

The Newsletter of the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre

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Zachor

"Remember"

Number 1
January 2002

www.vhec.org



UNWORTHY OF LIFE

The Euthanasia Crimes at Hadamar

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Holocaust Related Events at the Chutzpah Festival

Murdering Cinderella

Murdering Cinderella, written and performed by Gabriella Klein (second generation), is a one-woman performance. Gabriella, a VHEC board member, is the only child of Holocaust survivors. Drawing on her own questions regarding the inheritance of secondhand trauma passed on through generations, Gabriella has written a play that is both hilarious and poignant. The audience follows Pearl, a single mother, on one long night of ghosts and discovery. Gabriella Klein has performed in the Fringe Festival and The Vancouver International Children's Festival.



The play is directed by Lynna Smith, well known for her work on *The Waltonsteins*.

Performance dates are February 24th at 2pm, February 28th at 7pm and March 3rd at noon at the JCC. Tickets \$10.

TESTING The Memory Of A Nation

Created and Performed by Sharon Feder

TESTING is a performance about the Shoah passed down to Sharon through her grandfather's stories and her grandmother's silence. During the progression of the play the performer travels backward in time through the course of a human life. In a journey across generations, *TESTING* leads us through shadows of horror in the memory of a nation. It puts into play the opposing and complimentary forces of sorrow and rage, the roles of victim and victimizer, the possibilities of choice and the grace of the inevitable.

Sunday, February 24th at 4pm, Tuesday, February 26th at 8pm, Saturday, March 2nd at 6pm. Tickets \$14.

"We Won." The Story of Hilda Cohen; Survival, Triumph and Legacy

Professional storyteller, educator, writer and bereavement facilitator, Gail Rosen comes from Maryland, USA to share the story of one woman's childhood memories of the Holocaust in a small village in Germany. Chronicling twelve years of a painful yet inspiring story, Rosen gives us an opportunity to "meet" a woman of strength, talent, insight and inspiration. For middle-schoolers through adults, Gail will also be doing a workshop on telling stories to children.

Sunday, February 24th at 7pm. Tickets \$10.

For information on Chutzpah Festival tickets please call 604.689.0926.

Survivor Drop-In

2 - 4 pm, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2002

at the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Docent Seminars: Wendy Barrett, Liliac Cameron, Laverna Costantini, Jody Dales, Mariette Doduck, Michele Dore, Nadine Frame, Debby Freiman, Phillipa Friedland, Sandy Goldman, Natalie Grunberg, Fran Grunberg, Theresa Ho, Sheryl Kahn, Lise Kirchner, Gabriella Klein, Lani Levine, Karen Martin, Jineane Payne Babish, Sally Rogow, Naomi Rozenberg,

Special Projects: Sheila Barkusky, Beth Bogner, Karen Doubilet, Amalia Boe-Fishman, Alex Buckman, Dan Fromowitz, Lise Kirchner, Prof. Shia Moser, Aliya Rozenberg, Mark Rozenberg, David Schaffer, Barb Schober, Gillian Sinton, Dmitri Stone, Stan Taviss

Student Intern: Vanessa Matt, *Museum of Anthropology, UBC*, Sydney Gordon, *Rick Hansen Secondary*

Mailing: Susan Bluman, Edna Brown, Saul Cohn, Aiden Fox, Lillian Fryfield, Lisa Kafka, Bob Seligman,

Baking: Ida Kaplan, Gerri London, Rosa Marel, Gloria Waisman, Veronica Winkler

In kind donations: Starbucks, Omnitsky Kosher BC

To volunteer please contact
Rome Fox, *Volunteer Coordinator*
tel. 604-264-0499 or email: volunteer@vhed.org

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Cover: The cover contains two images of the Hadamar Institute. The background image shows the main building with smoke rising from the crematorium chimney and the inset image shows the cemetery.

Zachor

Editor: Roberta Kremer
Design: Sean Matvenko

HADAMAR AND THE NAZI EUTHANASIA PROGRAM

New Exhibit Opening at the VHEC

In October 1939, Hitler signed a decree allowing physicians to grant a "merciful death" to "patients considered incurable according to the best available human judgement on their state of health". This "decree" was backdated to September 1st, 1939 to coincide with the beginning of the war and the assault on European Jewry, which provided an ideal cover for the Nazi campaign against the ill and disabled for whom there would be no room in the victorious Third Reich. The intent of the so-called "euthanasia" program was not to relieve the suffering of the chronically ill and the mentally and physically disabled, but rather to exterminate them and thereby cleanse the Aryan race of those considered genetically defective and a financial burden to society. This goal would be achieved through forced sterilizations and the "euthanasia" program – called "Aktion T-4" – whose name came from the address in Berlin of a confiscated Jewish villa that housed the administration of the program at Tiergarten 4.

The program of neglect, forced sterilization, and mass murder was committed by a scrupulously precise bureaucratic machine within German welfare institutions, carried out by trained medical personnel against the most vulnerable and helpless of victims. German doctors and nurses selected patients to be killed, supervised the actual murders and in a frightening manner calculated up to the nearest penny the costs saved by their murder.

Those murdered were people suffering from psychological diseases and mental disabilities and also included those with retardation, schizophrenia, epilepsy, senility, paralysis, chronic mental illness, Huntington's Chorea and other neurological conditions. The large-scale extermina-

tion campaign against all "undesirable" and "useless" people increasingly included those who were physically disabled, deaf, blind, suffering from emotional disturbances caused by air raids, the elderly, ill or traumatized soldiers, hard labourers, those unable to work, Jews and half-Jews.

All Jews in sanatoriums and nursing homes were considered to be of "minor racial value" and "hereditarily diseased". By the end of 1939, approximately 1,000 Jewish inmates in German welfare institutions were killed under the T-4 Operation. In the summer of 1940, the Nazis decided to

Hadamar was renamed the State Psychiatric Hospital and Sanatorium in 1933. Between 1941 and 1945, Hadamar was leased to the T-4 Operation as a euthanasia killing centre. Between 1941 and 1945, more than 10,000 people, ill or disabled, men, women and children, were murdered by gas at Hadamar.

The institution held a special event to "celebrate" and mark the occasion of the death of 10,000 patients.

In 1933, the Nazis introduced a systematic registration of the population according to genetic categories. Those designated to become the first victims of Nazi racial policy were the mentally sick, mentally deficient, deaf and dumb, blind, children taken care of by the German social welfare system and alcoholics. On July 1, 1940, all patients suffering from schizophrenia, epilepsy, syphilitic diseases, retardation, encephalitis, Huntington's chorea or other neurological diseases in their final stages were reported to the Reich Task Force of Sanatoriums and Nursing Homes. Those

who had been in institutions for at least 5 years, were criminally insane, did not possess German citizenship or were not of German or related blood were also reported. The deadlines for completing the registration forms were stringent to emphasize the importance of the matter and to avoid any opposition.

Sixty so-called "medical experts" inspected the registration forms and marked each form with a - or + mark (the red "+" mark resulted in a decision of "euthanasia") a decision to end the life of a patient they had never met. The "experts" were remunerated for the work according to the quantity of forms they examined. Between April and December 1940, one single

Exhibit Opening

Life Unworthy of Life: The Euthanasia Crimes at Hadamar

7:30 pm, Thursday, February 7th, 2002

Opening Lecture in the Norman Rothstein Theatre
Nazi Medicine: Good or Bad (or Both)?
by Dr. Robert Proctor

Reception to follow at the
Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre
#50 - 950 West 41st Ave. Vancouver, BC

This exhibit is presented in partnership with the Memorial Museum of Hadamar with sponsorship from Ed and Debbie Rozenberg & Lucien and Carole Lieberman in memory of Drs. Henry and Ludmila Zeldowicz

kill the remaining Jewish inmates of institutions collectively - without the superficial medical assessment given to other "euthanasia" victims. Later, those who did not possess German citizenship or were not of German or related blood, Gypsies (Roma) and Africans, were also targets of the "euthanasia" program. By August 1941, more than 70,000 people had been killed by gas in six killing institutions.

