

Tel. (604) 264-0499
Fax (604) 264-0497
e-mail: holedctr@cyberstore.ca

Zachor

"Remember"

The Newsletter of the Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society

50 - 950 W. 41st Ave., Vancouver, BC V5Z 2N7

No. 2, April, 1997

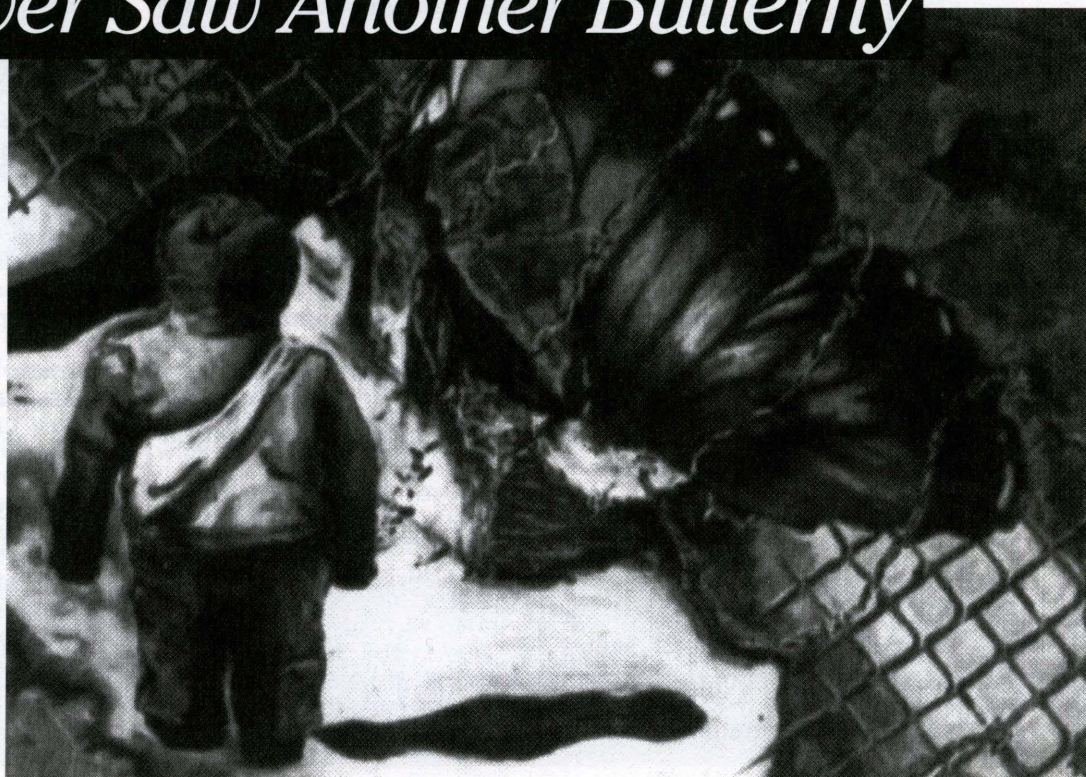


*For seven weeks I've lived in here,
Penned up inside this ghetto
But I have found my people here.
The dandelions call to me
And the white chestnut candles in the court
Only I never saw another butterfly*

*That butterfly was the last one.
Butterflies don't live in here,
In the ghetto.*

I Never Saw Another Butterfly

An Art Exhibit
by the students
of Barb and Ed
Sunday of Sentinel
& Tupper Secondary
schools.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

The Nuremberg Mock Trial School Program Receives "BC Eliminates Racism Together Award" for 1997.

The Mock Trials School Program, developed by the Holocaust Centre's Education Coordinator Frieda Miller, with the assistance of Evelyn Neaman, Raymond D. Schachter and Mark N. Wexler, was recently honoured with an award from the Ministry Responsible for Multiculturalism. In ceremonies held at the Plaza 500 Hotel in Vancouver on March 21st, the "Day for the Elimination of Racism," Attorney General Ujjal Dosanjh presented the 1st annual BC Eliminates Racism Together Awards.

This award recognizes our organization's outstanding achievement in working towards the elimination of racism. The Minister stated that our project showed strong collaboration with schools, community and education agencies and has widely impacted the community. Our thanks, once again to the Nuremberg docents who delivered this program: Pat Auron, Susan Bluman, Charlotte Cohen, Jody Dales, Mikki Dorn, Fay Davis, Ellen Delinsky, Anne Derek, Mariette Doduck, Noel Forst (Scheduling), Mary Jane Frith, Jennifer Gasoi, Sheryl Kahn, Elaine Klein, Ethel Kofsky, Diane Lepawsky, Lani Levine, Jack Micner, Kirsten Nichols, Estelle Paget, Sally Rogow, Leonore Freiman, David Reed and Heather Wolfe.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THESE EVENTS

Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society
Annual General Meeting: Monday, June 16th, 7:30 pm, in the Holocaust Education Centre. All members are encouraged to come and new members are welcome.

Taking to Jewish Children about the Holocaust, Talinud Torah Parents' Group: Panel discussion at the HEC, May 1 at 7:00 pm.

To the **On the Edge of the Abyss Docents: Appreciation, Discussion & Debriefing** will be on Thursday, May 14 at 7:00 pm at the Centre.

The next Board meeting is also on Thursday, May 14 at 7:30 pm

MAY 7 & 8: 22nd Annual **High School Symposium on the Holocaust** at UBC

BRavo!

TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

On The Edge of the Abyss - Opening, Nomi Kaplan; Program Development, Coleen Gold & Bob Steele; Docents, Sally Rogow, Noel Forst, Sheryl Kahn, Fay Davis, Jody Dales, Iris Dayson, Craig McAdie, Kirsten Lind-Pedersen, June Earnshaw, Lani Levine, Charlotte Cohen, Alex Buckman; Survivor-speakers, Robbie Waisman, Bronia Sonnenschein, David Reed, Irene Kirstein-Watts, Peter Parker, Marion Cassirer, Mariette Doduck, Bente Thomsen, Lillian Nemetz, Rob Krell, Ruth Sigal, Serge Vanry, Alex Buckman, Jack Benisz, Anne Derek, Louise Sorensen.

Survivor Drop In - Lillian Nemetz, Irene Kirsten-Watts, Anita Gans, Louise Sorensen, Margot Howell, Mark Elster, Andre Blitz.

Special Projects - Arlene Kaplinsky, Irit Sorokin, Ruth Yates, Nina Rhodes, Janice Bearg, Claudia Cornwall, Noel Forst, David Zack, Matthew Kofsky, Alex Buckman, Cathy Golden.

Library, Archive & Clippings File - Diane Csizmadia, Anna Vaughan, Theresa Ho, Reg Sackmann, Ruth Fraser, Dan Smith, Hayden Kremer, Josh Tessaro, Dan Smith.

Zachor Mailing - Archie & Charna Shapiro, Hayden Kremer, Ilana Winrob, Dan Smith, Ethel Kofsky, Rome Fox..

Technical Support & Rescue - Hartley Odwak, Craig McAdie.

From the Cover...

