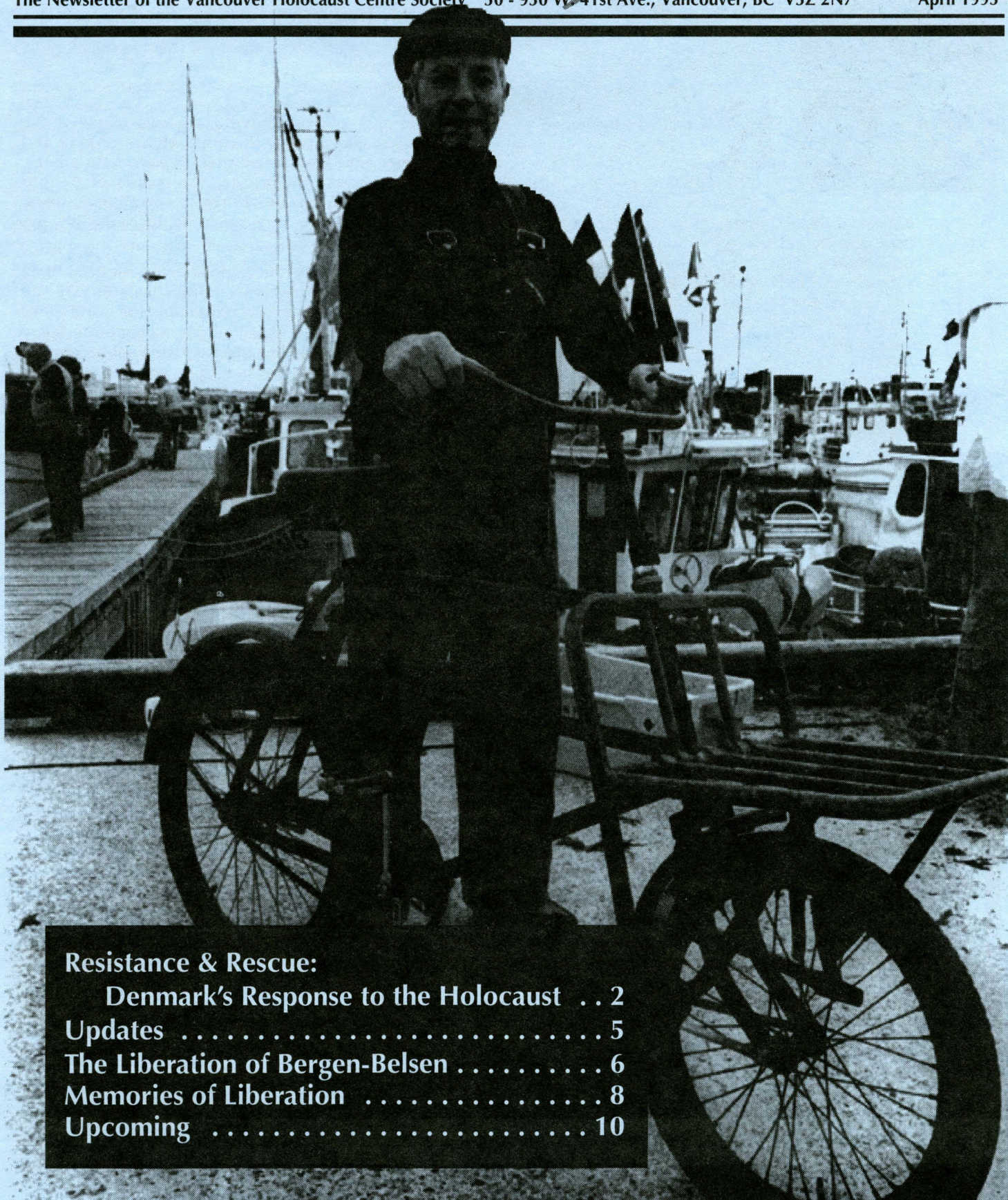


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Zachor "Remember"

The Newsletter of the Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society 50 - 950 W. 41st Ave., Vancouver, BC V5Z 2N7

April 1995



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RESISTANCE AND RESCUE: DENMARK'S RESPONSE TO THE HOLOCAUST



by **Ronnie Tessler**

*Director of the
Holocaust Education Centre*

Resistance and Rescue: Denmark's Response to the Holocaust is a photographic exhibit circulated by Thanks to Scandinavia, Inc., a scholarship fund established in 1963 by Victor Borge and Richard Netter to memorialize and publicize the humanity and bravery of Scandinavians in rescuing their Jewish citizens. It has provided more than 1,000 scholarships and grants to Scandinavian students, educators, researchers and doctors for studies at American institutions. The exhibit was commissioned to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Denmark's resistance to the Nazi occupation and the rescue of its Jewish community.

Good deeds are as import to remember as evil ones. Although Scandinavians never sought credit for their historic assistance to their Jewish neighbours, their stories must be preserved as moral guideposts for other generations and other countries.*

In Vancouver, Resistance and Rescue is being coordinated and sponsored by an interfaith committee representing two Jewish organizations, two Danish Lutheran churches, the Danish business community and the Royal Guard Society. Many individuals and companies have come forward to sponsor the exhibit, its opening and the adjunct programming. We gratefully recognize them all on the Acknowledgments page of this newsletter.

The exhibit, created by artist Judy Ellis Glickman, is composed of contemporary black and white photographs of the rescuers and rescued and infra red prints of the rescue sites and concentration camps. The portraits are accompanied by short testimonial texts. Visitors will be able to take a docent-led tour and meet with a survivor and/or rescuer. School tours will be interactive, with small group activities centered on the exhibit's themes. A calendar of special programs will occur throughout the exhibit. The Holocaust Education Centre would be pleased to accommodate any group that wishes a special program.

Please join us, the Jewish Festival of the Arts Society, the Lower Mainland Danish community and our sponsors in learning about and paying tribute to a nation's will to do good.