Hadamar

One of the six killing institutions was the psychiatric clinic at Hadamar. Established in 1901 as a hospital for alcoholics,

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physician gave his opinion on 15,000 registration forms. All registration forms showing a + mark were handed over to the charitable ambulance service which facilitated the "transfer" of the patients.

Interim or transit facilities helped mask the real destination of patients. Patients scheduled to be killed stayed only a few days at these "interim" institutions and were given very little food. From there, they were transported to Hadamar in grey "Gekrat" buses whose windows were painted or covered with cloth to prevent local populations from seeing those trapped inside. However, residents who lived in the towns that the buses went through soon realized what their actual function was.

January 13, 1941, the first transport of mentally ill and disabled persons arrived at the newly established killing centre Hadamar. After getting undressed, the victims were photographed and quickly checked by the doctors in order to determine an alleged cause of death. Patients were killed within a few hours of their arrival in a specially constructed gas chamber, their remains burned in the crematorium.

The gas chamber in Hadamar was disguised as a shower room. A perforated gas pipe, fixed at a height of about one metre, went through the room. The pipe was connected to gas containers in the next room. The fatal carbon monoxide entered the room through the holes in the pipe. Up to 60 people were crowded into the 14 m² room, which was locked by steel doors. Through a control window in the wall, the killing doctors watched for several minutes as people died. Afterward, a fan extracted the gas from the chamber.

The "administrator" of Hadamar stated in 1946: "I looked through the control window in the wall. I saw approximately 40 to 45 men crowded in the room next door

who were slowly dying. Some of them were lying on the floor, others collapsed, many of them had their mouths open as if they couldn't breathe. This method of putting people to death was so distressing that one couldn't call it a humane killing, in addition, many of the killed persons might have had moments of clearness. I watched the scene for approximately 2-3

cuted by means of medical poisoning and malnutrition instead of gas. The number of killing institutions increased and the categories of victims broadened to include the elderly, injured and traumatized soldiers, children cared for by the German social welfare system and forced labourers suffering from tuberculosis. After 1941, doctors and nurses decided themselves

which individuals were worthy or unworthy of life. "An attempt to escape, or larceny, obstinacy or insubordination, restlessness, enuresis, masturbation or homosexuality could mean the sentence of death for an inmate of the institution."

The victims were completely de-humanized. Each individual was referred to in their records as a "case", listed as "insane", as a "child brought up under the social welfare system", as a "cripple" or as someone "unwilling to work". On the death certificates, the day, hour, cause of death, name of the registrar, and even the place of death were false.

Healthy inmates of the institutions were listed as having died of chronic diseases within days of their arrival. Some were listed as having died of appendicitis even though they had previously had the surgery.

In order to prevent parents from visiting the institution, burial in a common grave often took place before the notice was sent to the family. If parents succeeded in attending the funeral, they often left sus-

By presenting this disturbing material we bring attention to the "euthanasia" crimes carried out at Hadamar as a direct result of Nazi racial policies.



View of the cemetery at the Hadamar Institute
Courtesy of USHMM Photo Archives

minutes and then went away, because I couldn't stand watching it any longer and felt sick." (Klee, document no. 48)

Doctors removed gold-teeth and brains from the dead bodies of those pre-selected before their murder. The brains were sent to the medical institutes of various universities for research purposes. Dr. Julius Hallervorden (1882-1965) stated at the Nuremberg Trials: "...those brains offered wonderful material, of mentally poor, deformities and early children's diseases. Of course I accepted the brains. It really wasn't my concern where they came from and how they were brought to me"

In their records, the perpetrators coldly spoke of "disinfection", thereby simply identifying the persons killed as vermin.

Although murder by gas was discontinued in August 1941, the Reich's "euthanasia" programme continued. Murders were ex-

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pecting the true nature of their child's death.

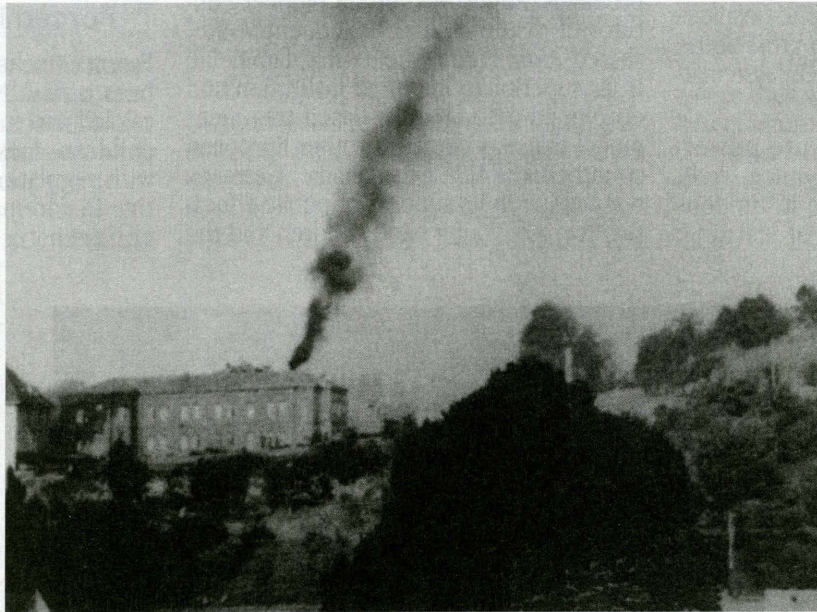
Operation T-4 anticipated the Holocaust. The "euthanasia" program's ideology of racial purity, the technology of destruction and trained administrative personnel would play key roles in the implementation of the "Final Solution." When murder by gas ended, most of the personnel working for the T-4 administration were sent to Poland, where they played an important role in building and operating the gas chambers in the extermination camps of Belzec, Sobibor and Treblinka. There too, gas chambers were masked as shower rooms and the guards pretended to be medical personnel. One group of ninety-two T-4-trained personnel were "detached" to carry out the extermination of the Jews in the crowded Polish ghettos, an "aktion" known as "Operation Reinhard".

Forced Sterilization

Between 1934 and 1939, about 400,000 women and men were victims of Nazi forced sterilization. The victims were said to be "hereditarily diseased" even though the hereditary character of the diseases in question was under dispute. In the eyes of the Nazis, the deaf were of "minor value". The Nazis' belief that deafness was a "hereditary disease" led to the forced sterilization of the hearing-impaired. Many of the victims of sterilization, particularly women, died as a consequence of the surgery. Others suffered serious emotional trauma as a result of their sterilization. "Never before in history had a nation propagandised and practised such a policy of massive contraception, never before had a country taken measures in such a large, violent and efficient manner for purposes opposing natality." (Gisela Bock)

The directors of mental hospitals and other social welfare-institutions directly

participated in the implementation of forced sterilization. They reported patients, foster-children and pupils of special schools to the courts, denouncing them as "hereditarily diseased". When the Nazi sterilization law was passed, patients from institutions were released only if they underwent the forced surgery. The label of "mental deficiency" legitimised more



The Hadamar "Euthanasia Centre"

forced sterilizations than any other diagnosis. Its broad definition was clearly linked to social, political or sexual mores of the times.

The Nuremberg Medical Trials, 1946

The case of the "United States of America versus Karl Brandt, et al." was the first of the "Nuremberg Trials" to examine the 'euthanasia' crimes. The indictment filed on October 25, 1946 contained the names of 23 defendants. Point II of the indictment concerned the penal responsibility of the defendants for their involvement in brutal medical experiments on inmates of concentration camps, prisoners of war and other persons. It included crimes committed within the scope of the so-called "euthanasia" program that provided for the systematic and secret murder of the

elderly, mentally disabled, incurably sick, children showing physical defects, and other persons by gassing, lethal injections and other means in hospitals, institutions and homes for the aged (Indictment II/9). The medical trial opened on December 9, 1946 and continued until July 19, 1947. Fifteen defendants, one of them Karl Brandt, were sentenced to death by hanging. Five were sentenced to life imprisonment.