I NEVER SAW ANOTHER BUTTERFLY MAY 10 TO JULY 31, 1997

This student exhibit of original art is based on the poem "The Butterfly," by Pavel Friedman. The exhibit is organized and produced by Sentinel Secondary art teacher Barbara Sunday and Tupper Secondary Art teacher Ed Sunday. Many of the students from Sentinel were participants in the High School Symposium on the Holocaust held at UBC, an experience which greatly added to the depth of their understanding and their development of imagery. Last year the play, *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* was staged by the theatre department at Tupper and the students used this experience in creating their images.

Cover images by Nicole Koshure and Danielle Nesbit.

Zachor "Remember"
Tel: (604) 264-0900
Fax: (604) 264-0912
An affiliate of the Vancouver Holocaust Education Society 47-545 West 41st Ave., Vancouver, BC V6L 2W7 CA Zachor 1996

Editor: Roberta Kremer
Layout & Design: Leanne Nash
Copy Editing: Graham Sharpe

In This Issue...

Yom Hashoah: Remembering for the future	3
An Evening with Gerda Weissman Klein	4
One Survivor Remembers film review	5

No Longer Alone	6-7
Library news and reviews	8-9
Cards and donations	10-11
From the Board	12

YOM HASHOAH COMMUNITY COMMEMORATION

REMEMBERING ... FOR THE FUTURE

This year the Yom HaShoah Commemorative evening takes place on Sunday, May 4th at Beth Israel Synagogue. As children of survivors and co-chairs of Yom HaShoah 1997, we encourage the entire community to share this solemn occasion in memory of those who perished in the Holocaust and show our respect for those who survived but endured so much. This year's commemorative evening will focus on *Remembering...for the future*. This day of commemoration has different meanings for different people, whether you are an adult survivor, a child survivor, a child of survivors or a member of the community. The legacy of the Holocaust is multigenerational and in our view, has largely shaped modern Jewry as it exists today. On Yom HaShoah survivors commemorate and remember family and friends who perished in the Holocaust;

The following is part of David Ehrlich's talk at the 1996 Yom Hashoah Commemorative Evening

On this day Jewish people all over the world, survivors in particular, gather in synagogues and Jewish centers to pay homage to all the millions who were brutally murdered in the greatest tragedy in the long history of the Jewish people. To remember is to open the wounds and feel the pain. Jewish people are good at remembering – we have a lot to remember – slavery in Egypt, destruction of the temples, the Spanish Inquisition, and in more recent times, the pogroms in Eastern Europe from which some of our parents and grandparents ran away.

Having survived the Holocaust as a teenager, my biggest surprise and disappointment is that the world has learned little from the Holocaust. Racism and "ethnic cleansing" have been going on most of the world's continents since the end of the Second World War. The lesson of what racism can do when it goes unchecked has not been learned. On this day we must condemn the perpetrators, criticize those who stood by and did nothing and praise and recognize those who helped save Jewish lives at great danger to themselves and their families.

There is little need for me to recite

children of survivors commemorate and reflect upon a past and a history that, in fact, we never lived but has possessed us in ways that we are not yet fully aware. We pause at this time to recall with deep pain the darkest chapter of our history — we ask that you join us in this reflection. ✡



*Ethel Kofsky and Cathy Golden,
Co-chairs, Yom Hashoah 1997*

7:30 p.m., Sunday, May 4, 1997
Beth Israel Synagogue
4350 Oak Street
Candle lighting in memory of the six million



Marking the tenth anniversary of the memorial

Memorial Service and Unveiling of Names
12 noon, Monday, May 5, 1997

Sponsored by:
VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE
JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER VANCOUVER
CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

all the Nazi atrocities – they are well known and well documented. Instead, I would like to relate a personal story.

Recently, we went to visit the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles. I did some research on the second floor where all the information is catalogued on computer. I searched for some information on the third concentration camp that I was at and where two of my brothers had previously died – one of them in the hospital. I discovered that the so-called hospital was without doctors, nurses, or medications. It was a facade and a sham. Prisoners who were taken to this 'hospital' were given lethal injections. No one ever walked out of there alive.

There is a need for all kinds to speak out and tell their stories in the hope that others or future generations will not be victimized as we were. Most survivors of the Holocaust are in that category. We remember well, but remembering is not enough. We must also educate the young. It is important to counter Holocaust deniers, especially now

with the advance of the information super highway, where deniers and racists can poison young minds so quickly and easily. For a survivor to have people minimize the Holocaust, or deny it altogether, is like losing their loved ones for the second time.

We are fortunate in Vancouver that we have a jump-start on Holocaust education. Our Centre is well-equipped and well-staffed and most of our survivors, in spite of their pain, are ready and willing to educate. Let us hope that they will keep educating and that the community will continue to support the various projects of the Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society and other community organizations involved in the fight against racism.

Racism is alive and doing well. Survivors alone cannot do it by themselves. But if everybody does their share, we might see a more tolerant world for our children and grandchildren. ✡

David Ehrlich is a survivor of the Hungarian deportations, Auschwitz and other concentration camps.

ONE SURVIVOR REMEMBERS

Gerda Weissmann Klein

1996 ACADEMY AWARD-WINNING FILM TO PREMIERE AT THE NORMAN ROTHSTEIN THEATRE

Interview by Peter Caulfield

Thursday, May 22nd at 7:30 p.m. Gerda Weissmann Klein will present the premiere screening of the film *One Survivor Remembers* at the Norman Rothstein Theatre. The Academy Award-winning film (1996) is based on Klein's memoir, *All But My Life*. The special event is jointly sponsored by the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre and State of Israel Bonds.

The thirty-minute documentary film, produced by Home Box Office (HBO), tells how Gerda, only a young girl at the time, clung to life during the Holocaust. After three years performing slave labour for the Nazis, and three months on a "death march" from Poland to Czechoslovakia in the depths of winter, she was liberated in 1945 by an American soldier whom she later married.

Complementing Gerda's voice-over and on-camera narration is a mixture of motion pictures and contemporary and period still



Gerda - Age 16, 1940



Gerda age 21, 1945

photographs. *One Survivor Remembers* is tastefully low-key, in keeping with the gravity of its subject, relying on the drama inherent in Gerda's story for its emotional impact.

The genesis of *One Survivor Remembers* was HBO's wish to produce a short film to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the 1945 liberation of the concentration camps. After watching the video-taped survivors' testimonies that are on view at the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., HBO asked Gerda to be the subject of its film.

"My husband Kurt and I had mixed feelings in the beginning," admitted Gerda. "We were concerned HBO might distort the story and make it melodramatic."

After being reassured by an HBO producer, the Kleins gave their approval. They are happy to report that they are very pleased with the results. "They did a good job," says Gerda.

"It turned out to be an excellent production."



ONLY 50 TICKETS LEFT!

An Evening With
Gerda Weissmann Klein

and the Vancouver Premiere of

ONE SURVIVOR REMEMBERS

Thursday, May 22nd at 7:30 pm in the Norman Rothstein Theatre
Reception to follow in the Holocaust Education Centre.

