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Number 2
April 1999

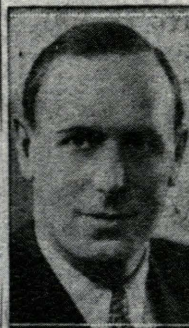
Zachor

"Remember"

SCRAP BOOK

BRITISH JOURNALIST TO TALK ON NAZI RULE

Harrison Brown, well-known English author, journalist and publicist, who has just come to America from Germany, will speak tonight at a joint meeting of the Sinai and Isaiah Israel congregations in the Isaiah temple, 51st street and Greenwood avenues. The former staff member of the Manchester Guardian, who



HARRISON BROWN, attracted attention by his predictions of Hitler's rise to power, will present an intimate picture of the Nazi leader's rule in

CHILD
VICTIMS

OF THE

NEW

GERMANY

A PROTE

BY

LADY
VIOLET
BONHA

THE JEWS
IN
GERMANY

Extracts from the
Anti-Semitic Press

TEMPLE ISAAH-ISRAEL and SINAI CONGREGATION
ANNOUNCE THAT

G. HARRISON BROWN
LONDON, ENGLAND

Recently Returned from Germany
WILL SPEAK ON THE

"Inside Story of Hitler's Reign of Terror"

at a MEETING to be held

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 13th, 8:00 P. M.

at the ISAAH-ISRAEL TEMPLE
GREENWOOD & HYDE PARK BLVD.

Chairman

President

Harrison & Hillary Brown
Archival Donation

G. HARRISON BROWN rendered a signal service when almost single handed he thwarted Nazi plans for a massacre of Pacifists, Communists, and Jews. But few people know of the sensational story behind this deed, the details of which Mr. Brown will reveal at this meeting.

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

April

12 April 7:30PM Monday
**Erev Yom HaShoah
 Commemorative Evening** (page 3)
 Beth Israel Synagogue
 4350 Oak Street
 INFO: 264.0499

13 April 12NOON Tuesday
Yom HaShoah Memorial Service
 Schara Tzedek Cemetery
 2345 Marine Dr. New Westminster
 INFO: 264.0499

25 April 8PM Sunday
**"Jewish Resistance: The Unknown
 Heroes" by Sir Martin Gilbert**
**Public Lecture and VHCS
 Fundraising Dinner in partnership
 with State of Israel Bonds**
 Schara Tzedek Synagogue
 3476 Oak Street
 INFO: 264.0499 or 266.7210

*** Please Note Holiday Closures ***
 The Holocaust Education Centre
 office will be closed from April 1st
 to the 5th and from the 7th to the
 9th for Pesach.

May

11 May 2-4PM Tuesday
Survivor Drop-In
 Holocaust Education Centre

12 & 13 May
**24th Annual High School
 Symposium on the Holocaust**

June

9 June 7:30PM Wednesday
**Annual General Meeting
 of the Vancouver Holocaust
 Centre Society** All VHCS/HEC
 members are invited to attend.

20 June 7-9PM Sunday
**The Gesher Project Summer
 Exhibit Opening**

Reminder

Tribute Card Receipts will be
 issued at the end of June

Membership Renewal Campaign
 will begin in August. Please
 consider renewing your pledge to
 Holocaust Education.

Announcements

This years **Annual Conference of the Federation of Jewish Child Survivors
 of the Holocaust** will take place in Prague, Czech Republic from
 September 2nd to the 5th. Further information can be found at the
 conference website <http://www.fjcsh.org/prague.htm> The Vancouver
 Child Survivor Group will soon have registration forms available.

This month's cover includes a selection of materials recently donated to
 our archive by Hillary Brown; see feature article on page 4.

In This Issue. ...

Yom HaShoah	3
Archive News : Harrison & Hillary Brown	4
Book Reviews : Belsen In History and Memory	6
: The Search – The Birkenau Boys	7
Second Generation	8
Cards & Donations	10
From the Board: Martin Gilbert Lecture	12

THANK YOU TO OUR MANY VOLUNTEERS

MAILINGS

John Bernard, Lillian Fryfield,
 Molly Goodson, Inez Levitz,
 Janey Levy, Bob Seligman,
 Marilyn Weinstein

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Milcah Batista, Sheila Barkusky,
 Hymie Fox, Leonore Freiman,
 John Gort, Hayden Kremer,
 Debbie Maki, Mia Minnes,
 David Schaffer, David Zack

SURVIVOR DROP-IN

Gloria Waisman, Gerri London,
 Anita Gans

DOCENTS

Wendy Barrett, Bonnie Belzberg,
 Marilyn Bricker, Jody Dales, Fay Davis,
 Irene Dodek, Michele Dore,
 June Earnshaw, Debby Freiman,
 Dan Fromowitz, Haya Fuchs,
 Fran Grunberg, Rima Kaplan,
 Gabriella Klein, Harvey Larochelle,
 Lani Levine, Kirsten Lind-Pedersen,
 Craig McAdie, Sally Rogow,
 Yvonne Rosenberg, Arnold Steele,
 Goldie Steele

FOR YOUR DONATIONS IN KIND

International Cellars Inc.
 MicroConcept Computing
 Omnitsky Kosher BC
 Starbucks Coffee Company
 Suzy Siegel Catering Services
 West World Computers



Editor: Roberta Kremer
 Layout & Design: Graham Sharpe

Days of Remembrance / Yom HaShoah

The Vancouver Holocaust Centre's parent organization is the Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society for Education and Remembrance. Not many organizations have as one of their primary goals the act of ritualizing and marking the place of "memory." The maintenance of memory – or remembering – has been the "source and secret" of the survival of Jews in diaspora and can be viewed not only as a commandment but as a mitzvah incumbent upon each of us. Through commemoration we assert our commitment to social justice, freedom and the maintenance of human dignity by remembering and renouncing those times and events when these values were not upheld.

Memories and commemorations are selective. They are a product of a will and a determination to remember. It is up to our community to make Yom HaShoah a holy day in Vancouver through our participation in community based commemorative events. This year's community-wide commemoration of Yom HaShoah will take place on Monday, April 12th at 7:30PM at Beth Israel Synagogue. The service at the Vancouver Holocaust Memorial, within Schara Tzedek Cemetery will take place on the following day, Tuesday, April 13th at NOON.