During the trial on October 8, 1945, the public prosecutor described the occurrences at Hadamar as the most dreadful, disgusting, shameless, inhuman and cowardly actions witnessed by the Americans during the occupation. All defendants were found guilty on October 15, 1945. The head of administration, the senior male nurse and one male nurse were sentenced to death by hanging. The medical director was sentenced to life imprisonment, while the other sentences included up to

30 years in prison. Although several of the death sentences were carried out, many of the convictions were reprieved after having served only part of their sentence.

In the Nuremberg Trial, the number of euthanasia victims was estimated at 275,000 although later estimates suggest the actual number to be closer to 200,000. The total number corresponds to the master plan to murder one patient by "euthanasia" for each thousand inhabitants of the German Reich. Immediately after the war, an association of the victims of forced sterilisation and families of those "euthanized" was founded with the objective to advocate on behalf of those involved. However, these members were not accepted by the well-established associations for Holocaust victims and the association ultimately dissolved.

CHILD VICTIMS IN NAZI GERMANY

by Dr. Sally M. Rogow

Sally Rogow is Professor Emerita, Faculty of Education at UBC and a volunteer docent at the VHEC

In a climate of social chaos, the Nazis launched a system of persecution of children and young people with disabilities, as well as orphans, young people with emotional problems and non-conformist youth that was unequalled in history. Terrorist tactics were used against German families to force them to send their children with physical or mental disabilities to state institutions and psychiatric hospitals where they were subjected to gross abuse and neglect and thousands were systematically murdered.

Under conditions of absolute power, careerism, greed, and arrogance, well-known schools, hospitals and institutions were changed from places of learning, healing and rehabilitation into work camps, prisons and execution chambers. Only children with very severe and debilitating conditions were sent to institutions in pre-Nazi Germany. It is a myth that only children with severe disabilities were killed or that the killings stopped in 1941; the last child was killed almost a month after the war was over.

The fact that Germany pioneered the provision of community-based services for children and young people with disabilities is significant. The Nazis destroyed the most comprehensive and progressive system of rehabilitative education in the world. When children with even mild mental handicaps were routinely isolated in large sterile institutions in Britain and North America they were being integrated into their home communities in Weimar, Germany. German educators believed children should be kept with their families, exposed to the world and live and work in the community. In 1922, 1670 special classes were organized in regular schools and served 34,300 students in 305 German towns and cities. More than 1000 community day schools (Hilfschule) were established to serve children with more severe developmental disabilities so they could 'lead rewarding lives'. The Hilfschule

organization provided one of the first European teacher-training programs for special education teachers. Children too weak or ill to go to school were visited by teachers in their homes.

Community based guidance centres and treatment programs were established for children with emotional and behavioural problems. August Aichorn, a pioneer educator of disturbed and delinquent youth, shared Anna Freud's belief that family life is far superior to life in an institution and developed a community-based treatment model that was copied by other European countries, the USA and Canada. Germany was unique in its support of public education for very young blind children and the

aged the formation of parent-teacher associations and banned physical punishment in the schools. Under Hitler, day and residential schools and institutions were transformed from places of learning and healing into work camps and killing centres.

Forced Institutionalization

Parents (including those who were members of the Nazi party) were coerced, cajoled and forced to institutionalize their children. Lies and deception combined with regulations and decrees were effective in forcing parents to commit their children to designated institutions.

Families of children with disabilities were deprived of family allowances and fearing loss of all services, many parents believed their children would be better served in an institution than at home without treatment. The regulation that banned children with any type of disability from treatment in ordinary paediatric hospitals (even for ordinary illnesses) effectively forced the institutionalization of children who needed medical treatment. Public health officials, responsible for enforcing the institutionalization of children with disabilities, promised dubious parents that their children would receive the most advanced

and expert therapy on open wards. Those parents who refused to commit their children into institutions were threatened with loss of guardianship rights. Single mothers who refused to part with their children found themselves assigned to contractual labor, which, in the end, forced them to surrender their children. As the war progressed, the numbers of children requiring services increased and directors of welfare facilities, orphanages and other treatment centers were pressured into transferring children to designated state institutions and psychiatric hospitals, where they were assigned to work in the kitchens, laundries, and janito-



Hartheim Castle, a "euthanasia" killing centre

establishment of the Carl Strehle Secondary School that became a gateway to university education for blind young people. 'Open Air Recovery' schools were established for children recovering from polio (an all too common illness at the time) and religious schools (Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish) for children with disabilities received state funding. Progressive German educators of the Weimar era worked hard to ensure that all disadvantaged and disabled children received a good education. And while not all their efforts and reforms were always successful, they created a vital and comprehensive educational system, encour-

rial service. Children as young as 12 and 13 years of age were forced to work long hours without relief and those who tried to escape were severely punished.

Private institutions that had been known for their successful rehabilitation programs were taken over by the state and transformed into work camps. Jewish doctors and nurses were dismissed. Sharply reduced budgets combined with overcrowding created unhealthy and unhygienic conditions in state institutions, where one physician was responsible for 400 to 500 patients. Child patients were rarely examined or given therapy or treatment. By 1940, the child populations at state institutions and psychiatric hospitals doubled or tripled. There were not enough beds and newly admitted children slept on unhygienic straw mattresses. There were not enough wheelchairs or mobility aids and children who were unable to walk were kept in their beds or highchairs or lay on mats on the floor. Malnutrition and hunger were common, there was so little food in some institutions that kitchen workers brought food from their homes.

Professional nurses who were active trade union members were dismissed and their places taken by former domestic or farm workers, recruited from the ranks of the unemployed or members of Nazi women's groups and the League of German Maidens. These people had little understanding of the children in their care and simply followed orders. The emotional toll on the children was enormous; fear, resistance and rebellion were silenced with drugs, electric shocks, and beatings. Letters from children to their parents have been discovered and tell of their anguish, loneliness and despair: "Dear Mommy. I do not want to stay with these people. I want to go free. I do not stay here. Please come and get me."

The lives of institutionalized children were further brutalized by visits from members

of the SA (Sturmabteilung or Stormtroopers), SS, Hitler Youth and League of German Maidens who regarded the tours as "freak" shows. More than 20,000 visitors came to the Eglfing – Haar institution where Dr. Pfannmuller, the director, lectured to visitors about the necessity of killing disabled children. Pfannmuller advocated killing children long before the child euthanasia program was put into effect and used starvation as his preferred method.

Once their children were committed, parents had little control or influence over their lives. They had no choice as to which institution the child was sent to, and many were sent so far away that parental visits

discovered on their arrival that their child had been moved. Those who believed they had placed their child for temporary medical care were also unable to bring their children home. Persistent parents were stonewalled and threatened with legal action.

Children who were transferred to state institutions from religious homes and schools were moved from place to place without their families being informed where they were located. Official standard letters informed them that their child was in transit and was being sent to an unnamed institution.



Members of the *Swing Movement*, circa 1939

were impossible. Some institutions discouraged parent visits altogether. Official reports that exaggerated the degree of their child's disability or contradicted reports they had been given by family doctors made many parents suspicious. Children who were speaking and playing independently at home were described as incapable of speech and "severely feeble-minded". Parents who managed to visit their children, found them listless and emaciated or bruised and when they complained they were told that their child was refusing to eat or was hurting him or herself. Parents who notified the institution of their intention to bring their child home,

Non-Conformist Youth

It is a little known fact that there were hundreds of young people who refused to join the Hitler youth movement. When the Hitler Youth became compulsory, the demand for conformity dominated youth activities. Rebellious youth groups offered meaningful social identities and cultural expressions for young people between the ages of 14 and 18 years of both working and middle class background. The largest groups were the 'Edelweiss Pirates' and the 'Swing Movement'.

With their dress and demeanor, the Edelweiss Pirates openly defied Hitler youth gangs and even fought Nazi youth on the streets, bringing repressive measures against them. They were imprisoned or placed in reform schools, labour and youth concentration camps.