Tickets are **\$10.00** and can be purchased from
the Holocaust Education Centre, 264-0499
or from State of Israel Bonds at 266-7210.

This special event is made possible with the very generous support of Morris J & Dena Wosk

FILM REVIEW... ONE SURVIVOR REMEMBERS REVIEWED BY PETER CAULFIELD

Holocaust memoirs "can't be written in language in which events took place," says Gerda Weissmann Klein.

There is a watch lying on the green carpet of the living room of my childhood. The hands seem to stand motionless at 9:10, freezing time when it happened. There would be a past only, the future uncertain, time had stopped for the present. I did not know that an invisible curtain had parted and that I walked on an unseen stage to play a part in a tragedy that was to last six years.

All But My Life is the story of how Gerda Weissmann, a teenager from a small town in rural Poland, survived the Holocaust. The book is based entirely on her own memories. "It was an excellent cathartic experience," she told Zachor in a recent interview. "I found it very healing. I recommend it to any Holocaust survivor who hasn't yet recorded his or her experience."

All But My Life, which is in its fortieth printing, was first published in 1957. Gerda began writing the book in the early 1950s, several years after she and her husband, Kurt Klein, had left bloody Europe and moved to Buffalo, New York.

Gerda believes that recording Holocaust memoirs can only be done in a language other than the one in which the events took place. She says that recording her experiences in English allowed her to put some emotional distance between herself and the hell she went through.

"I started writing in German, which is my first language," explained Gerda, "but it didn't feel right. Writing about the Holocaust in German just cut too close to the bone. So I decided to try it in English."

She began dictating in English to a friend who made a typewritten transcription of Gerda's words. "Once I started, it all burst out of me. I couldn't stop."

Then I spotted Zeloski coming down the street. I ran to him. He was hard of hearing. I pulled his sleeve.

"Zeloski," I said. "I want some rolls for Arthur. He is going away, you know."

"He is going away?" he asked, stupefied. Zeloski had always adored Arthur. Whatever Arthur did was right in Zeloski's eyes...

He gave me some rolls, and I gave him the money.

"Too bad," he said, "the boy was so bright."

Shaking his old head, he started shuffling on his way.

"What do you mean 'He was'?" I shouted at him.

"You won't see him again," he said.

When the Nazis invaded Poland in September, 1939, the Weissmann family consisted of fifteen-year-old Gerda, her nineteen-year-old brother, Arthur, and her parents Julius and Helene. Six years later, only Gerda remained alive. When she was finally liberated by the U.S. Army in 1945, she was half-dead in an abandoned factory in Czechoslovakia, barely able to move.

As we passed through the downstairs hall we heard feeble voices calling from behind a closed door. A few of us tried the door and went in. What we saw was sickening. Several living skeletons, clad in rags that crawled with vermin, stretched out begging hands. Some had only one leg, or were maimed in other ways. Their faces were drawn, their eyepits burned feverishly. They told us they had come from camps where they had become ill or had been injured in accidents. Most of those who had lost limbs had been working in a quarry. They knew they were now going to Auschwitz to be gassed and cremated. They were useful no longer to the glorious Third Reich.

Gerda says she was grateful for the help of her liberator-husband Kurt with the book. "He's an excellent editor, with an impeccable command of the English language," explains Gerda. "Both his professional advice and emotional support were invaluable."

"All assemble!" the voices of the SS rang out.

For some moments we stood ready. Then we heard screams and frightened begging from the forest. Three SS men had rounded up fourteen girls in the forest. Now they lined them up in front of us. The commandant took out his pistol. The girls screamed. The commandant fired again and again and the girls fell, one on top of the other.

Although the Holocaust and the Second World War ended long ago, says Gerda, she believes her story is still relevant today.

"It's important to not only remember the past, but to have vigilance for the future. In memory of those who died in the camps or on the death marches, we can all do something now for the thousands of people in need, those who don't have enough to eat, or a blanket to keep them warm at night."

The loss of my brother is hardest to bear. The anguished uncertainty of how he died and where his bones rest comes back at the most unexpected times. Even now, at seventy, I still look for my big brother to shield me, to fight my battles for me. Somehow I am still seeking him, in the naive belief that, if only I could find him, he would be able to restore that lost world.

The Promise of Spring - The Holocaust and Renewal

by Gerda Weissmann Klein

Reviewed by Shalom Pre-School Early Childhood Educators: Roslyn Kushner Belle, Debbie Lewin, Carol Plosky, Jane Stoller

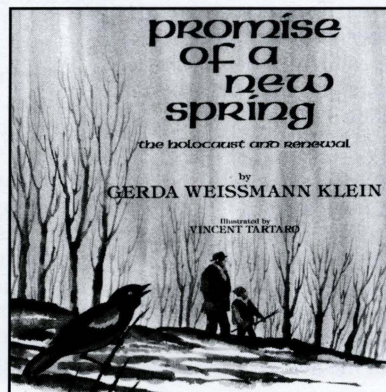
This strong yet gentle story captures the essence of the telling of the Holocaust honestly and through analogy, to young children.

It starts by relating through short clear sentences and photography, the incidents that occurred prior to the Holocaust, during Hitler's reign.

The reality of the devastation is vividly illustrated and words

such as murder, killing, evil and suffering will invite discussion between the reader and listener alike.

For many young children, the concepts will be out of reach, developmentally, yet the visual impact will remain as a foundation for future discussions. The analogy takes the



child through the life cycle of nature and compares the destruction of the forest and its inhabitants by fire, which was started by evil men to the world of the concentration camps and their fires. This segment of the book is more easily related to by the young child as it entwines reality

and fantasy, using animals to depict real life situations.

I believe, and so do my colleagues that this would be a book for a parent/ caregiver and child to experience together, rather than a book to be read aloud to a group of pre-school children. It is a book that requires a special relationship between reader and listener, and a comfort level with answering the questions that would come as the book was shared.

It is important to note that each "part" of this book can stand on its own - for reading and discussion with a young child. Because there is some ambiguity in the sequencing of the story, which could cause confusion in the relating of the story, we recommend that the reader read the story before presenting it to a young child, in order to be fully prepared.

The book drives home the job of the survivor and of humanity in its entirety - to remember - in order to ensure "never again."



"NO LONGER ALONE"

JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

By Leo Vogel

In 1992, after an absence of nearly forty years, I returned to Holland, the country of my birth. The main reasons for my visit were to research my past and to renew contact with Alie Reimerink, the daughter of my wartime rescue family.

Alie was one of three children of the Protestant family who, at great peril to themselves, hid me during the war. The Reimerink family lived in Limburg, at the southernmost tip of Holland, a mere stone's throw away from Germany. I arrived on their doorstep in the spring of 1943, when I was not yet 3 years old. I continued to live with this family until I was almost 10. The responsibility of caring for me often fell on Alie's shoulders, as she was 4 years older than I. Sadly, I had lost contact with her when in 1953, I immigrated to Canada.

Immediately after the war, some children who had been in hiding were quickly reunited with surviving family members. This was not so in my case. Of my family, only an aunt, her husband, and their two children survived the war. The Nazis had murdered everyone else in my family, including my parents. A large extended family of over 50 people – all murdered!