The memorial, which belongs to the entire community, was established in 1985 by the VHCS initially as a place for the survivor community to say Kaddish. It now stands as a permanent site to commemorate the decimation of European Jewry and serves as a place for the names of individuals, loved ones, and family members who perished in the Holocaust to be inscribed. To date over 1,000 names have been inscribed. Within Judaism there is a mandate to "remember" the departed with a place and a name (Yad Vashem) and to say the traditional prayer on the anniversary of that death. This act of "remembering" takes place communally twice each year.

We invite you to join us.

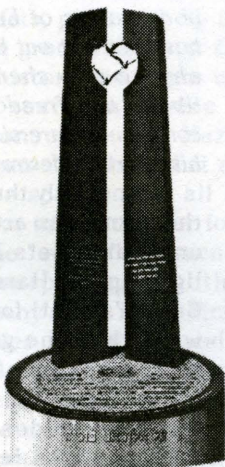
This year's Yom HaShoah Commemorative Evening will take place at Beth Israel Synagogue on Monday evening, April 12th at 7:30PM. Yom HaShoah is the sacred time set aside by all Jewish communities to remember the tragedy of the Holocaust – a time when light was obscured by darkness – a darkness that casts its shadow over our community.



Rosina Fernhoff

The Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre, with assistance from the 2nd Generation Committee, is pleased to bring to the Vancouver community an outstanding performance of the award-winning dramatic staging of Av Inlender's play "Shadows" – performed by the playwright's wife, Obie Award winning actress Rosina Fernhoff. This performance, described as dazzling and with a marvelous intensity, has been acclaimed in many cities in the US and Canada. *Shadows* gives voice to survivors' complex stories of hiding, tyranny, loss and determination as it tells the story of one Russian survivor's unique story. The dramatic reading conveys a poignant, and timely message about the "meaning" of the Holocaust experience for all people – and has been described "as a moving expression of Jewish sentiment on Yom HaShoah." Arrangements for Ms. Fernhoff's performance were made through the B'nai B'rith Lecture Bureau.

The evening will include the traditional candle lighting, memorial prayers and music by Claire Klein Osipov, Wendy Stuart and Perry Ehrlich's choir, with a message of remembrance of the Warsaw Ghetto by survivor Oscar Jason.



Yom HaShoah Commemorative Evening

7:30PM Monday April 12, 1999

Candle Lighting in Memory of the Six Million

With A Presentation of SHADOWS
by Rosina Fernhoff

Beth Israel Synagogue, 4350 Oak Street

Yom HaShoah Memorial Service and Unveiling of Names

Tuesday April 13, 1999

12 NOON

Schara Tzedek Cemetery
2345 Marine Drive, New Westminster

Please Join Us In Remembering

Yom HaShoah Evening Program Sponsored by the VHCS, Congregation Beth Israel and the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver Endowment Fund

DONATION OFFERS WINDOW INTO EARLY DAYS OF NAZISM AND ANTI-FASCIST MOVEMENTS

by Daniel Fromowitz

Last summer the Holocaust Education Centre received a valuable donation to its archives. The materials, generously donated by Hilary Brown, offer a glimpse of early Nazism, as well as the anti-fascist movements that sought to bring it down.

Often overlooked or discounted in World War II and Holocaust historiography, the anti-fascist movements deserve greater study and attention. When examining their warnings about the danger of fascism in the early 1930s, it is striking how many were prescient. And while in retrospect some of the movements' prescriptions appear insufficient – boycotts of German goods as one example – it is worth remembering that much of their targeted audience did not even perceive of a Nazi threat. Moreover, it is the lack of response to these warnings of the anti-fascists that deserves the label "insufficient."

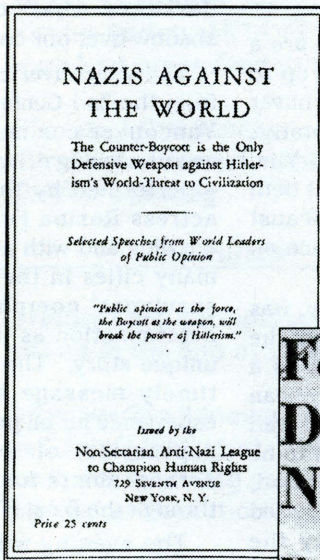
Throughout the donation are examples of these warnings and also analyses of life in Nazi Germany. If these relatively unknown organizations, such as the *Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League to Champion Human Rights*, foresaw and understood the danger posed to everyone by the rise of Nazism, the question must be asked – why did the major powers of the world ignore this threat? Perhaps the reason for the difference in response was that these predominantly non-Jewish anti-fascist organizations, lacking in funding and cohesiveness, were motivated by a common concern for the other.

It is most appropriate that these historical sources from the 1930s and 40s would be gifted to the Centre by Hilary Brown. Mrs. Brown and her husband, Harrison, were committed anti-fascists, and the majority of the donated material directly relates to their tireless work.

After serving in the First World War, Harrison Brown involved himself with the *American Committee for the Outlawry of War*. As the Committee's European Representative, Brown helped build support for the 1928 *Kellogg-Briand Pact*. Also known as the *Pact of Paris*, it condemned "recourse to war for the solution of international controversies." Shortly thereafter, Brown freelanced as a journalist, doing work for such

publications and organizations as the *Manchester Guardian*, *Evening Standard*, *New Statesman* and the BBC.

Headquartered in Germany from 1929 to 1933, Harrison Brown found himself in a unique position to report on the spread and dangers of Nazism. Included in this donation are examples of Brown's efforts to expose the brutality of Nazism. From a report filed for the *Manchester Guardian* in March of 1933:



A number of Brown Shirts arrested a Socialist, Mr. —, early one morning in his own home. He was taken to a "Brown House" (as Nazi headquarters are called) nearby. He was ordered to stand facing a wall with his hands clasped over his head. He was then beaten with riding whips, most of the blows descending on his head and hands.

Upon the advice of others and his own better judgment, Harrison Brown left Germany in 1933. One of the messages that Brown brought with him to London was a warning that the Nazis were planning to use a staged attempt on Hitler's life as a pretext to

attack their opponents. Brown, according to the *Chicago Committee for the Defense of Human Rights Against Nazism* – an organization with which he was also affiliated – helped prevent this particular action by publicizing the rumour. Unfortunately, the Nazis would still find their excuse to frame and attack enemies – the February 1933 Reichstag fire worked quite well.