The laws and regulations governing the treatment of child victims were enforced by all-powerful special authorities appointed by and responsible only to Hitler. These authorities replaced and circumvented traditional local government agencies. As a result there was constant conflict

continued on page 12

SELLING MURDER - NAZI PROPAGANDA

by Frieda Miller

One of the most troubling questions surrounding the Nazi war against the disabled is how was it possible for so many Germans to abandon their concern for the most vulnerable in their society, in favour of a vulgar form of social Darwinism. How were the Nazis able to convince German citizens that their mentally ill or physically disabled children, wives, husbands or neighbours were unworthy of life? Some insight can be gained by examining the Nazi propaganda campaign to sell the murder of the disabled. The Nazis produced and widely distributed propaganda through speeches, newspapers, films, posters and school textbooks. This campaign provided the rationale needed to convince and support public opinion, based on three central arguments: the need for racial purity, the economic burden of caring for the disabled and the need to conserve scarce resources during wartime.

Central to the German master race theory was the concept of the German people as the racial ideal. One of the justifications presented by the Nazis for the removal, sterilization and murder of the disabled was the idea of racial purity. The goal was to "cleanse" the Aryan race of persons considered to be genetically defective. A two-fold approach of "positive" and "negative" eugenics was used to accomplish this goal.

The "positive" eugenics argument was characterized by the notion of "healthy Aryanism." It was every Aryan's duty to be healthy and physically fit. Wedding loans and family allowances were used as positive incentives for the racially desirable. The "Lebensborn" association was established to care for pregnant women deemed racially and biologically precious, who were expected to give birth to children of the same quality. To this end images of virile, athletic young men and idealized Aryan motherhood were used to graphically rep-



Exhibit panel from "Reichsnaehrstand" (organization for the health of people).
Translation: "Qualitative degeneration of the population if the reproduction of superior people is low.
That is how it will be if inferior people have four children and superior people have two children."

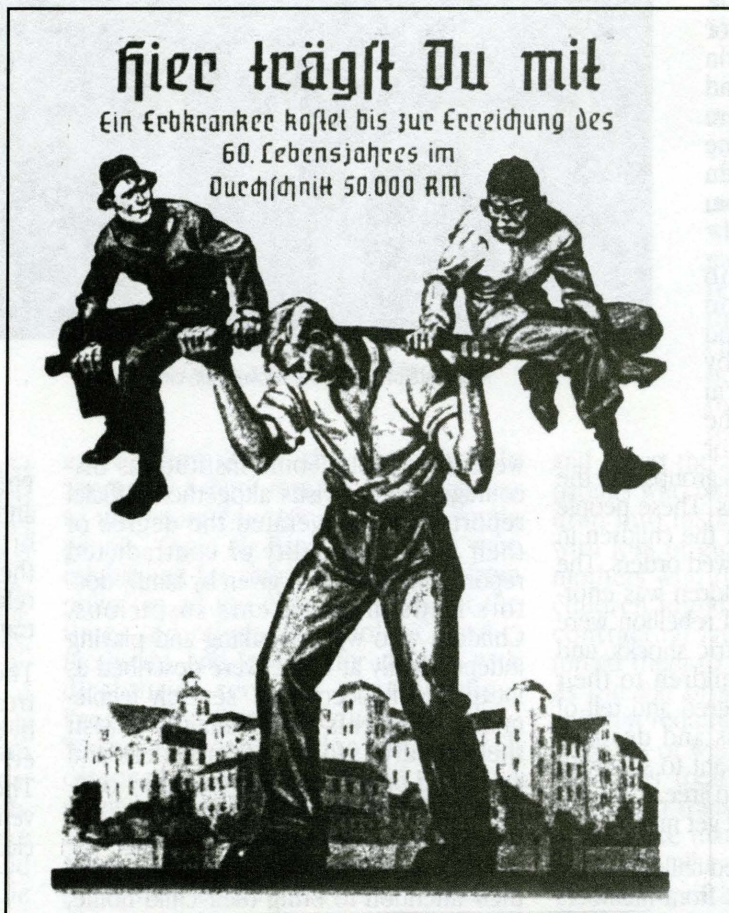


Illustration depicting the "burden of the mentally ill". From the popular German racial journal, *Volk und Rasse* (1935).

Courtesy of Robert N. Proctor

SELLING MURDER - NAZI PROPAGANDA

resent racial purity and to urge adherence to these principles.

By contrast, the “negative” eugenics approach that was used to promote the elimination of the racially or genetically defective was fear-based. Grotesque images of the disabled were used in the propaganda campaign. Facial features were often distorted and deformities exaggerated by high contrast lighting. As part of this campaign of fear, “inferior traits” ranging from mental illness to begging, prostitution and alcoholism were presented as more readily transmitted than valuable genetic traits.

Propaganda perpetuated the idea that the disabled imposed an unfair economic burden on society. Distorted statistics were used to show that the disabled produced a disproportionate number of disabled offspring, which increased the financial burden on the state.

Charts and graphs visually represented the amount of money that could be saved by withholding food, shelter and nursing care from the disabled. School mathematics texts posed questions such as: “The construction of a lunatic asylum costs 6 million marks. How many houses at 15,000 marks each could have been built for that amount?”

With the advent of war, the campaign to sell the murder of those in institutional care intensified. To make this connection to the war explicit, Hitler’s decree establishing the euthanasia program was backdated to September 1, 1939. The Nazis argued that the scarce resources of hospital beds and medical personnel should not be spent on the unworthy when Germany’s finest were dying on the front lines. War provided both a cover and a pretext for the crime.

These arguments of racial purity and economic and military necessity were widely disseminated in the popular media. Films such as *I Accuse* and *The Inheritance* portrayed the mentally ill and the handicapped in an unsympathetic light and emphasized the costs of care.

As part of the campaign, a specialized language evolved to dehumanize these victims. Children and adults with disabilities and other “undesirable” traits were referred to as “pieces” or “life unworthy of life.” Euphemisms were used to maintain the secrecy of the euthanasia program. Words like “interim institution” and the code name “T-4” were used as cover-ups, masking the process of removal, abuse, experimentation, starvation and murder. Euphemisms also helped sanitize the program making it more palatable to family members and the German public. The term “euthanasia” was itself a euphemism, which had nothing to do with its literal meaning of a “good death” or its modern meaning of consensual, mercy killing.

Hitler understood the critical role played by propaganda in translating this kind of racial ideology into practice. The Third Reich exploited schools, textbooks and popular media to foster support for eugenics and the euthanasia program. Our goal in presenting this material at the VHEC, is to challenge students to recognize and critically assess the goals of Nazi propaganda and the manipulative images used to achieve these goals. In doing so, students will be able to consider our society’s attitudes towards the mentally and physically handicapped and the responsibilities of citizens towards those in need of protection, resources and care.



Propaganda caption: “Young men with healthy limbs spend their free time in games and in competition...”



*...while ‘stupid’ men with split hands and feet sit around doing nothing.”
(Nazi Propaganda 1930s)*

By Maria Miller

LECTURE SERIES

Genetic Politics: The Legacy of Nazi Eugenics

As part of the Hadamar exhibit, The Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre, the Centre for Applied Ethics at UBC and the Science Studies Program, Faculty of Arts, UBC, presents this series of free public lectures.

Thursday, February 7th, 7:30 pm

Norman Rothstein Theatre, 950 W. 41st Avenue

Nazi Medicine: Good or Bad (or Both)?

by Dr. Robert Proctor

This lecture marks the opening of *The Euthanasia Crimes at Hadamar* exhibition. Reception to follow at the VHEC.

Dr. Proctor is one of the leading scholars on Nazi medicine and the relationship between politics and health-care policy. He has authored numerous articles and the following full-length studies, *Racial Hygiene: Medicine Under the Nazis* (1988); "Value-Free Science?" Purity and Power in Modern Knowledge (1991); and *The Nazi War Against Cancer* (1999). Dr. Proctor is presently Professor in the History of Science at Pennsylvania State University.