In 1946, as soon as it became physically possible for her, my aunt initiated efforts to have me moved back to Amsterdam, so that I could be re-connected with its Jewish Community. Although the Reimerinks were in favor of me having contact with my Jewish background, they nevertheless resisted this move. They feared that once I was transferred to Amsterdam, I would be placed in an orphanage, since no other foster home was readily available. It had always been the hope of my rescue family that my own parents would return someday to take me home. Furthermore, they had taken tremendous risks on my behalf and were reluctant to give me up. I, of course, considered them to be my family. A family who loved me, and with whom I felt secure. I wanted nothing to do with my aunt, who was a complete stranger to me.

The decision of my fate was left to the justice system. After several years of legal battles the courts decided in favor of my aunt. At the age of 10, I was taken from my second family, but not to live with my aunt.

As feared, I was placed in the Jewish boys' and girls' orphanage in Amsterdam. I had become a lost, lonely boy, angry with my aunt, and angry at being a Jew. As far as I was concerned, to be a Jew was the cause of many of my misfortunes.

Three years later, after a succession of trials at a number of different foster homes, I was eventually placed with a Jewish family who had plans to move to Canada. Since I was deathly afraid of another Holocaust, a potential move to Canada suited me just fine. It was also an opportunity to finally get out of the orphanage.



Leo Vogel

From the very beginning it was clear that these new foster parents were abusive. However, I was prepared to put up with their meanness, rather than stay in Europe. Once we arrived in Canada, things quickly deteriorated. To continue to live with this family had become unbearable for me. I was threatened with a return to Holland and the orphanage. Luckily I had met another Dutch Jewish family in Montreal, who offered me their home. I lived with the Polak family until I moved out on my own.

For a few years after my move to Canada, I continued to have some contact with the Reimerink family. However, after Father and Mother Reimerink died, I lost all contact. Then, in the early '90's, I began to feel an urgency to reconnect with Alie. In many ways, she had been a surrogate mother to me. I knew that she had married and had moved from the small town in Limburg to another city in Holland. However, I had no idea where to find her.

On the off chance that a letter might reach her, I wrote to her at the last available address. On the envelope, I asked the postmaster to forward this letter to any other known addresses. To my surprise, I received a return letter from Alie within a couple of weeks! Interestingly, she had also begun to search for me at about the same time I had started to look for her.

Once we began to correspond, it quickly became evident that I needed to return to Holland, so we could meet face to face. We had so many things to talk about. She was, after all, like family to me. Furthermore, I had become painfully aware that I knew very little about my own past; the information I did have was fragmented and sketchy. Alie knew a lot more about me and I was looking

forward to seeing her again. Since I am also a long distance runner, I decided to combine this trip with the running of the Rotterdam Marathon.

Nevertheless, I was very apprehensive about returning to Holland. My memories of my life there were mostly unpleasant. Also, I was afraid of feelings that might surface which I would not be able to handle. For most of my life I had avoided dealing with the emotions of having been deprived of my own family. I hid behind the pretense that nothing extraordinary had happened to me. It was difficult for me to acknowledge the reality of what the Germans had actually done to me – they had killed my family! The emotional pain of this, when occasionally I allowed myself to feel it, was just too intense and I had to push it back. At times I felt like a freak for keeping my feelings so deeply hidden, but that was the only safe way. Once in a while the pain would find its way out, though, mostly in a variety of different physical symptoms. At the age of 50, I was a man still too frightened to look at his own past. Frightened that the horrors might repeat themselves at any time. Fearful that my children might suffer the same fate. A crippling fear!

At the same time as I was re-establishing my connection with Alie, two other events occurred, which helped me to find the courage to begin shedding my fear of facing the past. The first of these happened early one morning when I awakened to the clock radio and heard Rob Krell asking for Dutch child survivors to contact him if they wanted to record their testimonials. After weeks of deliberation and, with my heart pressed against my front teeth, I eventually phoned Rob. He interviewed me and skillfully helped me to lose some of the fear of talking about my past. The second big change came when, at Rob's suggestion, I joined the Holocaust Child Survivor Group in Vancouver.

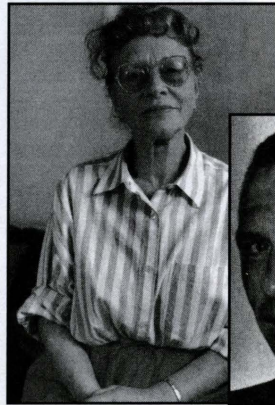
It was not until later, after I had attended a few of the Child Survivor Group meetings, that I began to realize I was not alone in my reticence and denial about my feelings, of what had happened to me as a child. Nor was my delayed grief reaction so uncommon. Thoughts and feelings which I viewed as 'unusual' within myself, were feelings commonly shared with other group members. Each of us, in his or her own unique way, has dealt differently with the memories of this black past; attesting to our strength as Survivors. During the last few years, perhaps because of our age – we are all now in our 50s and 60s – the need to put our emotional house in order has grown in importance. Maybe as we learn to understand more about ourselves, we will

"NO LONGER ALONE"



get better at explaining to our children how our pasts have affected their lives. In one way or another, we have each tried to gain a perspective on what happened to us, about events which were beyond understanding and beyond reason. As children we were denied a reasonable childhood; we were subjected to many miseries, yet we each surfaced as Victors.

With the emotional support of the Survivor Group and of my family, I had the courage in 1992 to go to Holland to search out my past. My trip was intensely emotional. I discovered that, as a child, I was deeply cared for, first by my own parents, and then by the Reimerink family. I discovered acts of unbelievable bravery, desperation and super-human faith that this hell would one day end. I heard stories about a little boy who was very lovable, and who received this love, even as the giving of that love could have meant instant annihilation for the care-giving Christian family. I found out how my life was saved by an underground organization known as the N.V. Group (Naamloze Vennootschap: 'Nameless Group'). I learned, with great pain, how the organizer of this group, Joop Woortman (underground alias Theo de Bruin), was deported and murdered shortly after I was safely placed with the Reimerinks. I felt an immense heaviness of heart when I looked at the photograph of this man, taken nearly 48 years ago, and saw his youth. I met the



Semmy



Joop

elderly woman, Semmy Riekerk, who was Joop's young wife, and to whom fell the awesome responsibility of continuing his mission after his death. I felt an instant love for this amazingly beautiful woman, and I was deeply grateful that, after more than 45 years, I was able to say "Thank you for my life!" She in turn did not think that she deserved such intense gratitude. She said that she only did what had to be done. She understood the desperate need of a dying people and, together with other like minded Dutch, set up a system to save as many Jewish children as possible. Sitting in her living room one evening, she showed me a photo album of some of the children

saved. On the second page of this album was a picture of a three year old child whose name was not known—it was a picture of ME! This photograph is now one of my most prized possessions.

The N.V. group managed to save around three hundred children. Many, many thousands of other children were not so lucky. Of those rescued, some experienced untold atrocities at the hands of the "rescuers." Others, like myself, were very fortunate and found ourselves in the homes of loving, courageous families.