Once outside of Germany, Harrison Brown supplemented his writing by lecturing on the true nature of Nazism and the very real possibility of war. While touring both Canada and the United States, Brown implored his listeners not to be fooled by notions of a tamed Hitler. During a talk in Chicago, June 1934, he warned:

[It] is no time to relax efforts in the fight against the menace of Hitlerism. The Jewish situation is largely the barometer of the situation in Germany. It seems probable that public support of the anti-Semitic program is weakening. It remains true that officially it has been pressed to the uttermost. To give Hitlerism even a breathing spell at this present juncture would be lunacy. There must be irrefutable evidence that this cancer in the body politic of Europe has been cut out before anyone who cherishes liberty and freedom of conscience dare slacken his efforts to destroy it.

It is not only through the numerous articles and pamphlets highlighting Harrison Brown's anti-fascist work that one gets a better sense of the "true nature" of Nazism. The donation also includes letters written to Hilary Brown – who had been a student in Frankfurt

Foe of Nazism Doubts Hitler Near Collapse

Von Papen's Speech No Criterion, Declares G. H. Brown

(J.D.B. Special Correspondence)
CHICAGO, June 25. — Vice-Chancellor von Papen's recent speech does not mean that Hitler's regime is on the eve of collapse, said G. Harrison Brown, European representative of the Chicago Committee for the Defense of Human Rights Against Nazism and a student of German affairs, who is in this country for a few weeks, in discussing the meanings of the speech by the vice-cha



and later lectured and wrote on the condition of women around the world – from friends trapped in Germany. Carefully crafted to avoid identification of the author, these eyewitness accounts offer a bleak picture of German life in the early 1930s. To take but one example:

Everyone brings news of further calamities, new arrests, maltreatment, dismissals etc. We have to be very careful. Denunciations flourish. Any miserable wretch [can] try to get favour through revelations to the police, or to revenge themselves. We dare speak to no one. People are arrested whilst talking on the street. And despite all our misery we have such a fine spring – many weeks already, really sentimental and German. The apple trees are the only consolation. Hitler weather, the papers call it...

As is evidenced by the material in the Brown donation, life for the “enemies” of Nazi Germany was dangerous well before 1938. Equally important is the reminder that not only Jews suffered under the Nazi regime – political opponents and “dangerous” free thinkers were also under siege.

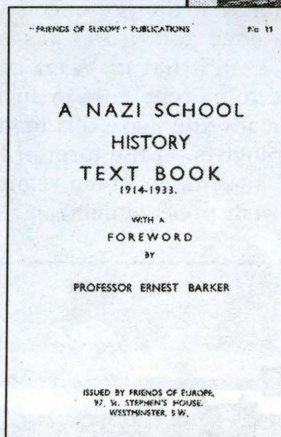
Also included in the donation are booklets on various aspects of life under Nazism (particularly for women and youth), magazine and newspaper clippings from the 1930s and 1940s, and most illuminating, pro-Nazi propaganda. One of the booklets, published by the peace group *Friends of Europe*, analyzes two history textbooks used in Bavaria. The textbooks were produced in response to the Nazi Minister of Education’s decree that at the beginning of the school year all students must receive instruction for four to six weeks on the “events” between 1914 and 1933. Not surprisingly, both books blame Germany’s loss in the First World War on enemies, both inside and out. From *The Awakening of Germany*, the text for older students:

The spirit of the front was systematically undermined by political powers within Germany which did not wish for a complete victory of Imperial Germany, and from the outside by the enemy powers,

Deutsche Frauen und Mädchen! Besucht die Mütter- und Kinderschulungskurse des Reichsmütterdienstes im Deutschen Frauenwerk



Kurse in
**Haushalt-
führung**
Kochen
Häusliche Nährarbeiten
**Gesundheits-
pflege**
Säuglingspflege,
Gesundheits- und
häusliche Krankenpflege
**Erziehungs-
fragen**
mit
Anleitung zum Basteln
**Heimgestaltung
und
Volksbrauchtum**



which by a campaign of lies and propaganda tried to shake the belief of the German people in the holiness of the war imposed upon them.

However, by the end of these books, the reader is assured that Adolf Hitler, to whom allegiance is required, is selflessly leading Nazi Germany toward a glorious rebirth. The

younger students are instructed to recite the following:

To Adolf Hitler our Leader we extend our hand, / Brothers, forward to the last struggle for the Fatherland. / Away with the Jews and the traitors, / Freedom or Death. / To Adolf Hitler we pledge ourselves, Faithful unto Death.

Of the pro-Nazi propaganda, one pamphlet, entitled *The Führer – Your Model*, lists Hitler’s lifestyle choices in the hopes that other Germans will follow suit. Besides being a vegetarian and a non-drinker, the reader also learns that Hitler is against excess in fashion – a message that should not surprise anyone who has seen the *Broken Threads* exhibit.

Perhaps the best visual example of

propaganda in this collection is a poster advertising a “motherhood course” to German women and girls. Alongside the information is a drawing of a woman holding a blond-haired baby. The two are shown in a “Madonna and child” pose, and the setting harkens back to a simpler, purer time. A Nazi magazine in the collection, *Why Race and Population Politics?*, is also full of revealing images, including a chart modeled on the Nuremberg Laws.

This article has covered only a fraction of what can be found in the Brown donation, a rich collection of materials on early Nazi Germany and the anti-fascist movements. In terms of the donation’s educational value alone – not to mention the generosity of it – the Holocaust Education Centre and students of this

time period owe Hilary Brown, and her late husband Harrison, a debt of gratitude. As for the anti-Nazi work of the Brown’s and the anti-fascist movements, more than a “thank you” is owed. A commitment to continuing their work is most fitting.

The Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre would like to thank Avi and Ruth Dolgin for their assistance in bringing the Brown materials to the Centre’s archives.

New Donations to Our Archive

A Letter from Cracow to Brooklyn written by his Uncle, and Family Pictures taken in Poland, donated by Saul Cohn.

Two Yizkor Books in Hebrew and Yiddish, donated by David Kaetz & Victoria Jewish Community Centre Library.

Forged Document belonging to her Mother’s Aunt, donated by Louise Sorensen.

Pictorial Review of Vaad Hatzala in Germany, donated by Robbie Waisman.