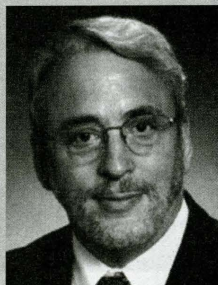
Thursday, March 7th, 7:30 pm

UBC at Robson Square, 800 Robson Street

Confronting Evil in Medicine: The Challenge of the Continuing Legacy of Medical Science during the Hitler Period

by Dr. William Seidelman

A native of Vancouver, BC, Dr. Seidelman is Professor Emeritus of Family and Community Medicine, University of Toronto and attending physician at Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, Jewish Home for the Aged and Palliative Care Unit in Toronto. Dr. Seidelman is a world-renowned scholar in the history of medicine in the Third Reich and the Holocaust. He has published widely and been an international lecturer specializing in the continuing ethical challenges to contemporary medicine and research arising from medicine and medical science during the Third Reich.



The Nazi War on Cancer

by Robert N. Proctor

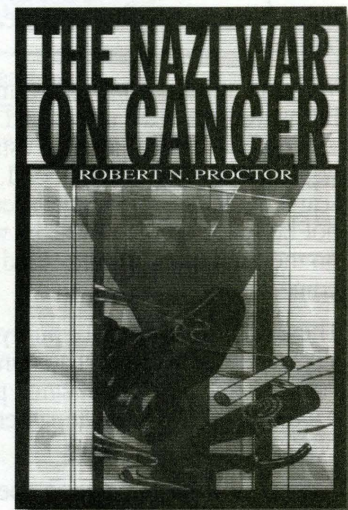
Princeton University Press, 1999

Reviewed by Morton Dodek M.D.

Robert Proctor is Professor of History of Science at Pennsylvania State University. In his first book, *Racial Hygiene: Medicine under the Nazis* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1988) he elaborated on the many cruelties initiated by German physicians during the Nazi era. In this book, *The Nazi War on Cancer*, he attempts to elucidate the actual contributions that Nazi medicine made in cancer research, at the same time reminding us that the process was far from unblemished, citing many examples of Nazi brutality under the guise of medical advancement.

During the 1930s and during the Third Reich in Germany, there was a strong movement to promote the phenomenon of "racial hygiene", a form of artificial selection and manipulation to produce a superior race. This process embraced the study of "eugenics", a new and exciting field which was gaining popularity in Europe and abroad. With the economic and political upheaval of the times, cancer became a metaphor, in the eyes of the German people, for all that was seen wrong in society – and the Jews were the purveyors of that disease.

By 1933 Nazi cancer research enjoyed an international reputation, particularly in America. Methods of early detection of cancer were being explored including the concept of breast self examination and culposcopy examinations for the early detection of cancer of the cervix (the forerunner of the Pap Smear). At that time major advances were taking place in the fields of environmental sanitation with the awareness of the hazards of pollutants in food, water, and air, as possible causes of cancer. This aggressive study of carcinogenic factors, attracted back to Germany the famous cancer pathologist, Dr. Wilhelm Hueper, who had been the head of cancer research for ten years at the University of Pennsylvania Cancer Research Center. The Danzig surgeon,



Erwin Liek, was also doing important work on nutrition and its relationship to the etiology of cancer. During the mid-thirties there was a high incidence of stomach cancer both in Germany and in America attributable to improper eating and food impurities. Hitler himself became a fanatic vegetarian, non-smoker, and non-drinker. On the other hand, it was felt that good nutrition was wasted on the infirm and demented with near starvation diets imposed on psychiatric patients. Food became a political lever, forcing some into starvation while keeping others well nourished and happy.

German doctors pioneered the epidemiology of many occupational diseases particularly the hazards of exposure to asbestos, radioactivity, and aniline dyes. In spite of this, during the war years foreign workers, concentration camp prisoners, and prisoners of war were forced onto factory floors without regard to usual protection or safety.

In the 1930s, the Nazis were the first to establish a link between smoking and lung cancer. It was not until 1950 that this relationship was recognized in America and England. An aggressive anti-smoking campaign was launched particularly during the war years when it was pointed out that Hitler, Mussolini, and Franco were non-smokers, while Churchill, Stalin, and Roosevelt continued to practice that "dirty" habit. As part of the anti-smoking campaign, it was said that Jewish and Communist women especially likely to smoke and to "foist their filthy habit on others".

After 1933 almost all Jewish doctors were dismissed from their duties including those involved in cancer research. The Reich concept of "Gleichschaltung" (unification and purification) had no boundaries. A sophisticated cancer registry system was established which eventually evolved into the data processing techniques cataloguing "racial undesirables". Medical imagery was then used to dehumanize these "undesirables". For example, Jews were often described as "tumours" within German society, and cancer cells were labeled as "Jew cells" to be treated by "Nazi Storm Troopers" (irradiation therapy).

In his final chapter, Proctor discusses the ethical questions of how or whether we should accept the contributions that were made to society by Nazi cancer research. "The Nazi war on cancer has been ignored because we do not seem to be comfortable with the idea that people with rotten ethical ideals could have been ahead of their time in the spheres of medicine and public health". It is difficult to feel comfortable with the contributions made by Nazi medicine in much the same way as to approve of the Pernkopf Anatomical Atlas drawn from body parts of prisoners and "euthanized" mental defectives. Dr. Eduard Pernkopf was an ardent Nazi who in 1938, became the dean of the University of Vienna medical faculty, at which time he dismissed 153 of the 197 professors including everyone of Jewish extraction or Communist conviction. In many medical communities today the Pernkopf Atlas has been expunged. Should we erase as well the legacy of the Nazi war on cancer? This remains a moral and ethical question.

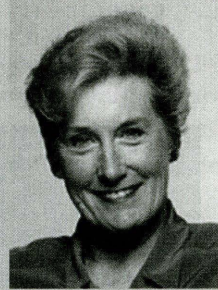
LECTURE SERIES

Thursday, April 25th, 7:30 pm

Location TBA

Prospects and Perils for Humanity of Some New Genetic Technology

by Dr. Patricia Baird



Prof. Baird's internationally renowned work has focused on the population distribution of genetic disorders such as Down Syndrome, and on the social, ethical and health implications of the new knowledge on human reproductive biology and genetics.

Dr. Baird received her education and medical training at McGill University.

From 1978-89, she headed the

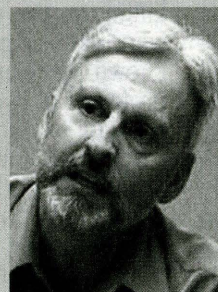
Department of Medical Genetics at UBC, the first woman to hold such a position. In 1991, she became Vice-President of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research and in 1993 she chaired the ground-breaking Royal Commission on New Reproductive Technologies, a forum for debate on many medical, scientific and legal issues. In addition to her own research and teaching of medical students at UBC, Dr. Baird is a frequent speaker on issues relating to new genetic knowledge.

Thursday, May 23rd, 7:30 pm

Location TBA

An Ethical Autopsy on the Old Eugenics Movement, with Lessons to be Drawn

by Dr. Allen Buchanan



Dr. Buchanan, an applied ethicist is presently Professor of Philosophy at the University of Arizona. His research interests include ethical issues in historical and contemporary effort to improve individuals and society by biotechnological means. Dr. Buchanan served as Staff Philosopher for the President's Commission on Medical Ethics, where he was a principal author of the Commission's two reports on ethical issues in genetics.

Dr. Buchanan also served as staff-consultant for the U.S. Advisory Committee on Human Radiation experiments in 1995. He is currently a member of the Advisory Council for human genome research and the Institute on Goals and Funding Priorities for Genomic Research. Dr. Buchanan co-edited the recent publication from Chance to Choice: Genetics and Justice (2000).