During that visit to Holland, I was able to get a copy of the official file kept on me, which was started immediately after the war by L'Ezrath Ha Jeled, the Jewish Child Welfare Agency in Amsterdam. It describes in great detail over 116 pages, the struggle that took place between the State, the Child Welfare Agency, my Aunt and the Reimerinks over the issue of having me brought up as a Jewish child. Page after page of notes describes a desperately unhappy boy who just wanted to stay with his family. A boy whose Jewishness continued to cause him untold pain and agony.

In another place I found a newspaper article written in 1950, which proclaimed a

continued on page 10

Song of the Hidden Child

Colours of nightmare and evil sound
I did not sing and I could not play,
How to distinguish night from day?
You see I was underground.

I kept my mother safe in my head
When they took my father away,
I needed to keep the dogs at bay
I pretended to be dead.

"Don't be afraid," voices said to me
"The soldiers are gone, come out and eat."
I couldn't, I heard marching feet.
What does it mean to be free?

We are adult now, the past keeps hold,
Uneasy at dark, hiding from light
Black dreams and shadows come in the night,
Still fear, as we few grow old.

*Irene Kirstein Watts.
November 25 1996*

The 4th Annual Women's
International Playwrights
Conference
Galway, Ireland
June 21-30, 1997.

Irene Kirstein Watts' play will
have a public workshop / reading
as part of the conference. She is
one of 5 Canadian playwrights
invited.

The Child Survivor Page "No Longer
Alone" welcomes submissions. Send to
Louise Stein-Sorensen, Editor,
50 - 950 W. 41st Ave.,
Vancouver, BC V5Z 2N7

LIBRARY NEWS & REVIEWS

"Renewing" Our Library

Our library has undergone a transformation. Under the able leadership of Diane Csizmadia, a trained library technician, and with help from volunteers Dan Smith and Ruth Fraser, our library is now catalogued according to professional library standards. Library of Congress categories with Dewey Decimal numbers have been used to catalogue each book. You will no longer find books on the shelves according to the author's last name. Each book has a call number affixed to the spine and a library card to help us keep track of where our books are and when they were checked out. We have been asking people who have books out to return them, so we may finish this cataloguing. We can now expect a greater and more efficient use of our library.

Our library is growing both in quantity and in quality, thanks to a significant recent donation of over 200 books, many of which are rare and out of print. We have also been successful in requesting new books from publishers which they provide for our library in exchange for reviews in *Zachor*.



Diane Csizmadia & Dan Smith



Ruth Fraser

NEW PUBLICATIONS TO OUR LIBRARY... reviews in upcoming issues of *Zachor*

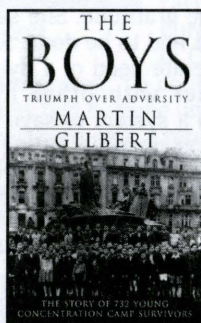


FRAGMENTS

by Benjamin Wilkomirski, published by Shocken, 1996.

"A small masterpiece [that] conveys in sparse, rhythmic prose the shattering

effects of the Holocaust upon one child's life, human relations, and capacity to use language. Even those conversant with the literature of the Holocaust will be educated by this arresting book. All will be deeply moved." —from the cover.

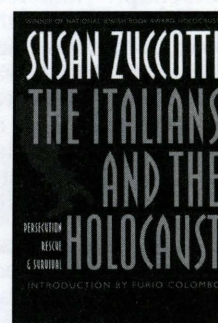


THE BOYS

by Martin Gilbert, published by Random House, 1996.

This is the never-before-told story of 732 child survivors of the Holocaust who

were accepted in Britain as orphans when the war ended. Composed of their written and spoken account, the story is told in their own voices. "A fascinating work that overwhelms us with its truth ... This book must be read and reread" —from the cover.



THE ITALIANS AND THE HOLOCAUST

by Susan Zuccotti, published by University of Nebraska Press, 1996.

Even though 85% of Italy's Jews survived

World War II, more than 6,000 Italian Jews were destroyed in the Holocaust. The author relates hundreds of stories showing the resourcefulness of the Jews, the bravery of those who helped them, and the inhumanity and indifference of others.

RECENTLY DONATED TO OUR LIBRARY

Generously donated by Jeff Zilberman, Judy Cohen & Peter Reich, Craig McAdie, Anne Derek, Leanne Nash, Gerri & Mark London, Robert Krell, and Serge Vanry.

Videos

Dark Lullabies
For the Living

Books

Escape From Auschwitz by Rudy Vrba
Final Journey by Martin Gilbert
The Holocaust by Gerhard Schoenberger

Teaching About the Holocaust
Memoirs: All Rivers Run to the Sea by Elie Wiesel
Concentration Camp: Natzwiller Struthof

Nuremberg on Trial - CBC "Ideas"
Castles Burning: A Child's Life In War by Magda Denes
French Children of the Holocaust: A Memorial by Serge Klarsfeld
Sometimes I Can Dream Again by Suzanne Reich
Art Out of Agony By Stephen Lewis

The Challenge of Shalom By Murray Poner & Naomi Goodman

The Bunker By Charles Goldstein

We Shall Not Forget: Memories of the Holocaust. edited by Carole Garbuny Vogel

Archives

Money from the Lodz Ghetto, postcard set.
Donated by Peretz Institute
Journal. Donated by Shia Moser
Family photograph.
Donated by Walter Kloss

BOOK REVIEW

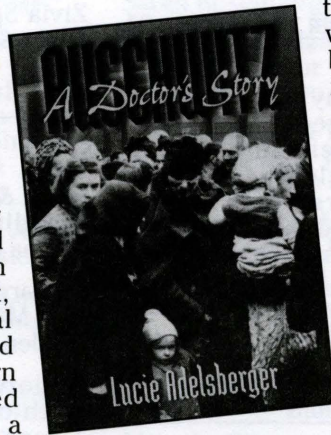
AUSCHWITZ: A DOCTOR'S STORY

by Lucie Adelsberger

Reviewed by Sally Rogow

Lucie Adelsberger's *Auschwitz: A Doctor's Story* is a powerful personal story. Rich with information and insight, the book reveals the special hell reserved for women and children. Dr. Adelsberger, born in 1895, was a distinguished physician who had both a private practice in Berlin and was one of the few women physicians who taught in a German university. Her research in bacteriology was internationally known and she was often invited to speak at international conferences. When she was in the United States in 1938 she could have stayed and taught at Harvard University. Instead she chose to return to Berlin to be with her elderly mother, for whom she could not obtain a visa.

When Adelsberger returned to Berlin, she found a Jewish community facing daily humiliations and deprivations. A housing shortage in Berlin was solved by driving Jewish families from their homes and transporting those who had no place to live to the ghetto in Lodz, Poland. Jewish doctors could no longer refer to themselves as doctors, they were "Judenbehandler" (Jewish handlers). Although Adelsberger continued to practice medicine, she also experienced daily humiliations in the form of a systematic stripping away of amenities and deliberate efforts to deny people even the right to exist.