Belsen In History And Memory

Edited by Jo Reilly, David Cesarani,
Tony Kushner and Colin Richmond

Frank Cass, 1997

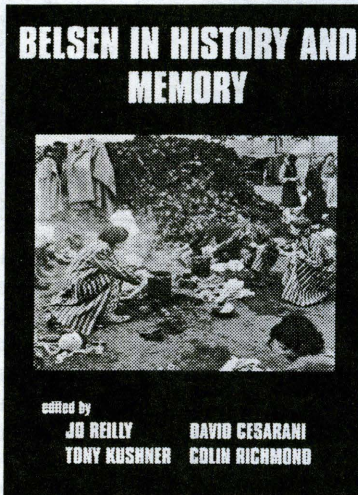
Reviewed by Stanley H. Winfield

A conference on the liberation of Belsen took place in London in April 1995, from which this volume of eight essays and ten testimonies emerged. The collection deals with Belsen's "massively important place in the collective memory of Germans, British and Jews with respect to World War II" and falls into three categories: camp history, liberation, and the aftermath for the survivors.

The historical section deals with the origin of Belsen in 1941 as a "stalag" to hold Soviet prisoners of war, followed in 1943 by its evolution to a holding camp for "exchange Jews," so called for the Nazis' intention to barter them for Germans who were interned by the British and Americans. By July 1944, over 4,000 "exchange Jews" of different nationalities were thus detained at Belsen, where life was at least made bearable, but certainly never "privileged"; approximately 358 were actually exchanged and released. The remainder perished in other camps, mainly Auschwitz. In early 1944 Belsen took on a new and final purpose: receiving sick and exhausted prisoners from other concentration camps which began the final catastrophe of disease, overcrowding and starvation. On April 15, 1945, as part of a localized cease-fire, Belsen was handed over by the SS, who ran the camp, to an element of the British Eighth Armoured Corps.

An essay devoted to the British Army's liberation of Belsen describes the dreadful conditions that were encountered and the Herculean efforts of British soldiers and medical teams to alleviate the suffering. Only passing reference is made to the closed-door policy of the British regarding immigration to Palestine, in observing that "the struggle of the Jewish internees in Belsen to reach Palestine lies outside the scope of this article."

An essay with the provocative title "Cleaner, Carer and Occasional Dance Partner? Writing Women Back into the Liberation of Bergen Belsen" written by Jo Reilly, deplores the fact that because women's arduous and emotionally draining work was confined to the "hospital sphere," it was taken for granted as just the "traditional female arena of caring" and therefore considered unworthy of special mention or credit.



One of the mass grave sites organized by the liberating forces at Bergen-Belsen, 1945. Photo donated by Stan Winfield, Canadian liberator.

The author continues to describe the significant contribution, in the days and months following liberation, by nurses in the Royal Army Medical Corps and the Red Cross, and is disturbed by the paucity of written accounts in official documents and the press. She points out that, at the time of writing, in the growing collection of documentary evidence and oral testimony from liberators in the Imperial War Museum, there are only three contributions from women: "one letter, one diary and a longer document detailing the experience of an UNRRA worker."

Perhaps the most affecting part of this book, for me personally, is the Appendix, entitled "Belsen Testimonies." It offers differing perspectives, coming from both Jewish and non-Jewish prisoners, and includes testimony from liberators as well as survivors. On April 27, 1995, a commemoration of the 50th anniversary of liberation was held at the site of the former death camp and I was invited by *The World Federation of the Bergen-Belsen Survivors Association* to be present. While there I made the acquaintance of Major W.R. "Dick" Williams who was one of the first British soldiers to enter the camp, and whose eyewitness account of his initial reconnaissance into Belsen is included in this volume.

Three of the essays refer to a common misconception about Belsen: that gas chambers were used at Belsen to exterminate Jewish prisoners. As the writer of one of the essays explains: "Confusion that the presence of crematoria in Belsen implied the existence and use of gas chambers, as well as a more general belief that *all Nazi camps* (emphasis mine) were designed to murder Jews in such a manner, probably explain why so many still make this fundamental error. It is one which Nazi apologists, in the form of Holocaust deniers, have been quick to seize upon." I am reminded of a recent article in the local Jewish press which ran a photo of the Fasanenstrasse Synagogue in Berlin that

was razed during Kristallnacht. A caption appearing below the picture read: "One thousand Jews were killed." Eminent and distinguished Holocaust historians such as Lucy Davidowicz and Martin Gilbert, after scrupulous research, put the estimated figure of Jews murdered throughout Germany during that dreadful night in November 1938 at about one hundred. Such

exaggeration denigrates the tragedy, and supplies grist for the mill of the cruel revisionists and Holocaust deniers in our midst.

Religious observance was not entirely absent at Belsen. Thomas Rahe's essay on Jewish religious life contains excerpts from diaries and oral testimonies that tell of Sabbath observances and even, albeit a rare event, clandestine 'celebrations' of Passover and Chanukah, and of Orthodox Jews fasting on Yom Kippur. In this regard, the opportunities for

BELSEN continued on page 7

The Search: The Birkenau Boys

by Gerhard Durlacher

Serpent's Tail, 1998

Reviewed by Manuel Erickson

Contrast. Contrast between the world of 1945 and that of 1990, between Hasidic Jews and "modern" non-religious Jews, between those who were prisoners in the concentration camps and those who were not, between those who need to remember and write down the events of the Holocaust, and those who need to forget them. Most of all, between what the author was at the end of the war, and what he is in 1990. That is what Gerhard Durlacher's sensitive, beautifully written, well-crafted, thoroughly researched and easily readable book is about. He could have written twice as many pages as there is so much to say.

For Durlacher, forty-five years are not sufficient to wipe away the stains of the Holocaust or even of being Jewish, for they are indelible. Durlacher discovers this at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport at the start of his book, when he and other passengers are inspected by Israeli security guards with Dutch military policemen looking on, holding semi-automatics. It is reinforced in the El Al airliner en route to Israel, when a group of Hasids refuses the food served them by "blond stewardesses...in their sky-blue uniforms" because one of the Hasids does not trust the kosher sticker of the rabbinate of Amsterdam.