CHILD VICTIMS IN NAZI GERMANY

continued from page 7

between administrative agencies and increasing chaos and rivalry that led to a growing reliance on extreme measures. The purpose of forced institutionalization became evident with the initiation of the killing programs in 1939, a few days after war was declared to minimize the effects of public and church protest. Hitler issued a decree which gave physicians the authority to murder children.

The Euthanasia Programs in Hospitals and Institutions

'Euthanasia' or 'mercy death' was the Nazi euphemism for murder. Other terms such as 'disinfection' and 'special handling' (Sonderbehandlung) were also used. Two separate programs were instituted, one for children and one for adults (which included many children). The Chancellory of the Fuhrer (the Kdf, the Kanzlei des Fuhrer) appointed the physicians who operated the child program under the name of a fictitious organization, the 'Reich Committee for the Scientific Registration of Severe Hereditary Ailments':

"In a self accelerating process in which morality was progressively discarded, the scholars followed the direction of their ideas with fatal consequences: from the approximately 360,000 compulsory sterilizations...to the mass murders of an ever widening euthanasia program, behind which the monstrous contours of a Final Solution of the social question were beginning to emerge." (Frei, p. 122)

Although these programs were shrouded in secrecy, Hitler ordered the making of propaganda films to persuade the public of the necessity of eliminating people with disabilities, which were termed 'hereditary' diseases or genetic defects. The film *Victims of the Past* which made use of special lighting effects to portray people with disabilities as grotesque monsters who could only survive at the expense of healthy people, was shown all over Germany.

Despite the claim that the German population supported the killing of 'useless' people, everyone involved in the euthanasia programs was sworn to secrecy and was required to sign an oath of loyalty and

promise not to talk about the killing programs. Employees who talked about the killing 'actions' were reported to the Gestapo and punished with imprisonment. The euthanasia programs claimed the lives of more than 250,000 children and adults who lived in Germany's hospitals and institutions and asylums.

The university professors, scientists and physicians who planned the euthanasia murders were handsomely rewarded with generous research grants, university appointments and unlimited authority. Young newly graduated physicians did the

but they had almost complete authority over the selection of child victims. Eager to meet quotas they ignored their own guidelines and made random arbitrary choices. Parents were never informed that their child was dying until death was imminent or the child was already dead.

Children who lived in the hospitals and institutions knew about the killings. A nurse testified to the awareness of the ten year old children on her ward. 'Everyone talked about it, even the children talked about it. They were all afraid to go to the hospital. They were fearful that they would not come back. It was a general rumor. The children played a coffin game. We were astonished that the children understood.



Dr. Julius Hallervorden, pre 1945

Experiments on Children

Children with cerebral palsy and other neurological conditions or Downs syndrome were used as subjects of 'scientific' experiments, their blood and spinal fluids were drawn and replaced with air so that clear x-rays could be taken of their brains. They were injected with drugs, sugar and other chemicals to test their reactions. After the experiments were completed, the children were 'disinfected' (killed) and their brains and other body organs were removed and sent to university research laboratories. Dr. Julius Hallervorden, a neuropathologist, collected brains and boasted of the 'wonderful material' he had obtained from 'defectives'. (His collection of children's brains was used until 1990, when they were buried in a Munich cemetery). Parent permission was never obtained and parents were not informed of the real cause of their children's deaths.

Nazi victimization of vulnerable people was unique in its organization, its mercilessness and bureaucratic efficiency. It serves as a lasting reminder of the peril of making value judgments on the worth of human lives.

Notes and bibliography available upon request

This is an excerpt from a larger article published in The Journal of Holocaust Education, Vol. 8, No. 3, Winter 1999, reprinted with permission from the author and the publisher.



Our Neighbours - The Righteous Gentiles

by Andrew Karsai

After March 1939, and the declaration of independence, anti-Jewish measures and vicious Nazi propaganda were implemented in the new Slovak state. 60,000 Slovakian Jews were deported by mid 1943. Some fortunate Jews, due to their occupations, were temporarily exempted from these deportations. My father was a physician in the remote Slovak village of Tisovec where there were no other physicians so he was temporarily spared.

Tisovec, primarily a Christian town with only 15 Jewish families, was not enamoured with the Fascist government. In August 1944, the Slovak anti-fascist uprising took place. As Tisovec was at the perimeter of the uprising my father offered his medical equipment and services as a physician to

the Partisans. The Nazi's helped the Slovak Hlinka Guards put down the uprising. Over 1000 Jews were shot at the end of the uprising and 12,000 were deported to the annihilation camps, most to Auschwitz.

When my father went to help the Partisans at the beginning of the uprising, my mother Mirka moved the family into the mountains. After the uprising was suppressed and the deportations began my parents, with two small children in tow, had to keep on the move, hiding to avoid being caught and deported. The Germans were rooting out all Jews from the small towns; shooting most on the spot. Sometime in the fall of 1944, when moving from place to place, our family arrived at an area called Tri Duby (Three Oaks). My father remembered that

Away by Andrew Karsai

away from mothers and fathers
away from sisters and brothers
we sit on the edge of an on-going murder
viewing the invisible crater
with billions of yesterdays
smouldering in the middle of family rooms
in millions of homes

we look down from the crater's edge
like astronomers through telescopes
like the sky through the fence
of a playground without sand
without castles
without children

we have no limbs for adjusting focus
only our sight and sense of smell
are the raw witnesses
for today
for tomorrow

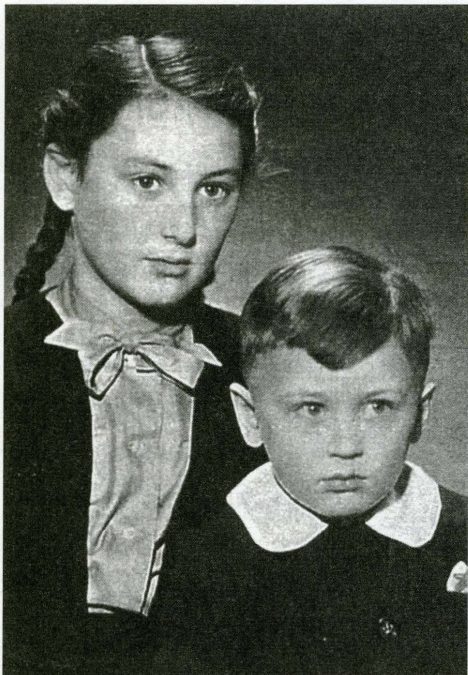
Palko Hronec, a son of a former neighbour, lived in a nearby village. Palko's parents, Pavol Sr. and Katarina Hronec had occupied one of the apartments in the building where my parents lived in Tisovec before moving to the town of Zvolenská Slatina.

"They took us as their own family," writes my mother in her recollection. I was just over two years old and my sister Judita was nine. My parents and the Hronec family decided that the children would be safer at the home of our former neighbours in Zvolenská Slatina. Mrs. Hronec came to pick us up. Until March 1945 we remained at Palko Hronec's parents home passing as children of "relatives from the east."

In the early part of 1945, my parents were able to return to Tisovec. Their first thoughts were of us. Due to active fighting going on in the area, my parents had to enlist the help of a Russian officer to travel to Zvolenská Slatina. The villagers were at that moment preparing to evacuate the town. The Russian officer insisted on leaving immediately with the children. My sister was happy to see our parents but I did not recognize them.

On March 12, 1945 our family arrived back in Tisovec, all this seemed like an unbelievable fairytale to my parents. Many years later I asked my mother, why did the Hronec family risk their own lives for two Jewish children? My mother did not say anything; she stood up and opened a box with letters. She gave me one dated August 27, 1945. Katarina Hronec wrote; "What we did for you my dear Mirka, was our Christian duty and out of the love for your family. G-d should be thanked because he protected you..."

