to Polish citizens in Warsaw

Lola Apfelbaum - personal testimony and copies of family photographs

Frieda Ullman - family testimony

Randy Tischler - ghetto money

Stanley Winfield - photographs and negatives from Bergen Belsen

Horst Rothsels, Victoria - copies of personal photographs

Edith & Henry Sitwell, Victoria - copies of personal photographs

Willie Jacobs, Victoria - copies of personal photographs

Jack Gardner, Victoria - copies of personal photographs

Kurt Weiss, Victoria - copies of personal photographs

Samuel Van Dam, Victoria - copies of personal photographs

Duifje Van Haren, Victoria - copies of personal photographs

Helene Josepowicz, Victoria - copies of personal photographs

Henri Hyams, Victoria - copies of personal photographs

Zofia Preisman, Victoria - copies of personal photographs

Jannushka Jacobovitch, Victoria - copies of personal photographs

REQUESTS

VHCS would appreciate receiving books, journals and videos relating to the Holocaust. New articles are tax receiptable. Regarding gifts or loans of archival material, please call collections chairman Rubin Pinsky at 873-9842, or the office at 261-1180.

Remember, for there is, there must be, hope in remembering. Elie Wiesel
The **HOLOCAUST AND WAR VICTIMS TRACING AND INFORMATION CENTER** in Baltimore has 400,000 new names of people who died or were interned in concentration camps during World War II. This information was collected by Soviet liberating forces and just recently turned over to the International Red Cross.

Amongst the data obtained are; 70,000 death certificates from Auschwitz, 130,000 names of forced labourers with German firms and 200,000 names of victims of Dachau, Sachsenhausen, Gross Rosen, Buchenwald, and other camps. There are now 13 million names on file at the International Tracing Service in Arolsen, Germany.

To begin tracing the names of loved ones call a nearby chapter of the American Red Cross to provide them with your information. The search may take up to several years but an interim report will be given. In the United States only, a toll-free hotline has been established, (800) 848-9277.

**For further information contact:** In the USA: Stephen Steiner, Assistant Director of Communications, Council of Jewish Federations, 730 Broadway, New York, NY 10003, telephone (212) 598-3589. In Canada: Josh Rothblatt, Canadian Jewish Congress, 1590 Avenue Docteur Penfield, Montréal, Québec, H3G 1C5, telephone (514) 931-0548