Throughout the book the reader is continuously caught up in Durlacher's magnificent descriptions. For example, on the plane, "Suddenly, as if obeying an inner clock, dozens of men in black hats and suits or long black coats rose up from their seats, wriggled their way to the aisle, squeezed past the stewardesses and carts and gathered by the pantry and toilets. It was time for the Mincha, the afternoon prayer. Bunched together, hat

to hat, tallit to tallit, they rocked back and forth from west to east. Their murmured incantations resembled the dull drone of an organ's bass pipe."

The stewardesses couldn't get by with their food carts so they waited with a friendliness and politeness that were "clearly waning." Even the captain and purser, trying to address the throng authoritatively, had no influence on it. Their pleas about "danger might have been valid in another world, but not in that of the Talmud and the Torah."

A bond stretched between Durlacher and the Hasids, despite the gulf between them. A chance remark by a stewardess that her hands were full when "the sidelocks" were aboard translated itself inside Durlacher's head to "the Shylocks." It reminded him that some of these Hasids had lived in the same Birkenau barrack as he during the war and had shared the same fate.

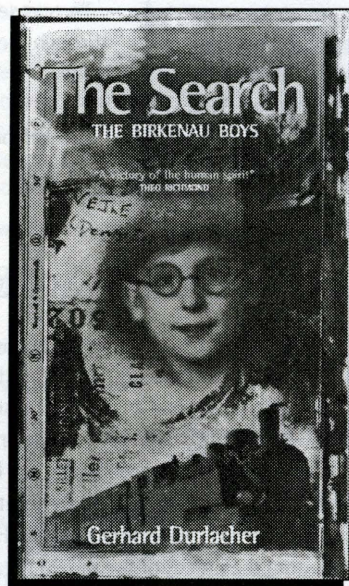
Israel was the first stop on a journey that was to uncover some of the debris that was "the Paleozoic of my memory," says Durlacher.

This book is liberally peppered with Durlacher's strong penchant for excellent descriptions of both

people and places, giving it a certain lilt, in spite of its emotionally difficult subject.

There is a bond. On his last day in Jerusalem someone knocks at his door. A short man in a long black coat speaks in German and asks him his name. Durlacher tells him. The short man's eyes fill with tears, then he identifies himself.

"I never would have guessed that this small, unassuming rabbi was the Orthodox boy I'd known in the camp...I brought you something...a book about us and how we were saved by the Holy One, blessed by He." Their worlds were too different, but still there was "an old bond." When the rabbi left, Durlacher asked himself, "Why us and not the others?"



The question is repeated throughout this important book.

Those like me, who have no experience of the Holocaust, should appreciate Durlacher's disclosure of his innermost feelings. His book will help us to understand a bit of what these people were put through. Some of those who experienced the Holocaust might not wish to have their memories jogged, and that I can understand.

Yet Durlacher is hopeful. Reflecting his thoughts and feelings throughout, the last chapter is called, "To Life." On the final page, Yvette tells her story. Her parents were never seen again after being deported to the East from Drancy. She wears a thin gold chain around her neck with the word Chai (life) in Hebrew lettering dangling from it, "a reminder of the Talmudic respect for life." She notices Durlacher's glance and says, smiling, "We take it very much to heart."

Yes.

The Search: The Birkenau Boys, and Belsen in History and Memory are now available for loan from the HEC library.

BELSEN continued from page 6

religious observance fell more to inmates at Belsen during its early years when it acted as a 'privileged' camp for the so-called exchange Jews.

Following liberation the last of the 'internees' would not leave Belsen until September 1950. The survivors who remained there over those five years were relegated to live in a defunct SS Panzer Training School located two miles from the old camp, yet became the most important members of survivor culture in Europe. The essay on the community of survivors at Belsen explores "Bergen-Belsen as a Jewish Centre after 1945" and tells of a community, almost a city, that grew up there.

The essays in this collection are extremely well written and provide the perspectives of scholars, and of the survivors and liberators themselves. As the collection's title suggests, Belsen has a place in both "History and Memory" and correspondingly, it should find prominence in all Holocaust libraries. ❁

SECOND GENERATION GROUP

For the past several years the Second Generation Group has been meeting at monthly pot-luck brunches in members homes and attending events and functions in the Jewish community together. Through socializing, sharing food, celebrating, and witnessing each other's stories we have been building community support for each other and gaining self understanding.

Our parents are from many different countries and our experiences cover a wide range: one member was brought up in an Orthodox home, several members found out only as adults that they were Jewish and children of Holocaust survivors, and others knew of their heritage but were not exposed in any way to Jewish culture. As we explore both the unique and common threads in our experiences as children of Holocaust Survivors we find connection through a profound sense of a shared history and the impact of the Holocaust.

This last year we attended the Kristallnacht commemoration, an art exhibit by Second Generation artist Mia Weinberg, the opening of the MAUS exhibit at the Holocaust Centre, and shared Hanukkah and Rosh Hashanah celebrations together.

We are a warm and very welcoming group and encourage anyone interested in obtaining more information about the Second Generation Group and location of the meetings to contact Deborah Ramm-West at 325-4246.

Dates of upcoming meetings

April 18, 10:30AM

May 23, 10:30AM

"Synagogue Hopping"

April 24, Or Shalom

May 29, TBA

2ND GENERATION GROUP

~ OUR MISSION ~

To build community support for each other in a safe and confidential environment in which we are respectful and accepting of our differences and find comfort in our similarities.

To witness each other's stories and explore the unique and common threads in our experience as children of Holocaust survivors.

To gain self understanding and work through the effects of the trauma of the Holocaust.

To celebrate and take pride in our resilience.



Hanukkah Celebration Gathering

"What I like about being a part of the 2nd Generation, is the support we give and receive in return from each other as we share our experiences of the past and the present."

— Miriam Friedberg

"What I like most about being a part of the 2nd Generation Group is the caring, the sharing, the laughter and the tears — in other words, I feel like I'm with family."

— Marion Cassirer



Some Personal Reflections

"My father Stanley Maczka, born in Lublin, Poland (died in 1995) was a Holocaust survivor. I always felt isolated and alone, I thought I was the only person who had a parent who survived the Holocaust. The Second Generation group made me aware that I was not alone and that other people have parents who are Holocaust survivors. Listening to other members of the Second Generation Group tell their stories about their parents' experiences of the Holocaust, has enabled me to start putting the pieces of the puzzle together of my Father's life while in both the work and concentration camps. It is also helping me to heal the guilt and pain that I have been carrying with me ever since I can remember." — Cassandra Earl

"In the Second Generation Group I have appreciated the opportunity to talk about, and listen to, the varied circumstances that arose through living with the Holocaust. I have come to realize how diverse our parents' experiences have been, and yet often in the group our lives are affected in such similar ways."