Andrew Karsai is a child survivor and was born in Slovakia



Andrew with his sister Judita after the war

Cards & Donations

SEPT. 20, 2001 - DEC. 21, 2001

DONATION

In Memory of the Victims of Israel's Terrorist Attacks & the Victims of Sept 11, 2001 Terrorist Attacks. Michael & Eva Dymant

Reva Adler, In your honour. Charles & Renee Moutal

GET WELL

Sue Abramson, Get well, Hear you're doing great. Leo & Jocy Lowy

Sara Cohn, Wishing you a Speedy Recovery. Gloria Waisman & Gerri London & the Survivor Drop-in Group

Fay Davis, You are in our thoughts. The Board & Staff of the VHEC

Regina Feldman, Get well soon. Izzy Fraeme, Harold & Bella Silverman, Art, Sam & Al Szajman, Rachel & Herschel Wosk & Family

Lili Folk, Wishing you a very Speedy Recovery. Debby, Mark, Barbara & Rachel Choit

Harry Forman, Best wishes for a Speedy Recovery, Jack & Henia Perel

Joe Klein, Best wishes for a Speedy Recovery! Henia & Jack Perel

Leo Lowy, Hope you are feeling better soon. The Board & Staff of the VHEC

Bernice Neuwirth, Wishing you a Speedy Recovery. Gloria Waisman & Gerri London & the Survivor Drop-in Group

Peter Oberlander, A most Speedy Recovery. Frieda Miller & Danny Shapiro

Bernice Salzman, Wishing you a very Speedy Recovery. Susan Bluman

Aron Szajman, Hope you are feeling better soon! Abe & Goldie Miedzygorski & Family

MAZEL TOV!

Uncle Fred, In honour of your 70th Birthday. Sue Albersheim & Steve, Benjy & Ami Barer, Selma & Eugene Albersheim

Flora Asiyote, Mazel Tov! Happy Birthday. Frances Hoyd

Rabbi Avi & Hadley Baumol, Mazel Tov! On the birth of your Daughter. Jody & Harvey Dales, Izak & Lili Folk

Kelly Belogus, Happy 80th Birthday! Leo & Jocy Lowy

Nat Cannon, Mazel Tov! On your 90th Birthday. Herb & Leah Mills, Izzy, Jeff & Murray Fraeme

Mr. & Mrs. Sam Cotsman, Mazel Tov! On your 60th Wedding Anniversary. Leo & Jocy Lowy, Susan & Joe Stein

Jody & Harvey Dales, Here's to the next 10! Mazel Tov! Corry, Gaston & Family, Allan & Nadine Landa, Devra Epstein & Mark Slobin, Sheryl & Saul Kahn

David Ehrlich, Mazel Tov! & Best wishes on your 75th Birthday. Laverne Gelmon, Dr. Allan & Sally Tobe, Derek & Marilyn Glazer, William & Adella Moscovitz, Regina & David Feldman, Rosalee L. Hardin, Molly Ross, Leo & Jocy Lowy, Jack & Tammy Rosenblatt, Robbie & Gloria Waisman, Esther & Larry Brandt, Aron Szajman, Donna & Larry Moscovitz, Stephen & Lilian Bernstein, Ben & Rita Akselrod

David Feldman, Mazel Tov! Happy Birthday. Lola Apfelbaum, Leo & Jocy Lowy

Regina & David Feldman, Congratulations on your 51st Wedding Anniversary. Jody & Harvey Dales, Abe & Goldie Miedzygorski & Family

Pearl Fishman, Mazel Tov! On your special Birthday. Margaret & Jack Fraeme, Izzy, Jeff & Murray Fraeme

Adam Fishman, We wish you a bright & happy

future! Izzy, Jeff & Murray Fraeme

Jan Fishman, Happy Birthday! Izzy, Jeff & Murray Fraeme

Jack & Margaret Fraeme, Looking forward to getting together for many more happy occasions! Izzy, Jeff & Murray Fraeme

Bessie Goldstich, In honour of your 85th Birthday. Thyrza Cohen

Michael Hayden, On your 50th Birthday. Rosa & Elie Ferera

Paul Heller, Mazel Tov! On your Birthday. Edith Bellows, Wanda Melamed, Lillian Boraks-Nemetz, Daeniela & Steven Berne, Mary Steiner

Elsie Herman, You are one of a kind & I'll see you at your 100th Birthday! Izzy, Jeff & Murray Fraeme

Jonathan Hollander, In honour of your Bar Mitzvah! Susan & Joe Stein

Corinne Zimmerman & Jonathan Fetsinger, Mazel Tov! On the birth of your Daughter. Harvey, Jody, Rebecca, Arie & Eli Dales

Diane Kurland, In honour of your special Birthday. Dr. Allan & Sally Tobe

Errol Lipschitz, On your 50th Birthday. Rosa & Elie Ferera

Paul Meyer, In honour of your special Birthday. The Board & Staff of the VHEC, Gloria, Gerri & the Survivor Drop-in Group

Eadie Meyer, Wishing you a very happy Birthday! Paul Meyer

Prof. Shia Moser, In honour of your 95th Birthday! Dr. Ralph & Rose Yorsh

Liza Perel, Mazel Tov! On the birth of your Son. Izzy Fraeme & Family

Donations received after December 21 will appear in the next issue of Zachor

Jack & Henia Perel, Mazel Tov! On the birth of your Grandson. Izzy Fraeme & Family

Herb & Barbara Silber, Mazel Tov! On your very special Anniversary. Irv Wolak & Joe & Susan Stein

Dr. Serge Vanry, Mazel Tov! On your honour. Mollie & Len Korsch, The Board & Staff of the VHEC

Irene Watts, Congratulations! On your review in the Vancouver Sun. The Board & Staff of the VHEC

Harvey Weiss, In honour of your special Birthday! Auntie Lil, Carol & Hall, Judy & Arthur Leiren

Meta Zalkowitz, Wishing health & happiness on your Birthday! Shirley & Herb Fitterman

SYMPATHY

In Memory of Klara Forrai. Norman Westergaard & Birgit Gladstone, Izzy Fraeme, Mollie & Len Korsch

Lenny Babins, With Deepest Sympathy on the loss of your Brother, Ronnie. Leah & Abe Fox, Ben & Rose Folk, Izak & Lili Folk, Rose Lewin & Family

Susan Babins, Our Deepest Sympathy on the loss of your Husband, Ronnie. Ben & Rose Folk

Dr. Leon Bass, In Memory of Mary. Robert & Marilyn Krell, the Board & Staff of the VHEC

Susan Bluman, In Memory of a great woman, Barbara. Ronnie & Barry Tessler, Sarah Richmond, Lisa Kafka, Lola Apfelbaum, Regina & David Feldman, Robert Seligman, Edwina & Paul Heller, Sue, Lee, Mark & David Cohene, William & Lola Mendelson, Edith Bellows, Drs. Isaak & Bluma Tischler, Robbie & Gloria Waisman, Sharon & Irving Kates, Leon & Evelyn Kahn, Alina Wydra, Lil & Joe Radman & Family, Marilyn & Bernie Hooper, Sheryl & Saul Kahn, Harry & Gloria Harris, Judith Growe

Bob Bluman & Family, In Memory of your beloved sister, Barbara. Sue, Lee, Mark & David Cohene

Eve Camerman, Very sorry for your great loss. Harold, Cathy, Adam, Alisa & Nicholas Folk, Izak & Lili Folk, Susan Bluman

Kathy Forrai Dabies, In Memory of your Mother, Klara. B. Ruth Kliman

Bernard Pinsky & Daniella Givon, Our Deepest Sympathy on the loss of your Father. Sam Shamash & Tracy Penner

Naomi Wolfe & Family, Our heartfelt condolences on your loss. Harry & Gloria Harris.