*Adapted from the exhibit brochure.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE EXHIBIT

by **Frieda Miller**

Education Coordinator

One of the ways a handful of Jews survived the Holocaust was through the brave efforts of Jews and non-Jews alike who risked their lives to help others. During the war in Europe, thousands of people participated in rescue efforts to save human lives, knowing that if they were caught by the Nazis, they too would die.

Righteous Among the Nations is a term describing those gentile heroes who helped Jews during the Holocaust. Jewish organizations around the world try to identify and honour these people. Common to many rescuers was their feeling that they were not heroes and that they just did "what had to be done". Bystanders excused their lack of action by saying that, because of the fear of Nazi reprisals, they had no choice. Rescuers, however, often say that they had no choice but to help.

There were many ways that rescuers worked. Some acted on their own, others worked in cooperation with family members, neighbours and friends. Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat, saved thousands of Hungarian Jews by issuing Swedish passports. Sempo Sugihara, the Japanese Consul in Lithuania, faced the ire of his own government by providing thousands of Jews with transit visas to escape deportation.

In some instances, whole communities took the responsibility of sheltering Jews. Nieuwlande in northeast Holland and Le Chambon-sur-Lignon near Lyon, France are examples of places of refuge which provided hiding places, food, money and false papers for thousands of people. Zegota, a Polish code name for the Council to Aid the Jews, helped Polish Jews.

For rescuers, the motivation behind their actions differed significantly. Many rescuers took pity on Jews. Others, including some who may have been anti-Semitic, could not condone murder or genocide. Some asked to be paid for their services. Personal loyalty was a driving force for those bound to friends, but others went out of their way to help total strangers. Religious beliefs and political values moved rescuers to preserve life in the face of their own death. And yet for many, there was no choice; what they did was natural and instinctive.

Rescuers were known to have acquired identity cards for Jewish children and adults. Safe hiding places were located, and rescuers helped Jews move into them.



Scraps of food, articles of clothing, money and ration cards were supplied when possible.

In the case of Denmark, the entire nation collaborated to prevent the deportation of its Jewish citizens. In Denmark, on September 1943, it was learned that the Nazis were planning a large deportation of Danish Jews. Before this time, Denmark had always accepted and respected its Jews. The warning about the mass deportation was taken seriously by the Danes and they were quick to respond. Fishermen, farmers, businessmen, taxi drivers, doctors and clergy joined in a well coordinated effort to get Jewish citizens out of the country before they could be deported. Hiding places were created in homes, hospitals and churches in coastal towns and nearby farms. The plan was to have Jews leave the country by sea and head to Sweden - which had maintained its neutrality during the war. Danish police assisted and coast guard vessels escorted fishing boats. Thanks to the actions of the entire Danish nation, and the willingness of Sweden to accept these refugees, more than 90% of Jewish Danes escaped deportation.

Rescuers' rates of success varied in their attempts to challenge the Nazis' implementation of the "Final Solutions". In Latvia, Poland and Lithuania, nine out of ten Jews were killed, whereas in Denmark, nine out of ten Jews were saved. The crucial difference was the behaviour of ordinary citizens toward their neighbours. When citizens stood by and did nothing, Jews were murdered. When citizens acted as rescuers, Jews had a chance. Elie Wiesel, writer, Nobel laureate and survivor of Auschwitz, said, "In those times, one climbed to the summit of humanity by simply remaining human."

*adapted from Mary Lloyd, Awareness and Understanding, The Children's Museum, Seattle

BOOK REVIEW

by Danya Fox

Danya, age 9, is a grade 4 student at Vancouver Talmud Torah. Her four grandparents are survivors of the Nazi Holocaust in Europe. She is interested in learning about the Holocaust.

The book I read was called Number the Stars. The author's name is Lois Lowry. Number the Stars won a Newberry award.

The story is about best friends named Ellen and Annemarie. They lived in Copenhagen. The 1943 War is going on and Ellen is scared because she is Jewish. Annemarie isn't Jewish. Ellen and Annemarie, Kirsti, Annemarie's little sister, and her mom run away. Annemarie's mom, her Uncle, and some other people help Jews get over to Sweden. A couple years later the war ends and everything is OK.

I thought that Number the Stars was the best book I have ever read. There were two main characters, Annemarie and Ellen. I thought that the ending was very



Liberators

good. I would like Annemarie or Ellen as my best friend. I thought that it was sad because most of the story was true. I liked that book because I learned more about the War. I know now how some children might have felt in the middle of the war. I learned that my family and I are very lucky because we have freedom, food and we do not have to hide.

Denmark at War and Peace: 1940 - 1945

*An open house and musical play
produced by Tove Brandt-Clarke*

**at the Danish Lutheran Church
6010 Kincaid, Burnaby**

April 8, 1995 7:30 PM

*Come and enjoy the music and typical humour of
that era and help us celebrate the 50th anniversary
of the war's end*



Coconut Theatre Society—a registered society
presents

“The Puppetmaster of Lodz”

featuring Howard Siegel and Ari Solomon
directed by David Bloom

April 12 - May 6

*Using live actors and puppets, the post war story of “Finkelbaum”
explores humankind's power to create and destroy
for information and sponsorship opportunities call 876-4200*



*The Jews of
Denmark
Rescued—
September 1943*

*from “Atlas of the
Holocaust” by
Martin Gilbert
(by permission of the author)*

UPDATES

Outreach Program:

Rita Axelrod, Faye Davis, co-chairs

January 12 - March 13, 1995 locations and speakers: Roberts Creek Elementary, Sechelt - Marion Cassirer; The Door Works Project, Surrey - Bronia Sonnenschein; Centennial - Peter Parker; Burnsvie Junior Secondary - Bill Gluck; Old Yale Secondary, Abbotsford - Serge Vanry; student interview - Bronia Sonnenschein; Citadel Middle School - Robbie Waisman; Senator Reid Elementary - Agi Bergida; Department of Veterans Affairs - Peter Parker; English Plus - Serge Vanry; London Junior Secondary - Marion Cassirer; David Thompson Secondary - Celina Lieberman; National Council of Jewish Women - Serge Vanry; Burnaby Health Department - Serge Vanry; John Oliver Secondary - Ruth Sigal; teachers and community members, Salmon Arm, BC (for Canadian Jewish Congress and the BCTF Program Against Racism) - Robbie Waisman, Bronia Sonnenschein; Lions Club women - Peter Parker; Thomas Haney Secondary, Haney - Robbie Waisman, Peter Suedfeld; Fraser Valley Christian High - Bronia Sonnenschein; Walnut Grove - Robbie Waisman; Argyle Secondary, North Van - Bronia Sonnenschein.