— Alan Le Fevre



HEC Wins 1999 Provincial Anti-Racism Award

It is always nice to be told that we are doing a good job, but the recognition is particularly meaningful when it comes from our peers and colleagues in the anti-racism community. The Holocaust Education Centre recently won the 1999 END RACISM AWARD for the educational and community programming for MAUS.

A letter of congratulations from Multiculturalism BC reads: *This award recognizes MAUS: A Memoir of the Holocaust as a model project that serves as an example for others. [The] project shows strong collaboration with others and has widely impacted the community.*

Frieda Miller, the Centre's Education Coordinator, received the award at a special ceremony on March 19th in downtown Vancouver. This was second such award received by the Centre. In 1997 the highly innovative, Nuremberg: Student Mock Trial Program was honoured with this award.

The MAUS exhibit served only as a starting point and a catalyst for the whirlwind of educational activity that came to surround it. This included the interactive school program, which saw over 1,800 youth visit the exhibit and explore the multi-media CD-ROM of MAUS. The public lecture "Comix 101," organized in partnership with the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design and Simon Fraser University developed a new audience by attracting over three hundred people, many of them members of the graphic design and arts communities. At a Children's Literature Roundtable, organized with the University of British Columbia, 40 educators, librarians and children's authors participated in a panel discussion and exhibit tour. In addition, the 2nd Generation Committee organized an intergenerational conference "The Past Hangs Over the Future" that explored second generation issues raised by MAUS.

This award will do more than simply grace our walls. It will serve to remind us that anti-racism can be approached in many varied and interdisciplinary ways and that by taking a novel approach to program design, we can enhance and broaden our audience for issues of social justice.

The award speaks to the centrality of education in all that we do. It also serves as a testament to the enormous amount of programming work that goes into a project like MAUS. The 1999 END RACISM AWARD belongs to, and is highly deserved by each member of the Centre's staff.

Of Interest to Survivors and Their Families

Holocaust Education Centre Forges New Links with The Jewish Family Service Agency

Recently, the Holocaust Education Centre staff met with Lynn Kaplan, Interim Executive Director at the Jewish Family Service Agency, and Family Therapist Anne Siegenberg, for the purpose of developing a referral system to meet the needs of aging survivors and their families. All people should contact the JFSA at 257-5151 if they wish to access services. Camp survivors should ask for *Services for Seniors* staff directly. Child survivors and Second Generation can ask to speak to the "intake worker" who will make arrangements with Ms Siegenberg. She will contact the survivor to make an appointment time available as soon as possible. The counselling program at the JFSA requires fees for services for their clientele based on a sliding scale, that is based on income and affordability.

The following are outreach services that JFSA's Seniors Program provides: Information and Referral, Case Management, Elder Support Network,

Friendly visiting, Telephone friends, Telephone Health Check, Transportation / Escort, Kosher Meals on Wheels, Shopping Assistance, Wheels to Kosher Meals.

These outreach support services are for Jewish senior adults in the Vancouver area who are vulnerable, or socially isolated. Client's needs are assessed (ranging from health, social, activities of daily living, housing and financial needs), and they are assisted in obtaining the appropriate existing community services.

Seniors are ensured of access to services so they do not fall through the cracks in the health care system, making their services user friendly, efficient and effective. Ms. Kaplan emphasized that when there is no family / friend support system, that the Seniors staff take on a major advocacy role for their clients.

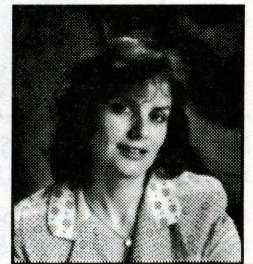
Because the Jewish holidays can be an especially lonely time for many seniors, twice a year at Rosh Hoshanah and Purim, *Services for Seniors* staff visit their clients. On Yontif, for example, each Senior receives a gift of apples and honey for a sweet New Year, and on Purim, clients receive Shaloch Ma'anot.

In short, the uniqueness of the JFSA *Services to Seniors* is that they provide a

cultural emphasis and ensure that socially isolated seniors are reconnected to their community. The goals of *Services for Seniors* are to assist senior adults in maintaining their independence at home, reduce their feeling of isolation, and develop support networks which enhance their quality of life.

Ms Siegenberg has been counselling survivors of trauma for the past 15 years, and understands the unique emotional issues that arise for survivors who are dealing with the after effects of trauma to themselves and their families. Anne wanted to let the survivor community know that she is available to provide the emotional support needed to work through the anxieties, stresses, and triggers that continue to impede survivors.

In May of 1999 survivors will be able to access the Jewish Family Service Agency for staff assistance and support when going through the very emotional process of filling out claim forms for restitution funds.



Anne Siegenberg

Cards & Donations

DECEMBER 15 TO MARCH 5

Donations

In Memory of My Parents Morris & Rachel Gechman, from Sheila Gechman.

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

In Recognition of Lillian Nemetz, from Killarney Secondary.

In Recognition of Louise Sorensen, from Abbotsford Christian School.

In Recognition of Bronia Sonnenschein, from St. Thomas Aquinas High School

In Recognition of Robbie Waisman, Vanier Catholic Secondary, Yukon Teacher's Association, F.H. Collins Secondary, Porter Creek Secondary, Office of Religious Education - Catholic Schools of Whitehorse, Aldergrove Community Secondary.

Thank You

Marianne Rev, For So Many Years of Healthcare, from Nora Ferera-Pullmer.

Eve Camerman, For Your Time and Effort, from Ida, Odie, Sherie & Jordan Kaplan.

Mazel Tov

Aren Altman, On Being Called to the Bar, from the Thal Family.

Alex & Colette Buckman, On The Birth of Your Grandson, from Lillian Boraks-Nemetz and the Child Survivor Group.

Marion Cassirer & Miriam Friedberg, Best of Luck In Your Future Endeavors, from Alex & Colette Buckman and the Child Survivor Group, Ronnie Tessler.

Babs & Ted Cohen, Happy Birthday to You Both, from Izak & Lili Folk.