Irena & Sasha & Family, In memory of Rolf Gutman, a special friend we will always remember. Rosa & Elie Ferera

Regina & David Feldman, Remembering Gail, on her second year Yortzeit. Jody & Harvey Dales

Norman Gold, My Deepest Sympathies on the loss of your beloved Mother. Leslie Spiro, Anita Shafran & Family

Lola Haber, In Memory of Sam. Chaim & Susie Micner & Family, Sylvia Eibschutz, Hannelore & Reinhold Zubke, Hall & Carol Leiren, Jenny & Jack Rootman

Serge & Elinor Haber, Our Deepest Sympathy on the loss of your, Mother. Shoshana & Moshe Fidelman, Frances Hoyd, Lili & Izak Folk, Isabelle & Charles Diamond, Abe & Goldie Miedzygorski & Family

Terry & Carol Klein, In Memory of your dear Daughter, Marlee. Ruth & Cecil Sigal

Lil Mallin, Our Deepest Sympathy on the loss of your Brother, Arthur. Edith & Norman Sugarman

Janos Mate & Family, In Memory of Judy (Juci) Mate. Freda Ariella Muscovitch, The Board & Staff of the VHEC, Frieda Miller & Daniel Shapiro, Sol & Shirley Kort, Irving & Noreen Glassner, Laura & Brian Weintraub, Andor & Judith Snider, Beverley Kort, Raymond, Lanie & Jared Schachter and Ilana Winrob, Hannah Hirt, Joy & Jerry Shapiro, Alex Rejto, Agi Rejto, Kathy Bilinsky & Family, Deborah Snider & Eric Fiedler, Miri, Larry, Oren & Kayla Garaway, Steve chacter, David & Valerie Asmoucha

George & Dani Mate, In Memory of Judy Mate.

Rachel & Herschel Wosk, Judy & Andor Snider, Art Hister, Phyllis Simon & Family, Barb Winberg

Gabor Mate & Families, In Memory of Judy. Myrna & Barry Rabinowitz

Gerri London & Family, With very Deepest Sympathy on the loss of your dear Aunt, Sylvia. Dorothy Goldenberg, Alana Hirsh

Gaby Minnes-Brandes & Family, On the loss of your Mother & Grandmother. Frieda Miller & Daniel Shapiro

Bob Bluman & Nancy Newman, In remembrance of your Sister, Barbara. Brahm Lerner & Family

Judy Pace, In Memory of your dear Father, Kurt Klau. Ruth & Cecil Sigal

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Parker, In Memory of your Grandmother. The Kohen Family

Helen Pinsky, Our Deepest Sympathy on the loss of your Father. Sam Shamash & Tracy Penner, Sari & Mark Weintraub, Shanie Levin

Max & Leona Pinsky & Family, Our Deepest Sympathy on the loss of your Father. Charlotte & Jeff Bell, Sam Shamash & Tracy Penner, Drs. Isaak & Bluma Tischler, Myrna Rabinowitz

Bernard Pinsky & Family, In Memory of your Father. Sari & Mark Weintraub, Shelley & Perry Seidelman & Family, Tom & Deborah Satanove

Sylvia Polsky, Our Deepest Sympathies on the loss of your beloved Husband. Esther & Larry Brandt

Agi Rejto, In loving Memory of my Mother, Magda Rejto. Agi Rejto & Marian Collins

Toby Rubin, Sorry we missed your Father's unveiling. Jody & Harvey Dales

Lilly Webber-Harris, In loving Memory of our dear friend & Sister-In-Law. Elie & Rosa Ferera

Gerald & Caryl Webner, In Memory of Sarah Ada Webner. Leon & Evelyn Kahn

Sam Zalkow, In Memory of your dear Mother, Meta. Ruth & Cecil Sigal

NEW VHCS ENDOWMENT FUND

The Board of the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre is pleased to announce the establishment of the Bluman Family Holocaust Endowment Fund generously established by local survivor and VHEC Board Member, Susan Bluman to honour the memory of Nathan Bluman, a beloved husband, father and grandfather and Barbara Bluman, a beloved mother, daughter and sister.



Susan & Nathan Bluman

Susan and Nathan Bluman were born in 1920 in Warsaw, Poland. After the German occupation of the western part of Poland, in December 1939, Susan got a chance to escape to the eastern part, occupied by the Soviets. There she joined her boyfriend Nathan who was already there in the city of Lvov. They were married and together they stole across the border into Lithuania.

Susan and Nathan were among the lucky few that managed to get transit visas to Japan from the now famous Chuine Sugihara, the Japanese Consul stationed in Kaunas, Lithuania. In January 1941 they left Lithuania crossing the Soviet Union by the Trans Siberian railroad and then boarded a Japanese freighter for Kobe, Japan. They stayed in Kobe for six months and thanks to Nathan's relentless efforts, he was issued one of the 25 Canadian visas offered to professionals during the war.

Susan and Nathan landed and settled in Vancouver in 1941. They both worked and raised their family of three children, George, Barbara and Robert. A year after their arrival Nathan joined the Canadian Army and after the war, returned to university, graduating from UBC. Nathan worked for the Health Protection Branch monitoring the use of pesticides across Canada. In 1977 he was awarded a Silver Medal by the Canadian Government for

his outstanding and devoted service. Nathan passed away on April 7, 1986.

Their daughter Barbara, graduated from UBC in 1975, in the faculty of law, and in 1976 was called to the bar. Barbara was one of BC's first female labour arbitrators. Barbara was a member of the Medical Services Commission, served on the Board of the Vancouver Public Library, the Board of the Contemporary Art Gallery, the BC Paramedics Licensing Board and was a member of the Worker's Compensation Board. Barbara participated in 2nd generation projects such as the Gesher Project and was one of the organizers of the Symposium on the Nuremberg Trials. She fought a courageous battle with cancer for two years, passing away shortly after her 51st birthday on September 8th, 2001. Barbara is survived by her three children Michael, Danielle and Sam.

This fund was established to honour the memory of Nathan and Barbara and to continue the Bluman family's commitment to social justice issues and Holocaust edu-



Barbara Bluman

cation. Susan was honoured for her long involvement in the Holocaust Education Centre with a Life Fellows award in 2001. This is an open fund and contributions to the Bluman Family Fund can be made in the name of Nathan and Barbara Bluman at any time. The capital of this fund will be held in perpetuity, with the interest generated going to support educational programs, lectures, exhibitions and other educational activities carried out by the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre.

DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Edith Gluck-Vizer: A Memoir, Donated by the author, Edith Gluck-Vizer

Diary of a Man in Despair. Denying the Holocaust. The Final Solution. Upon the Doorposts. Lest Innocent Blood be Shed. The Car with the Yellow Star. After Auschwitz. The Nazi Connection. Everyday Remembrance Diary. Shades of Right. Under the Wing of An Angel. Zvi. Escape from the Nazis. A Conspiracy of Complicity and Complacency. The Scrolls of Auschwitz. The Saving Remnant. The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. What Was It Like in the Concentration Camp at Dachau. Donated by the Isaac Waldman Library

Diary of Anne Frank (CD). Donated by Judith Forst

Auschwitz Trials. Donated by Emmi Bonhoeffer

Light from the Ashes, by Peter Suedfeld. Donated by the author, Peter Suedfeld

The Nazi War on Cancer, by Robert R Proctor. Donated by the Publisher

Into the Arms of Strangers, by Harris & Oppenheimer. Maus I & II, by Art Spiegelman. Scapegoat, by Andrea Dworkin. Donated by Molly Ross

Hitler's World View: A Blueprint for Power, by Eberhard Jackel. Donated by Fraidie Martz

The Road to Auschwitz, by Hedi Fried. Donated by Wendy Oberlander

Anti-Semitism, by Roberto Finzi. Donated by the Publisher

From Thessaloniki to Auschwitz and Back, by Erika Kounio Amariglio. Donated by the Publisher

Suddenly Jewish, by Barbara Kessel. Donated by the Publisher

Rescued images, by Ruth Jacobsen. Donated by the Publisher

The Jews of Siedlce. Donated by Michael Halber & Judith Garfinkel

The Last of the Just, by Andre Schwarz-Bart. Donated by Michel Mielnicki

Index to "The New York Times" Articles on the Holocaust. Donated by Queensborough Community College

Holocaust Oral History Manual. Donated by Yaffa Eliach

Tearing the Silence, by Ursula Hegi. Donated by Sally Rogow

Jerusalem Lyric Trio (CD)