Multiculturalism Week in British Columbia,

February 19-25, 1995: The Society staffed a table of Holocaust Education Centre information and resources at the official opening reception at Lansdowne Mall in Richmond, co-sponsored by AMSSA and the Richmond Multicultural Society (VHCS is a member organization). Premier Harcourt attended the event along with hundreds of representatives of member organizations, MLAs and corporate and community leaders.

25th Annual Scholars Conference on the Holocaust

in Provost, Utah, was attended by the VHCS president, Dr. Robert Krell, who was a participant in the proceedings.

The Spectacular State:

Fascism and the Modern Imagination

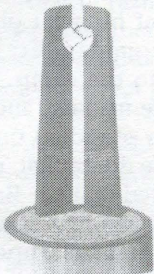
February 14 - March 15: The exhibit opened in a snow storm, yet still attracted a large group of artists, friends and interested observers. Each of the lectures and films was attended by a standing-room crowd of seventy. Publicity was exceptional, with several full-page items in the Vancouver Sun and elsewhere. The success of this exhibit and lecture series in the Holocaust Education Centre is due to the efforts of the Spectacular State organizing committee, in particular Richard Pinet, Derek Simon, and curator/writer Anne Rosenberg. We were pleased to be one of the sites for the Spectacular State.

Author's Reading with Lillian Boraks Nemetz

March 12: The readings took place in two parts, the first being a session for fifteen teachers attending a workshop with Boraks Nemetz conducted by Steve Bailey of Burnaby North Secondary. The emphasis was on critical and creative thinking activities, classroom stations and the "Multiple Intelligence" approach to instruction, in conjunction with the "The Old Brown Suitcase" and its teachers' manual. Both the teachers and the public attending the second session were visibly moved by the readings.

PLANNED GIVING—A WAY TO EDUCATE OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS!

The VHCS would like you to consider making a planned gift to the Society. A planned gift can take many forms. The simplest way to leave a planned or deferred gift to the VHCS is to leave a bequest in your will or a gift of life insurance.



- ☐ Yes, I have made provision for a Planned Gift to the VHCS
- ☐ Yes, I would like to make a Planned Gift to the VHCS and would like more information about:
- ☐ Bequest in my Will ☐ Life Insurance ☐ Wording for my Will
- ☐ Other options available
- ☐ I would like to talk to a VHCS representative about Planned Giving.

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Vancouver, BC
V5Z 2N7

THE LIBERATION OF BERGEN-BELSEN BY THE BRITISH ARMY

"Then came the miracle of the 15th of April, 1945. The roar of the British tanks, and finally—finally— liberation"

Dr. Fritz Leo, June 1, 1945

by Stanley H. Winfield

In its final weeks, the conditions in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp had deteriorated catastrophically. Sanitary facilities were almost non-existent and disease was taking a terrible toll. Over 41,000 starving, utterly demoralized and dying prisoners were confined, many without even the most primitive sanitary facilities: the water supply was polluted, food was running out. Into this inferno close to 25,000 (almost 1,000 per day) new prisoners - the majority of them near death - were being brought into the camp. The Camp Commandant, SS Hauptsturmfuherer Joseph Kramer, became so frightened by the conditions that he set them all out in a long and discursive letter to his superior officer imploring him to, "help in overcoming the situation."¹ Dr. Fritz Leo, a medical doctor who was an inmate, wrote: "when the English were only a few more miles away, the SS made a special effort to clean up the camp. The fear of their responsibility became (sic) to torment them."²

On 11 April, 1945, SS Standartenfuherer Kurt Becher, the "Reichssonderkommissar for All Concentration Camps", came to Bergen-Belsen to confer with Kramer. Becher was accompanied by a Hungarian Jew, Reszo Kasztner, who told them that the only way to avert a total catastrophe at Belsen was to forthwith hand the camp over intact to the advancing British. They agreed.³ Becher then asked for and received authorization from Reichsfuherer Heinrich Himmler to capitulate. On April 12, Colonel Schmidt, the Wehrmacht commander at Belsen, together with a medical officer and a translator, set off to the West in a vehicle prominently displaying a

white flag. They were met by a British patrol and escorted to the Headquarters of the Eighth British Armoured Corps.

After several hours of parleying, a truce was granted wherein the British would take over the camp, the Germans would "neutralize" a 6 x 8 kilometer zone around it and the Wehrmacht soldiers stationed in the area would be allowed to proceed to their own lines. It was stipulated that the SS guards must leave before the British arrived and 80 SS administrative troops (cooks, etc.) were to stay, together with some Hungarian and Wehrmacht guards who were to remain armed. In accordance with the truce terms, SS guards (who had not already run away) cleared the camp on April 13th; Kramer remained behind with the Hungarians and the German soldiers. On that day and the next, British forces in the vicinity were heavily engaged in fighting the retreating German forces, which delayed for 48 hours the actual liberation of Belsen. "Then came the miracle of the 15th of April, 1945. The roar of the British tanks, and finally - finally - liberation"⁴