Else Dunner, On Your Special Birthday, from Lee & Milt Freiman, Irving & Evelyn Goldenberg, George & Yvonne Rosenberg & Family and Annie.

Nomi Fenson, On Your Bat Mitzvah, from Wendy Oberlander.

Mr. John Frank, On Your 85th Birthday, from Paul Meyer.

Leonore Freiman, On the Opening of the Broken Threads Exhibit, from Your Children & Grandchildren.

Jacqueline Glazer, On Receiving Your Designation as a Chartered Accountant, from Irvine Wolak and Joe & Susan Stein.

Naomi Gropper & Daniel Steiner, On Your Wedding, from Wendy Oberlander.

Sella Heller, In Honour of Your 90th Birthday, from Estika Hunning, Robert & Marilyn Krell, Mary Steiner, Robbie & Gloria Waisman.

Rabbi Ichay, In Honour of Your Special Birthday, from Elie & Rosa Ferera.

Ida Kaplan, On Your Honour as "Woman Of The Year" with N'shei Chabad, from Dr. Arthur & Eve Camerman, Mrs. Gallia Chud.

Nomi Kaplan, On Your Birthday, from Ruth Beer, Alan Torchinsky & Marcia Pitch.

Dr. Robert Krell, On Your Well Deserved Elie Wiesel Award, from Herb & Barbara Silber & Family.

Mrs. Joe Lewin, On Your Special Birthday, from David & Regina Feldman, Ida Kaplan, George & Frieda Wertman.

Celina Lieberman, On Your Grandson's Bar Mitzvah, from Alex & Colette Buckman and the Child Survivor Group.

Lucien Lieberman, On Your 60th Birthday, from Peter & Jean Cooperberg, Pat & David Ostrow, Howard & Elayne Shapray, Ronnie & Barry Tessler.

Betty London, On Your Birthday, from Robert & Marilyn Krell.

Lisa Martz & Stephen Quinn, On Your Wedding, from Wendy Oberlander.

Judith Mate, On Your Special Birthday, from Valerie Asmoucha, Mrs. Eva Braun, Livia Gabor, Frank & Vera Hochfelder, Gloria Levi, Harvey & Monica Moster, Alex Rejto.

Judy Oberlander, On Receiving the Heritage Award, from Frieda Miller, Danny Shapiro & Family.

George Ostry, On Your Special Birthday, Irvine Wolak and Joe & Susan Stein.

Dennis Pavlich, Mazel Tov!, from Dr. Arthur & Eve Camerman.

Dr. Gary & Sheila Romalis, On Your 30th Anniversary, from Robert & Marilyn Krell, Lyliane, Larry, Todd & Ricki Thal and Esther Kaufman.

Morley & Fay Shafron, On the Birth of Your New Grandchild, from Robbie & Gloria Waisman

Graham Sharpe & Sally Holdsworth, On Your Engagement, from Ronnie Tessler.

Aubrey Solomon, On Your Birthday, from Herb & Barbara Silber & Family.

Gloria Waisman, On Your Special Birthday, from Morley & Fay Shafron.

Speedy Recovery

Linda Bokenfohr, from Craig McAdie.

Gail Heller, from Lola Apfelbaum & Family.

Hannah Hirt, from Frieda Miller.

Karl Landsberger, from David & Regina Feldman, Lili & Izak Folk, Abe & Goldie Miedzygorski.

Goldie Miedzygorski, from Norman & Sheila Archeck, Ida Kaplan.

David Shafran, from Sharon & Irving Kates.

Harry Woogman, from Leo & Jocy Lowy, Leslie Spiro.

In Sympathy

Harry Ceraco, On the Loss of Your Father, from Larry, Lyliane, Todd & Ricki Thal.

Gail Fox, On the Loss of Your Father, from Lyliane & Larry Thal.

Donations not included because of the printing deadline will appear in the next Zachor.

Faith Dubisky, On the Loss of Your Mother, from Esther Kaufman & the Thal Family.

Lenore Garfield & Family, On the Loss of Your Husband, Father & Grandfather, from Cathy & David Golden.

Rene & Terry Goldman, On Your Loss, from Alex & Colette Buckman and the Child Survivor Group.

Mrs. Hilda Green, On Your Loss, from Les & Nicky Raphael.



Molly Gutkin & Family, On the Loss of Your Husband & Father, from Cathy & David Golden and the Boys, Dorothy Goldenberg, Robbie & Gloria, Arlaina and Howard Waisman.

Mrs. Ann Hartley, In Loving Memory of Your Mother, from Abe & Goldie Miedzygorski & Family.

Rachel Lederman & Family, On the Loss of Your Beloved Husband & Father, from Abe & Goldie Miedzygorski & Family and Sally, Sid & Alex Coleman.

Szimon & Hana Lederman & Family, On the Loss of Your Beloved Brother & Uncle, from Abe & Goldie Miedzygorski & Family and Sally, Sid & Alex Coleman.

Ann Lehrer, On the Loss of Your Mother, from George & Frieda Wertman.

Dr. Lyall Levy & Family, In Memory of Your Mother, from David & Grace Ehrlich, Leslie Spiro.

Mrs. Ray Lichman & Family, In Memory of Julie Lichman, from Barbara & Herb Silber.

Sally Lowey & Family, In Memory of My Childhood Friend, Karli, from Leonore Freiman.

Leo Lowy & Family, In Memory of Your Sister, from Harley & Leslie, Darren & Nicki Mackoff, Harry Woogman.

Sending A Tribute Card Is As Easy As A Phone Call

Card donations go to support the educational work of the Holocaust Centre and can be ordered by phoning the HEC at 264.0499. You may request that your donation be designated to one of our many permanent Endowment Funds. Call us for more details.

Susie Micner, In Memory of Your Brother, from Regina & David Feldman, Esther Kaufman, Aaron & Terry Szajman.

Goldie Miedzygorski, In Memory of Your Brother, from Regina & David Feldman, Esther Kaufman, Aaron & Terry Szajman.

Mr. & Mrs. K. Porier, On the Loss of Diana's Mother, from Leo & Jocely Lowy.

David Reed, In Loving Memory of Your Beloved Sister, from Ben & Rita Akselrod, the VHCS Board & Staff.

Agi Rejto & Kathy Bilinsky, In Memory of Your Beloved Mother, from the Second Generation Group.