Adelsberger noted that the indignities were as difficult to bear as the constant fear.

Adelsberger and her mother lived in an old neglected building with 1200 other people. The building was designed for one tenth that number and conditions were crowded and unbearable.

After weeks of waiting, she succeeded in obtaining a passport and a visa to leave Germany with her mother. At the last minute, permission to leave was denied. Adelsberger was deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1943. Adelsberger was assigned as physician to the Gypsy population and describes their spirited demeanor and determined refusal to succumb to the bleakness of life in a concentration camp. Soon after, the entire Gypsy population was exterminated. Adelsberger was then assigned to the women's infirmary at Birkenau. The lack of medicine and other needed medical equipment made a shambles of even the pretense of practicing medicine. Unsanitary conditions, lack of nourishment, and exhausting work claimed hundreds of lives. Typhus was rampant.

Adelsberger's experience in the infirmary gives her book importance as a document of the lives of women and children in the camp. No infant born in the infirmary was allowed to live. Women with children faced additional peril. Mothers were gassed along with their children. As

Adelsberger observes, "Every Jewish child automatically condemned his mother to death."

This memoir reaches deep into the human psyche and reveals how the prisoners tried to comfort and support one another, and demonstrates the goodness in people that could not be destroyed. Prisoners shared food and helped one another to think about survival in the face of death. Adelsberger writes, "Once you learn by painful experience how everything vanishes – money and possessions, honor and reputation – and that the only thing that remains is a person's inner attitude, you acquire a profound disregard for the superficialities of life" (132).

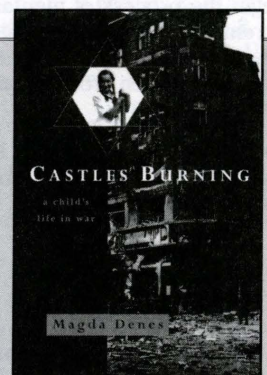
Adelsberger's memoir is an eloquent plea for remembrance of the millions of people who died at the hands of the Nazis and a warning of the dangers of forgetting.

"Repelled by such horrors, many people will choose to ignore these terrible testimonies, simply to preserve their inner peace; I know, because I used to do the same thing myself. Others who refuse to believe that the reality of Auschwitz exceeded all human imagination, will dismiss these reports as propagandist fantasy. This and this alone has led me to whatever positive attitude I have about my imprisonment in a concentration camp. If such things really do exist on this earth, you have to witness them with your own eyes, because no one will believe it otherwise or they will prefer out of laziness or a desire not to get involved, to respond with indifference. And yet, in the end, knowledge of the deepest abysses of the human psyche is an absolute vital necessity, for the path of the lowest depths can only lead upward" (49-50).

New and Recommended...

We will regularly pass on to you "staff recommendations" for new books in our library. Our recommendation for this issue is *CASTLES BURNING* by Magda Denes, published by W.W. Norton & Company, 1996. A powerful memoir of the author's childhood in Hungary. This book gives the reader valuable insight into how differently and painfully children experienced the separation and loss brought on by the events of the Holocaust. This book should be of great interest to our Child Survivors, especially those of Hungarian descent. ☺

"Magda Denes evokes, with startling vividness, the perspective of a precociously brilliant child as she descends into circles of suffering and loss — her capacity for intense love and sorrow, her resilience and wicked wit, her poignant need for attachment, and her uncompromising hunger for truth in a world gone mad." -from the cover.



landmark decision for the Jewish Community ordering that I be returned to my Jewish roots. Nowhere in the article is there mention of what I thought would be best for me.

It does not surprise me that for decades after the war, I refused to think of myself as a Jew. And yet I am a Jew!

On this journey of discovery, with tears blinding my eyes, I endlessly walked the streets of Amsterdam, streets where my parents and grandparents had lived. Where before the war they probably laughed and had joy. I looked at the house where I was born, and flashed back on a vivid memory of my father rushing into the room shouting that we — my mother and I — must leave immediately, because the Germans had blocked off the street. I remembered the looks of terror on both of my parents' faces. I was not yet three years old. What a terrible memory.

At another time, I spoke with people who still knew the past. A few even had some vague memories of my parents. Each day I grieved my losses more. The loss of my parents, my family, my history, my opportunities. Each day I became more aware of what it meant to be a Jew.

Walking around the old Jewish ghetto, I began to understand the desire felt by the pitifully small group of survivors who, in 1945, were slowly returning out of hiding and from the camps; their need to rebuild the Jewish Community, no matter what the costs. How desperate they must have been, searching the countryside for children who had survived — the life blood to rebuild the Community. From this awareness, I developed a more compassionate understanding of the reasoning behind my aunt's actions. She did what she thought was best, it had not been her intention to harm me. I found it within myself to forgive her.

Slowly my anger and grief of being taken from my Christian family began to dissolve. My tears flowed more easily. I could finally begin the process of mentally burying my parents. We had waited long enough. If my parents had lived to see me as an adult they would have been proud of me.

Now, five years later, I am about to return to Holland again. It will be Alie's 60th birthday and I will be there to pay her a surprise visit. ❀

Cards & Donations

RECEIVED FROM DECEMBER 14 TO MARCH 21

As requested, many of the cards / donations received these past months have been assigned to specific funds, including The Lövi Memorial Scholarship Fund, the Ronnie E. Tessler Archive Fund, the Paul & Edwina Heller Education Fund, the Meyer & Gita Kron Education Fund, the Library Fund, and the David & Lil Shafran Fund.

Donations

Lou & Merle Checov, Margot Sinclair, Ron Kornfeld, Sari Corbin, Rennie Hapton & Keith Dunbar, Arlaina Waisman, Sidney Fratkan, Shia Moser, Bernard Goldberg, Brad Jarvis, John Mate, Stephen Gunther & Miriam Wosk, and Chilliwack Secondary School.

In Memory of her parents Jacob A. and Kreindel Stelzer and siblings Isaac, Mandel and Reizele who perished March 28 1944, from Emmy Krell.

Speedy Recovery

Aizik Blekher, from Alex & Gina Dimant.

Andre Blitz, from VHCS Board & Staff.

Gallia Chud, from Odie Kaplan.

Cecile Cohen, from Ruth & Cecil Sigal.

Marianne Epstein, from Ina & Joe Auerhahn.

Regina & David Feldman, Our Thoughts Are With You, from VHCS Board & Staff.

Dana Golden, from Barbara & Herb Silber & Family.

Dr. Gerry Growe, from Ruth & Cecil Sigal.

Gail Heller, from Jack & Karen Micner.

Evelyn Huberman, from Ruth & Cecil Sigal, Hymie & Rome Fox & Family, Larry & Lyliane Thal, VHCS Board.

Richard Israels, from Ruth & Cecil Sigal.

Don Levine, from Miriam Eisner.

Zvi Mammon, from Ben & Rose Folk.

Zev Shafran, from Sharon & Irving Kates, VHCS Board & Staff.

Zivia Sperling, from Barbara & Herb Silber & Family.

Mazel Tov

Mark & Debbie Choit, On Your 25th Wedding Anniversary, from Karl & Sabina Choit.