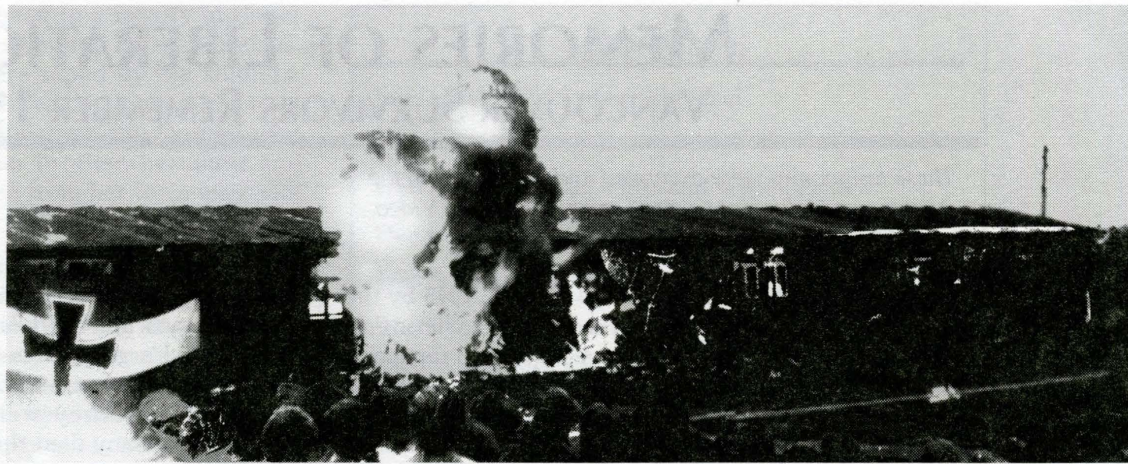
On the afternoon of April 15, units of the British 11th Armoured Brigade were on the move down the road leading to the camp. First to enter was Captain Derrick Syngton and two non-commissioned officers. They drove into the camp just ahead of the lead tanks with a loudspeaker mounted on a jeep. Between them they knew five European languages. "A group of SS Wehrmacht and Hungarian officers was waiting outside the camp gates. Upon being told that the unit intended to enter the camp to make an announcement, the Hungarian captain said that this was extremely inadvisable as seven people were dying there each day of "fleck typhus". Hauptsturmfuherer Josef Kramer, the commandant of the camp, stated that he must obtain authority from the Wehrmacht commander, Col. Schmidt, before he could admit us to the camp. This piece of bluff was treated in a suitable manner, and the unit entered the camp, with Kramer standing on the running board as a guide. There is little doubt that, up to that moment, the SS hoped and believed that the British forces would by-pass the camp and leave it to them to "clean up".⁵ Later we (the author and his superior officer) learned from many of the inmates that this false report of the British intention to by-pass the camp had been spread by the SS during the period preceding 15 April.⁶

The British moved quickly to bring a measure of order to the nightmare of Belsen, where some 60,000 people were still alive, although one quarter of them would die from the effects of starvation, disease and suffering. Food was brought up; a hospital established at a Panzer



SS Hauptsturmfuherer Josef Kramer, Commandant of Bergen-Belsen, in shackles, with British soldier

Training School located a scant two miles away.⁷ The water supply was improved and the dead (13,000 unburied corpses littered the camp grounds) buried as rapidly as possible. On April 17 Kramer was arrested and shackled. The SS staff were put to work gathering up the dead and taking them to great mass graves scooped out of the ground by bulldozers. On April 24th, a number of local civilians were brought to the camp for a "tour", to see for themselves what they professed not to have known about.



Burning of the last barrack hut at Bergen-Belsen by the British, June, 1945

Donor: S. H. Winfield

Despite all their efforts, the British were only able to bring the typhus epidemic under control gradually. By the beginning of May, however, the crisis had passed. During that period and beyond, Warrant Officer Joseph Frederick Jones of the Royal Artillery was typical of the many British soldiers who brought, not only some creature comfort to the survivors, but most of all, words of kindness and emotional support. For his dedication to the survivors, Warrant Officer Jones was awarded the British Empire Medal. His citation reads in part: "He worked untiringly and his patience and tact were main factors in creating an atmosphere of goodwill throughout the camp. In spite of typhus, dysentery and enteritis, of which there were many thousands of cases, WO Jones moved among the people everywhere, listening to their troubles, answering their queries, ensuring fair distribution of clothing and bedding as supplies became available, organizing the kitchens and service of meals and firmly but tactfully re-educating them in the matters of cleanliness and health."⁸

On the 21st of May the last hut was burned down before an audience of former inmates and British soldiers.⁹ An officer addressed them: "In a few minutes, we are going to burn down the last remaining hut in what was once Belsen concentration camp. I cannot help feeling—the same thought has probably occurred to you too—that in razing to the ground by fire this pestilence-ridden camp there is a great symbol. It is, I feel, a symbol of the final destruction for all time of the bestial, inhuman creed of Nazi Germany; the creed by which criminals tried to debase the peoples of Europe to serve their own devilish ends.....This moment is the end of a chapter, the pages of which are filled with the vilest story of cruelty, hate and bestiality ever written by a nation." And with that, four officers who had been at Bergen-Belsen since the "beginning" torched the hut.¹⁰

Stanley H. Winfield served in the Canadian Air Force in Europe, which followed the British into Bergen-Belsen after liberation.

¹ Raymond Philips, *The Belsen Trial* (London, 1949)

² June 1st intelligence summary, Dr. Fritz Leo interview (VHCS archives: S.H.W. papers)

³ Reszo Kasztner had been a prominent Budapest Zionist and Jewish community leader during the German occupation of Hungary

⁴ June 1st intelligence summary, Dr. Fritz Leo interview (VHCS archives: S.H.W. papers)

⁵ April 15th intelligence summary, Captain Derrick Syngton (VHCS archives: S.H.W. papers)

⁶ S.H.W. 1945, personal journal

⁷ Prior to liberation, when hundreds of inmates were dying every day in Belsen, just two miles away, at the Panzer Training School, 800 tons of food was stored and a bakery capable of producing 60,000 loaves per day was available.

⁸ Warrant Officer Jones' medal and citation will be on display at the Holocaust Education Centre in the fall of 1995.