Eugene & Dana Schwartz, On the Loss of Your Beloved Mother & Grandmother, from Ida Kaplan.

Gayle Tallman, In Memory of Your Mother, from Karen Shtabsky.

Mr. Mel Sprackman, In Memory of Your Beloved Mother, from Norman & Sandra Miller, Lyliane, Larry, Todd & Ricki Thal.

Maurice Trojanowski & Family, In Loving Memory of Your Wife & Mother, from Sally & Sid Coleman, Harley & Leslie, Darren & Nicki Mackoff.

Brian Wener, In Memory of Your Mother, from Kathy, Morris, Adam, Laura & Rachel Gordon.

Leslie Wener, In Memory of Your Mother, from Kathy, Morris, Adam, Laura & Rachel Gordon.

Jill Weinstein & Family, In Memory of Your Stepfather, from Susan & Joe Stein & Family.

Irwin Woodrow, On the Loss of Your Mother, from the Thal Family.

Harry Woogman, On the Loss of Your Dear Wife, from Leo & Jocely Lowy.

New Books to Our Library

The Nightmare Years by William Shrier, **Heavy Sand** by Anatoli Rybakov, **Stones from the River** by Ursula Hegi, donated by Lucien Lieberman.

Twenty and Ten by Claire Huchet Bishop, **Martin Niemoller** by James Bentley, donated by Craig McArdie.

100 Cigarettes and a Bottle of Vodka: A Memoir by Arthur Schaller, **Last Steps to Freedom: The Evolution of Candian Racism** by J. Boyko, donated by Leanne Nash.

Plotting Hitler's Death: The Story of German Resistance by Joachim Fest, **So Many Miracles** by Saul Rubinek, donated by Wendy Oberlander.

The Reader by Bernard Schlink, donated by Louise Stein-Sorensen.

Phonebook of the Jewish Community in Shanghai, 1939 donated by Alfred Luk in Honour of Edmond Granier.

Tracking the Holocaust by Gerda Haas, donated by Rabbi David Mivasair.

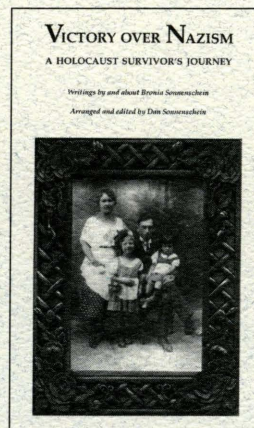
Dreamers of the Ghetto by Israel Zangwill, donated by David Wolochow.

KL Auschwitz by the International Auschwitz Committee, **Righteous Among the Nations of Swiss Nationality** by Yad Vashem, donated by the Isaac Waldman Public Library.

Between Two Streams: A Diary From Bergen Belsen by Abel J. Herzberg.

How Silent Were the Churches?: Canadian Protestantism and the Jewish Plight During the Nazi Era by Alan Davies and Marilyn Nefsky.

Victory Over Nazism: A Holocaust Survivor's Journey by Bronia Sonnenschein, donated by Bronia and Dan Sonnenschein.



When acquiring new material for our library, we are always pleased when we add the memoirs of our local survivors. **Victory Over Nazism** is one such book as it is a collection of writing by and about Bronia Sonnenschein. Arranged and edited by her son Dan, this book is "a tribute to my mother" which details Bronia's experiences during the Holocaust, her life after liberation and her important work as a Holocaust educator.

STATE OF ISRAEL BONDS AND THE HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE PRESENT



Sir Martin Gilbert

a public address by

Sir Martin Gilbert

"JEWISH RESISTANCE:
THE UNKNOWN HEROES"

Honouring Dr. Robert Krell

8PM Sunday April 25th

Schara Tzedek Synagogue / 3476 Oak Street



Lecture Tickets

\$18 / \$10 Students

Pre-Sale Only

State of Israel Bonds

266.7210

Holocaust Centre

264.0499

*Special Reception & Address
will precede the lecture at 5:30PM*

Minimum \$500 per person or purchase of Israel Bond
towards the Rob & Marilyn Krell Family Endowment Fund

For Dinner Information Only:
Harold Gutovich 273-0100

Honourary Chairs: Morris J. Wosk and Charles Davis



Robert Krell & Eli Wiesel at the State of Israel Bonds Awards Dinner

Robert Krell is a man of strong convictions. You can tell that about him when you first meet him. He helped to create the Standing Committee on the Holocaust in 1975, with Dr. Graham Forst of Capilano College, Professor William Nicholls of UBC, and the late Morris Saltzman of CJC. Determined to leave a permanent legacy to the community, Dr. Krell, with the support of the survivor community, helped to establish the Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society. The VHCS open its Holocaust Education Centre in November, 1994, enabling the Society to teach thousands more through outreach programs and educational exhibits.

Dr. Krell served as President of the Society until 1998. He is the recipient of numerous awards for his work in psychiatry and Holocaust remembrance, including the prestigious State of Israel Bonds Elie Wiesel Holocaust Remembrance Medal in November 1998.

The State of Israel Bonds and the Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society will honour Dr. Robert Krell by establishing the Robert and Marilyn Krell Endowment Fund for Holocaust Education at a special reception at the Schara Tzedek Synagogue. This reception will take place on April 25th, 1999 at 5:30PM. A public lecture will be delivered by internationally acclaimed author and historian Sir Martin Gilbert, at 8PM.

In a century that is marked by two outstanding events, the Holocaust and the founding of the State of Israel, Sir Martin Gilbert has established himself as a major contributor to the study of Jewish history, as well as being the official biographer of Sir Winston Churchill. Long an expert on the Holocaust, he has published numerous works, including *The Holocaust: A History of the Jews During the Second World War*, and the *Atlas of the Holocaust* which

records the destruction of European Jewry under Nazi rule. As Sir Martin writes in the preface of the Atlas, in his writing and research he has "tried to tell something of the story of those whose lives were destroyed. No map, and no photograph, can convey more than the tiniest fragment of the torment and tortures, which so many suffered."

Dr. Krell was a hidden child in Holland. Sir Martin was sent from England to Canada where he attended a Jewish Day School in Toronto. That little boy, "Mordechai" Gilbert, still remembers the signs on Spadina Avenue, "Restricted - No Jews Allowed."

Join our community in welcoming Sir Martin Gilbert and honouring Dr. Robert Krell; both men of conviction.