Howard & Patti Colton, On Brandon's Bar Mitzvah, from Cathy & David Golden & Family.

Isadore & Valerie Diamond, On the Birth of Your Grand-daughter, from Tibor & Agi Bergida.

Gina Dimant, Happy Birthday, from Susan Bluman.

John Frank, On Your Birthday, from Paul Meyer.

Coleen Gold, On the Birth of Gabriel, from VHCS Staff.

Paul Heller, On Your Special Birthday, from Abe & Leyla Sacks, Leila, Sara & Leon Getz, Dr. Carol & Liliana Abraham, Harold & Pat Laimon.

Pola Hister, On Your Birthday, from Art & Phyllis Hister.

Ruth Hollander, Happy Birthday, from Alex & Gina Dimant.

Henry Lewin, On Your Birthday, from Janice, Randy, Aaron & Benjamin.

Rezelle Loomer, Best Wishes On Your Birthday, from Hilda Everall.

Louise Mandell, Congratulations On Becoming a Q.C., from Susan & Barbara Bluman.

Larry Meyer, Happy Birthday, from Paul Meyer.

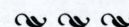
Michel Mielnicki, On Your Special Birthday, from Susan Bluman, Gerry & David Klein, Malcolm & Judy Weinstein, Dr. Perry & Karen Trester.

Herb Silber, On Your Birthday, from Gerri & Mark London.

Lisa Tessler, In Honour of Your Engagement, from Sylvia Bricker.

Gabor Mate, On Your Birthday, from John & Nomi Mate, Judy Mate, Monica Moster.

Greg Zador & Family, On Your Good Fortune, from Ilona Markovits.





Hilda Everall & Family, In Memory of Tom Everall, from J. Cooke, Marion Poliakoff.

Lee Freiman, In Memory of Your Mother Helene Ehrlich, from Susan Bluman, Dr. Harold & Julia Shatsky, Ben & Toby Moyls, Hall & Carol Leiren.

Sylvia Bricker, In Memory of Auntie Reta, from Ronnie & Barry Tessler.

The Neilsen Family, On the Loss of Peter Neilsen, from the VHCS Board & Staff.

Serge Vanry, In Memory of Suzanne Vanry, From Jane & Danielle de Ravallet & Jean Bannister.

Lilianna Abraham, In Memory of Your Mother, from Paul & Edwina Heller.

Sam Kornfeld & Family, In Memory of Your Wife Michla, from Sally & Sid Coleman, David & Bernice Braverman, Mimi Divinsky, Miriam Eisner, Harry & Resia Nortman.

Esther Blumes & Family, In Memory of Your Mother Michla Kornfeld, from Anette & Michael Altman & Family, Ruth & Cecil Sigal, Audrey Mehler & David Paperny & Family, VHCS Board, Rob & Marilyn Krell, Gallia Chud, Sally & Sid Coleman, Dr. Morris & Kathy Gordon & Family.

Neil Kornfeld & Family, In Memory of Your Mother Michla, Greg & Dianne Diamond, Mark & Sari Weintraub, Dr. Morris & Kathy Gordon & Family, Sally & Sid & Alex Coleman, Herb & Barb Silber & Family, Rob & Marilyn Krell, Gallia Chud, Gyda, Bish, Rita & Stanley, Judith Growe.

The Goldman Family, In Memory of Max Goldman, from Rose & Joe Lewin.

Maria Borenstein, In Remembrance of Your Husband, from Alex & Gina Dimant & Family.

Leslie Lambert, In Memory of Belle Grand, from Steve & Dianne Bailey.

Serge Haber, On the Loss of Your Mother, from Ida Kaplan, Sarah Sair.

Shelly Lederman & Family, On the Loss of Your Mother, from Ida Kaplan, Larry & Lyliane Thal.

David Braverman, In Memory of Your Sister, from Ronnie & Barry Tessler, Sylvia Bricker.

Richard Henriquez, In Memory of Your Mother, from Ruth & Cecil Sigal.

Dr. Stanley Sunshine, On Your Loss, from David & Regina Feldman.

Shlomit & Koby Weisler, In Memory of

Your Father & Grandfather, from Sarah Rosenberg-Warm.

Esther & Benny Lahav, In Memory of Your Father & Grandfather, from Sarah Rosenberg-Warm.

Mr. & Mrs. Izaak Zuckerfein, In Memory of Your Brother, from Sarah Rozenberg-Warm.

Linda Glasner & Family, On The Loss of Your Mother, from Larry & Lyliane Thal, Neil & Judy Kornfeld.

Grace Goluboff & Family, In Memory of Nate Goluboff, from Rose Brook.

Bernice Groberman, In Memory of Harold, from Diane Cooper Band Friedman.

Kirsten Lind-Pedersen, On the Loss of Your Son Jason, from VHCS Staff.

Mrs. Al Herman, In Memory of Your Husband, from Diane Cooperband Friedman.

Anne & Al Hirsh, In Memory of Your Sister, from George & Frieda Wertman.

Ruth Horowitz, In Memory of Jack, from Rita Rothstein.

Rose Lewin & Family, In Memory of Your Sister, from Ina & Joe Auerhahn, Odie, Sherie & Jordan Kaplan, Ida Kaplan, Sam & Lola Haber, Lola Apfelbaum, Regina & David Feldman, Ben & Rose Folk, Esther Kaufman & Larry & Lyliane Thal, Susan Bluman, George & Frieda Wertman, Bernice Neuwirth, Helen Hooper, Leah & Abe Fox.

Tabala Oreck, In Memory of Your Husband, from Ronnie & Barry Tessler.

Peter Oreck & Family, On the Passing of Your Father, from Ronnie & Barry Tessler.

Judah Shumiatcher, In Memory of Your Mother, from Diane Cooperband Friedman & Sonny Superstein.

Pat Taylor & Family, On the Loss of Your Father, from Neil & Judy Kornfeld.

Dr. Israel & Sheila Moscovitz, With Sympathy on Your Loss, Ben & Muriel Morris, Maxine & David & Rachel Flader.

Mrs. C. Wisman, On the Loss of Your Husband, from Regina Wertman, Bella & Harold Silverman.

Susan Pouchet & Family, In Memory of Rebecca Schloss, from Cathi & Ralph Zbarsky & Family.

Barb Mageli, On the Loss of Your Mother, from Leo & Jocy Lowy.