⁹ S.H.W 1945, personal journal

¹⁰ Derrick Syngton, *Belsen uncovered* (Duckworth, London, 1946)

Yom HaShoah

April 27, 1995 - 27 Nisan, 5755

*Commemorating the 50th anniversary
of liberation from Nazi domination*

Memorial Service

11AM

Holocaust Memorial
Schara Tzedek Cemetery
2345 Marine Drive, New Westminster

*for information or maps
call 264-0499*

MEMORIES OF LIBERATION:

VANCOUVER SURVIVORS REMEMBER 1945

These testimonies were excerpted and adapted from the Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society's Guide to Video Archive of Holocaust Testimonies, Volume 1.

Theresienstadt was liberated May 12, 1945 by the Russians. The women were still prisoners, forced to work for the Russians and to remain in camp. Together with four friends, R. escaped. They travelled east, eventually hitching a ride with a Red Cross truck travelling from Vienna to Italy. In Rome she joined the Jewish Distribution Committee. There she learned that two of her sisters had died in Bergen Belsen. Only two hundred members of the Jewish community in her homeland survived.

B. was liberated from a forced labour camp by the Americans. She was unable to watch the Americans punish the Germans. This made her feel good that she still had human feelings. She and her girlfriends walked through the Czechoslovakian countryside. They were taken in by SS sympathizers who used them to disguise their previous activities. A kind family then sheltered them. It took four weeks to reach Budapest. Later in Rumania, she discovered she was the only one to survive in her family.

F. had moved to a new hiding place in Lowicz in October. January 17 she was walking to town and saw a rainbow. An old woman appeared telling her there would be a change for the better. Later that day the Russians arrived and liberated them. Returning to Warsaw, she and her husband heard rumours of pogroms in nearby towns. A massacre followed and they decided to leave Poland.

J.'s camp was to be dynamited by the Nazis and the inmates killed. The woman mayor of the nearby

town stopped them. In the last week before liberation, the Germans marched out about one hundred people per night. J.'s group was to be last. When the Germans came, they were too weak to move and were left behind. The next day they were liberated by the French Moroccans. Many died that night, half from over-eating. Newspaper men came in from all over the world. They wanted J. to tell his story in five minutes. What could he say? He survived. That was all.

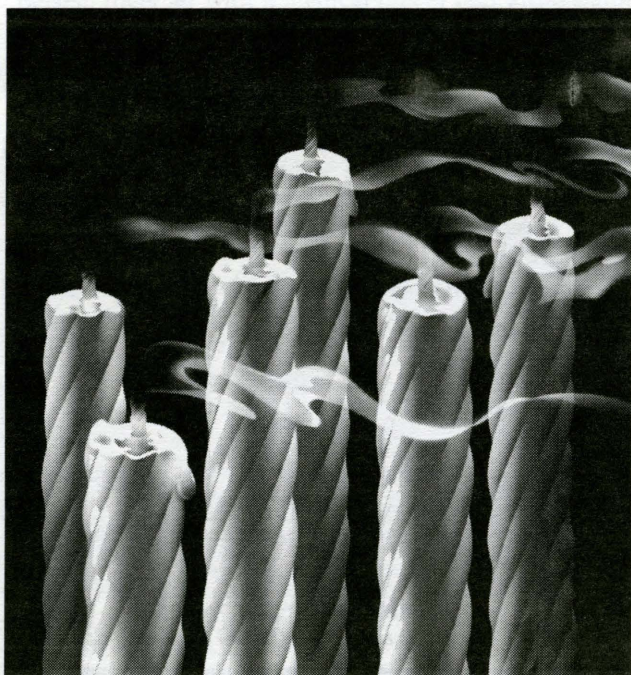
B. fought with a partisan group whose mission was to blow up trains and attack garrisons. He was liberated in July 1944 by the Russians. He went with them and participated in the liberation of Vilna. When he finally returned home, he learned that not one of the more than eighty members of his family had survived.

D. was liberated from Bergen Belsen by the British on April 15. He wanted to return home but was told he could not until the British Legion arrived. He took matters into his own hands and escaped with eighteen boys from his area by crawling under the fence. They hitched rides and walked toward Hannover, living on food from neighbouring farms. When he arrived home his wife was shocked to see him alive. People had been telling her he was dead.

B. a teenager, was on a train to an extermination camp when they learned the war was over. He escaped but was found by an SS officer who held a pistol to his head. He was locked into a railway car which was bombed by American planes. He escaped from the blown-open car and was found by American troops who took him to the hospital. In August 1945, he returned home to his father, brother and sister. His mother had not survived.

R. was fourteen when he was liberated from Buchenwald by the Americans. He was euphoric thinking he would soon see his family. Soldiers handed out chocolate bars and pork and beans. Many got sick and died. It was chaotic, but in a few days the children were gathered together in the German soldiers' former barracks. He was astounded to see five hundred other children. The Red Cross cared for them. Soon they were told they were orphans. It took him a year to realize the enormity of this.

J. contracted typhus in Schandorf and became deathly ill. The Russians and Germans were fighting near the camp. Finally, during Passover, they were liberated. The first Russians to arrive were drunk. He was nearly killed by one when he said he was Jewish. Others were kinder and after four weeks he recovered enough to return to Budapest and be reunited with his remaining family.



R. was moved from Birkenau to a factory in Upper Silesia where she was liberated by the Russians. Many women in the lager were raped by the soldiers. She left the camp and made her way on foot and by train through Czechoslovakia. In Budapest she learned who had survived in her family, her brother, her aunts and their children. Only five women from her town were still alive.

L. who was sixteen at liberation, survived in hiding in the Dutch countryside. She was liberated on April 17. She recalls shelling all around the fields and hiding in the shelter. Her parents decided to walk toward the more established battle lines. The SS were hiding in the woods and there was much fighting. The family, however, made it to safety unharmed. The first allied soldier she saw was a Canadian.

L. was liberated from Dachau by the Americans on April 29. There were truckloads of dead in the camp. The survivors were not allowed to leave, but were moved in to the officers' quarters. Later they went to a Displaced Persons Camp. Lists of survivors were posted. One day a man came to the camp and showed her pictures of orphans being cared for in France. One of them was her brother and they were reunited.

E. found himself in a box car stopped in the woods. He jumped off. There were fifty men hiding in the woods. They went to the village mayor and priest, who reluctantly agreed to shelter them. At three in the morning the first American tanks entered the village and they were liberated. The first thing he did was burn his clothes.

DONATIONS

Len Daniel, VHCS Endowment Fund
 Miriam Eisner, VHCS Endowment Fund
 Fred and Naomi Katz, VHCS Endowment Fund
 Elaine Klein and Glen Laufer, VHCS Endowment Fund
 Julio & Gabriella Mate, VHCS Endowment Fund
 Eva Miller, VHCS Endowment Fund
 Peter Parker, VHCS Endowment Fund
 Harriet Ratner, VHCS Endowment Fund: in memory of Herta Rusanovs
 Serge Vanry, VHCS Endowment Fund

GIFTS

Bernardo Berdichewsky , VHCS Library: Book, *Racism Ethnicity and Multiculturalism*
 Hymie and Fay Davis, VHCS Library: Books and Videos, in honour of Leon Kahn's 70th birthday
 Cheryl Douglas, VHCS Library: Book, *A Place to Hide*
 Peter Frinton, VHCS Library, Book, *Memories*
 Solomon Kaplinski, VHCS Library: Book, *Lost and Found*
 Batia Karton, VHCS Library: Book, *Destiny*
 Frieda Miller, VHCS Library: Books
 Carolyn Woszczyna, VHCS Library: Book, *A Man is Stronger Than Iron*
 Max Meyer, VHCS Archives: family documents, testimony, passports
 Paul Meyer, VHCS Archive: family documents and testimony
 Ruth Lubin, VHCS Archive: testimony
 W. Kalkman, VHCS Archive: testimony
 Paul Heller, VHCS Archive: Zeldowicz family papers and documents
 Leon and Rose-Marie Glassman, VHCS HEC: display cabinet, in honour of Leon Kahn's 70th Birthday
 Isabelle & Charles Diamond, VHCS Education Fund: books and videos in honour of Leon Kahn's 70th birthday
 Hymie and Fay Davis, VHCS HEC: overhead projector, in honour of parents
 Stanley H. Winfield, VHCS Video Library: Video, *The Wannsee Conference*
 Emmy Krell Stelzer, VHCS Endowment Fund: in memory of the March 28 yarhzeit of my dear family, Jacob Avraham, Kreindle, Reizele, Isaac and Mendel Stelzer
 Paul Meyer, VHCS Endowment Fund: in honour of nephew Larry Meyer's birthday

Above are to March 10th, 1995

"Memories of Liberation"

remembering liberation

**Yom HaShoa
 Commemorative Evening**

8:00 PM April 27 1995

**Beth Israel Synagogue
 4350 Oak Street, Vancouver**

for information call 264-1499

Resistance and Rescue: Denmark's Response to the Holocaust

Sunday, March 26, 2 PM, in the Norman Rothstein Theatre, 950 West 41st Avenue, Vancouver - **official exhibit opening**. Complimentary tickets available by calling 266-0245 or 264-0499. Only 320 seats.

Sunday, March 26 - May 10, 1995: *Resistance and Rescue exhibit*: Holocaust Education Centre, 50 - 950 West 41st Avenue, Vancouver, 9-5 Sunday to Thursday, 9-4 Friday.

Tuesday, March 28, 7:30 PM, Holocaust Education Centre, 50 - 950 West 41st Avenue, Vancouver - *Changes in Attitude Towards Judaism in the Churches Over the Last Forty Years* - A lecture by Dr. John S. Conway, UBC, History Department.

Saturday, April 8, 7:30 PM, Danish Lutheran Church, 6010 Kincaid, Burnaby - Open House presents a musical play, *"Denmark at war and at Peace: 1940-1945"*, produced by Tove Brandt Clark. Come and enjoy the music of that era and the typical Danish humour, and let us once more remember our heroes on this 50th anniversary of the German capitulation. All are welcome.

Tuesday, April 18, 7:30 PM, Holocaust Education Centre, 50 - 950 West 41st Avenue, Vancouver - *A Day in October*. Screening of feature film portraying love, moral courage and human responsibility during Denmark's rescue of its Jewish citizens. Admission by donation.

Wednesday, April 26, 1995 at 7:30 PM, Holocaust Education Centre, 50 - 950 West 41st Avenue - *The Rescue of the Jews in Denmark during the second world war* - a lecture by Poul B. Christensen, member of the Danish underground movement.



Memorial service at 300 graves outside Allen (sic) concentration camp, near Hannover, Germany c. 1945
Donor: Sam Mandelbaum

Yom HaShoah 27 April, 1995 - 27 Nisan, 5755

The fiftieth year since the liberation of Nazi Europe by the Allies will be remembered by Vancouver survivors, families and friends with a memorial service on the morning of April 27, Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, and a commemorative event in the

evening. The service, chaired by board member **Leo Lowy**, will begin at 11AM at the Holocaust Memorial in Schara Tzedek cemetery, 2346 Marine Drive in New Westminster. The community is invited to join with the mourners in remembering those who perished. Directions to the cemetery are available through the Holocaust Education Centre.

A Vancouver tradition since 1952, the commemorative evening, headed by Second Generation co-chairs **Cathy Golden** and **Ethel Kofsky**, will commence at 8PM at the Beth Israel Synagogue, 4350 Oak Street. The evening's theme is *"Memories of Liberation: Vancouver Survivors Remember 1945."* For the first time in many years, the committee is reaching back to its antecedents, the Warsaw Ghetto Memorial Evening, and drawing upon our own community of survivors as speakers. Speakers and candlelighters on behalf of the Six Million will represent different countries and liberation experiences. **Oscar Jason**, who survived the Death March to the Tyrol, will recount survivor achievements since the momentous winter and spring of liberation in 1945. He will be joined by other survivors, hidden children, refugees, partisans, liberators, flag bearers from the Royal Canadian Legion, the March of the Living and a choir of 3rd generation youngsters. Please join us in remembering and paying tribute.