David Shafran & Family, In Memory of Your Loving Wife and Mother, from Michael & Reesa Power, Harry & Ruth Dashevsky, Andi & Cheryl Strausberg, Ben & Muriel Morris, Sharon Slutsky, Alex & Gina Dimant, Beverly Klein, Rita & Sam Winrob, Robert & Fanny Lewis, Gerry Biely, VHCS Board & Staff, Inger & Per Koster, Hastings Travel Inc., Ben & Dolly Kopelow, David & Bernice Braverman, Miriam Eisner, Ida Kaplan, Jack & Chana Margalit, Celia & Irvin Lerner, Ben & Rose Folk, Sally & Sid Coleman, Sidney & Miriam Zbarsky, Hymie & Fay Davis, Gerri & Mark London, Susan Bluman, Bernie & Sally Cristall, Robbie & Gloria Waisman, Larry & Lyliane Thal & Esther Kaufman, Sarah Sair, Kathy & Richard Sair, Bud & Cheryl Herman, David & Barbara & Stephanie Kates, David & Grace Ehrlich, Lillian Nemetz, George & Bonnie Bricker, Ben & Rita Akselrod, Irvine Wolak, Cookie Mackoff, Lola Apfelbaum, Molly & Aaron Tenenbaum, Hall & Carol Leiren, Arthur & Ancie Fouks, Maxine & David & Rachel Flader, Ronnie & Barry Tessler, Albert & Lucy Bigio, Odie Kaplan, Joe & Ina Auerhahn, Harvey & Esther Berenbaum, Perry & Marilyn Ehrlich & Family, Ellen & Eppy Rappaport, Staff of the Edgewood Estates, Emmy Krell, Rita & Myer Goldberg, Hymie & Rezelle Loomer, Ruth Weinstein, Robert Kates & Jill Harvey, Sharon & Irving Kates, Rome & Hy Fox & Family, Rob & Marilyn Krell, Dave Schumacher & Jed Curtis, Norman & Sandra Miller, Charles & Isabelle Diamond, Adella & Bill Moscovitz, Danny Weinstein & Charlotte Berman & Family, Charles & Elaine Shnier, Ruth & Hy Ross, Richard Kohn & Dana Sair, Leo & Jocy Lowy, Bob Wilmot & Sharon Harowitz, Leon & Shirley Wenger, Sylvia Eibschutz & Family, Joseph & Rosalie Segal, Leslie Spiro, Miriam Davidowicz, Sam & Lola Haber, Marilyn Goldstone & Nathan Divinsky, Harry & Resia Nortman & Family, Lois & Bob Raphael, Norman Gladstone & Birgit Westergaard, Morris & Dena Wosk, David & Regina Feldman, Louise Sorensen, Jeanette & Harry Greenhut, Arthur & Nadine Lipetz & Family & Jim & Tammy & Elli Horvath, Paul & Edwina Heller, Michelle Mina, Harriett & Isidor Wolfe, Sophie Waldman, Gerry & Sheila Bermann.

Anita & Abe Greenberg & Family, In Memory of Your Mother, from Gerry Biely, Larry & Lyliane Thal & Esther Kaufman.

Zev Shafran & Family, In Memory of Your Mother, from Elissa Checov, Larry & Lyliane Thal & Esther Kaufman, Michael & Reesa & Jacob Power, Andi & Cheryl Strausberg, Gerry Biely, The Paperny Family, Harry & Wendy Stryer & Family.

FROM THE BOARD

FROM THE PLANNED GIVING COMMITTEE

THE FOLLOWING ARE ENDOWED FUNDS MAINTAINED AT THE VHCS

These funds are open and can be added to by family and friends. There are many important endowment opportunities that are without sponsors. For example the funding of publishing projects, exhibits, maintenance of the memorial, & teacher education.

VHCS Endowment Fund. This is the primary operating endowment of the VHCS. Interest from this fund goes towards the operation and maintenance of the Holocaust Education Centre, as well as to the ongoing development of education programs and creation of educational resources. Contributions in the form of pledges, gifts, cards and general donations go into this fund.

Henry and Ludmila Zeldowicz Endowment Fund. Established in 1983, proceeds from this fund are used to support educational activities, research programs and Holocaust remembrance events.

Meyer and Gita Kron Fund. Established in 1995, the Meyer and Gita Kron Award for Excellence in Holocaust Education is given annually to a teacher who makes a significant contribution to Holocaust education.

Lövi Scholarship Fund. Established in 1996 by John Mate in honour of his grandparents, Anna (Abrahamsohn) Lövi and Dr. Joseph Lövi, who perished in Auschwitz, and his aunt Dr. Marta Lövi, who survived and died in Vancouver in 1987. This award for an artistic project is presented at the high school symposium.

Krell Family Book Fund. Established in 1992 by Leo Krell, Robert and Marilyn Krell, Ron and Barbara Krell in memory of his parents, Moses Hersh Krell and Esther Malka Krell. This fund is used for book purchases for the HEC, and/or for distribution to schools, teachers and students.

Edwina and Paul Heller Holocaust Education Fund. Established in 1996, proceeds from this fund are used to sponsor education programs, lectures, exhibitions, scholarships, and bursaries to teachers and students who wish to attend Holocaust education programs. The fund can be used to sponsor research into the causes and consequences of the Holocaust or to increase HEC library holdings.

The Sid and Sylvia Eibschutz Endowment for Holocaust Education. Proceeds from this fund support a visiting lecturer to the Annual High School Symposium. This presentation is known as the Eibschutz Endowed Lecture.

Ronnie Tessler Archives Fund. Established in 1996 in honor of former director Ronnie Tessler, this fund is used to maintain, improve and make accessible the archival collection of the Holocaust Education Centre.

Mordecai and Hana Wosk Family Fund for Education. This fund was established in 1995 in order to provide on-going support for the development of teaching materials that complement our school programs.

David and Lil Shafran Endowment Fund. Established in 1997, this fund will be used for educational programming and can be used as a bursary for a teacher or student continuing their Holocaust studies.

Visit of the United Restitution Organization

Restitution and compensation remain a very painful and difficult topic, dividing rather than uniting survivors and families. Dora Elzbet of the United Restitution Organization visited the VHCS on March 10, 11 & 12. Her visit brought out many issues. The laws governing the dispensation of the restitution fund of Germany is very specific, with criteria that is difficult to meet. This fund is not intended to compensate for loss but to assist those that are indigent or in need. This requirement eliminates many who lost so much from any right to make a claim. Restitution issues and the filing of claims is outside of the mandate of the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre but we will try and disseminate information to our membership as we receive it. The following are addresses that may assist you in acquiring information.

Dormant Swiss bank accounts:

Hanspeter Hani
Ombudsman of Swiss Banks
Seestr. 7
Postfach 519
CH - 8027
Zuerich

World Jewish Congress
501 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10022
Telephone 212- 755-5770

Claims from the German Government

Bundesversicherung fuer Angestellte
Berlin-Wilmersdorf
Ruhrstr. 2.
10704 Berlin

Landesversicherungsanstalt
Freie und hansestadt Hamburg
Postfach 60 15 60
22215 Hamburg

Regierungspraesident Koeln,
Postfach 101 548
Cologne.

Claims from the Austrian Government

Nationalfonds der Republik Oestereich
fuer die Opfer des Nationalsozialismus,
Parlament
A 1017 Wien

Austrian Embassy
445 Willibrod Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1N 6M7

Claims from the Polish Government

Zydowski Instytut Historyczny
w Polsce
00 - 090 Warszawa, ul. Tlomackie 3/5
tel. 27-92-21
fax. 27-83-72

Any questions regarding these organizations and information on making claims should be addressed to the United Restitution Organization, 321-4600 Bathurst Street, North York, Ontario, M2R 3V2. Tel. 416-630-2926

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