Symposium on the Holocaust

The 20th annual Symposium for high school students at UBC, co-chaired by **Professor Graham Forst** and **Dr. Robert Krell**, will take place this anniversary year on May 3 and 4. Guest speaker will be **Dr. Peter Gary** of Victoria, survivor of the Hungarian deportations and Auschwitz, a powerful speaker and witness. This is the first year that this traditionally oversubscribed event will be co-ordinated through the Holocaust Education Centre offices. We gratefully acknowledge the support of the **Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver Endowment Fund**, **Michael Isaacson**, **Drew Staffenberg** and **Jean Gerber** for contributing to the continuance of this program. The Society thanks **Canadian Jewish Congress** for ensuring the smooth transfer of this program, formerly produced under their guidance.

Student Art Exhibits

From May through August, the Holocaust Education Centre will host two student exhibits. May/June will feature *"Forced Exit"*, drawings of Sentinel Secondary School art students of teacher **Barbara Sunday**, member of the HEC Education Committee. The work will be displayed along with the original "refugee" suitcases that the students made for the HEC's resource centre. Throughout the summer, the HEC will exhibit the work of the students of the Vancouver Art Gallery's *"Facing History and Ourselves"* visual literacy program.

Play

Coinciding with the student exhibit, *"Forced Exit"*, the **JCC Teen Theatre group** is putting on three performances of Weiss's play, *The Investigation* directed

by **David Bloom**. Based on the Nuremburg Trials, the play will take place in May in cooperation with the Holocaust Education Centre. Please watch for further publicity on these events.

Annual General Meeting

7:30 PM, Thursday, June 8, Holocaust Education Centre, 50 - 950 West 41st Avenue. In our tenth year of operation, we invite all paid members to attend the meeting, elections, and voting on the newly revised constitution. Details forthcoming.

Upcoming in 1995/96

an exhibit by photo artist **Nomi Kaplan**; an exhibition from San Francisco on the life and good deeds of **Consul Sempo Sugihara** in conjunction with the Human Rights Committee of the Japanese Canadian Citizens Association of Greater Vancouver; an exhibition on the rights of the child in conjunction with the Child Survivor group, and symposia on writer **Primo Levi** and the Nuremburg Trials

Wish List

more books and videos (\$25 and up)
camera and flash
copy lights and stands
roll of backdrop paper
dry mount press
slide projector
light box
guillotine paper cutter (\$180)
display easel (\$120)
projection cart (\$180)
collections cart (\$180)
small set of cutlery
large plain tablecloths
drinking glasses
dustbuster

Carousel Theatre Company and
School present

"Goodbye Marianne"

*a moving portrayal of escape to
freedom
on the "kindertransport"*

by Irene Kirstein Watts

**Touring lower mainland
schools from
March 28 - March 31, 1995**

to book or sponsor a performance
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TRIBUTE CARDS

The VHCS gratefully acknowledges contributions through Tribute cards. To order a card for any occasion, please call **Grace Ehrlich** (327-8064), **Regina Feldman** (327-3358), or **Elissa** at the office (264-0499).

For your convenience, the VHCS now takes Mastercard and Visa.

SYMPATHY

Sella Heller - in memory of your husband Sam, from Sophie Waldman, Robbie & Gloria Waisman

Murray and Shayla Atnikov - in memory of Shawna, from Merle & Louis Checov, Dr. Harry Winrob, Liliana and Carol Abraham

Judy Dodek - in memory of father, from Marla and Peter Gropper,

Cecelia Ergas - in memory of your mother & grandmother, Guita Friedenzohn, from Bruce, Cecille & Kevin Cohen, Tracy Cohen & Kevin Glassman

Sylviane Feder - in memory of your mother from Hymie and Rome Fox

Garaway Family - in memory of Lottie Garaway, Larry and Lyliane Thal

Irving & Noreen Glassner - in memory of mother, Eugenia, from Miri and Larry Garaway

Myra and Ben Goldstein - in memory of Auntie Helen, Robbie & Gloria Waisman

Earl Hardin - in memory of your mother, from Marla & Peter Gropper,

Paul and Edwina Heller - in memory of Sam Heller and your son-in-law, from Robbie & Gloria Waisman

Paul Heller - in memory of your brother, from Hymie and Rome Fox

Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Dankner - in memory of beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother Sally, from Martin and Esther Glotman and Family

Dr. Lyall Levy and Family - in memory of father, from Jocy & Leo Lowy

Rose Lewin - in memory of your sister, from David & Regina Feldman, Aaron & Terry Szajman

Leo and Jocy Lowy - in memory of your brother-in-law, from Esther Kaufman

Harley and Leslie Mackoff - in memory of your father, from Larry & Lyliane Thal

Mrs. I. Mackoff and Family - in memory of husband father, from The Tuesday Night Gang, The Poker Group

Harold Morris - in time of great sorrow, from Carol & Liliana Abraham

Tammy Rosenblatt - in memory of your sister, from Marla & Peter Gropper

Mr. & Mrs. C. Selter and Family - in memory of son, from Grace & David Ehrlich

Ruth Sigal - in memory of your mother, from Marla & Peter Gropper

Esther Strasser - in memory of your beloved mother, from Leon & Evelyn Kahn

Wosk Family - in memory of Ben Wosk, from Esther Kaufman and Lyliane & Larry Thal

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As of March 8, 1995

Spectacular State: Fascism and the Modern Imagination: Special thanks to: writer and curator **Anne Rosenberg** and artists **Michael Christopher Lawlor**, **Nomi Kaplan**, **Don Stewart** and **Sharyn Yuen** for their roles in designing, building and displaying the elements of the exhibit; **Richard Pinet** and **Derek Simon** for organizing the exceptional lecture and film series which attracted standing room audiences.

Resistance and Rescue: Denmark's Response to the Holocaust. Our very sincere appreciation to the organizing committee: **Norman Gladstone** - chairman; **Pastor Jorgen Kappel-Hansen** - Danish Lutheran Church Granly, Surrey; **Pastor Kai Glud** - Danish Lutheran Church, Burnaby; **Knud Peter Nielsen** - Danish Chamber of Commerce; **Curt A. Pedersen** - Danish Royal Guard Society, as well as **Margo Holmes** - Jewish Festival of the Arts Society; **Frieda Miller** and **Ronnie Tessler** - Holocaust Education Centre.

To **Dr. Chris Friedrichs** and **Dr. John S. Conway** of the History Department at UBC for lectures prepared for the docent's training.

To **Bill Zimmerman** for the loan of historic newspapers from his collection. To **Pastor Kai Glud** for the loan of books and resistance newspapers from his personal collection. To **Jette Herscovitch**, whose father was involved in the rescue, for the loan of his letters of commendation, resistance armband, her mother's commemorative needlepoint, photos, newspapers and framed print of a rescue vessel. To **Børge Strømgren** for his family's photo and the bomb-damaged window sill from Gestapo headquarters in Aarhus. To **Knud Peter Nielsen** for loaning a resistance armband.

Sincere thanks to the sponsors of the Resistance and Rescue exhibit: **Danish Distillers, Copenhagen—Aalborg Akvavit, Cherry Herring, and Kirsberry Liqueur** (opening sponsors).

Absolut Vodka

Arlene Gladstone

Norman Gladstone and **Birgit Westergaard**, Danish Lutheran Church, Vancouver

Labatts Breweries of Canada importers of Tuborg Beer of Denmark, **Curt A. Pedersen, Peter Kjaarsgard, Tom Paulsen**

Anne Frank in the World staff: Thanks and farewell to: **Anne LeBlanc**, school tours coordinator; **Carol Pearlstone**, bookstore coordinator and **Cecilia Kalaw**,

Anne Frank in the World: 1929-1945 project coordinator. Along with co-project coordinator **Teresa Pryce** and volunteer coordinator **Caitlin Johnston**, this team ensured the creative, smooth running success of the Anne Frank in the World: 1929-1945 exhibit and community programs.

Thank you to our new members

Janet & Marty Braverman & family

Venay Felton

Fred and Naomi Katz

Elaine Klein & Glenn Laufer

Howard Moss

Carol Pearlstone

Marianne Sibley

Stanley & Eve Blank

New Donors

Victor and Jennifer Setton

Jack & Tammy Rosenblatt

Increased pledges

Izzy and Bertha Fraeme

In recognition of our volunteers in February and March (up to the 8th), warm thanks to: **Elizabeth Stern, Lisa Kafka, Karen Micner, Rubin Pinsky, Stuart Sandelson, Linda Kelly** - newsletter; **Jody Dales, Karen Coren** - library; **Karen Micner** - publicity, mailings; **Perry Cloete, Lainie Levine, Karen Micner, Myriam Dinim** - volunteer committee; **Jody and Harvey Dales and Shawn Goodman** - new affiliates committee; **Heather Korbin** - symposium committee; **Rome Fox, Cathy Golden, Ethel Kofsky, Lillian Nemetz** - Yom HaShoah committee. As always, many thanks to **Philip Alderman** for his long hours at the computer designing the newsletter and other publications.

Thanks to casino volunteers: **Lucien Lieberman, Jack Micner, André Blitz, Max Pinsky** - board members; **Maurice Lifchus, Renee Lifchus, Zamirah Rosenthal; John Festinger, Carolyn Woszczyna and Larry Moser** - Second Generation.

Please call if we inadvertently left you off the list!

SPEEDY RECOVERY

Abe Charkow - from Marla & Peter Gropper

Izak Folk - from Helen Berger

Theresa Pryce - from Ronnie, Frieda, Judy, wishing your father a speedy recovery

Marie and Boris Wydra - from the VHCS Board & Second Generation Group

MAZEL TOV

Dr. Philip Adilman - in honour of special birthday, from Marla and Peter Gropper

Max & Lily Brauer - in honour of 50th wedding anniversary, from Celia Brauer and Michael Barkusky

Leon Kahn - in honour of special birthday, from Rita and Ben Akselrod, Irwin and Gloria Scarf, David and Lil Shafran, VHCS Board, William and Frances Switzer

Leon and Evelyn Kahn - in honour of Hody's marriage, from Lillian J Nemetz, the VHCS board

Joseph and Rose Lewin - in honour of 45th wedding anniversary, from Irene Abramson

Hector and Molly Ross - in honour of 50th wedding anniversary, from David and Grace Ehrlich

Eugene and Olga Schwartz - in honour of special birthdays, from Bob and Nancy Bluman

Mary Steiner - in honour of 85th Birthday, from Edwina and Paul Heller

Norman Sugarman - in honour of special birthday, from Esther Kaufman and Lyliane and Larry Thal

Joe and Birdie Wall - in honour of 50th wedding anniversary, from Larry & Lyliane Thal

George and Frieda Wertman - in honour of 50th wedding anniversary, from Rosaline & Lyle Pullan, David and Bella Moss, Sam and Lilly Hamer, Bunny and Dave Braverman, Morley and Fay Shafran, Tova and Mitchell Snider, Lorna and Herb Balinsky, Joe and Mary Bulles

Dr. Sid Zbarsky - in honour of 75th birthday, from Hilda and Tom Everall

THANK YOU

Helen Berger - for our visit in Palm Springs, from Brenda and Jack Karp

Eve Zilberman - in appreciation for your help in making Jordanna's Bat Mitzvah so special from Ralph, Cathi, Michael & Jordanna Zbarsky

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