

The Newsletter of the *Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre*

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Zachor

"Remember"

Number 3
August 1998



our
A RCHIVES
and its role in preserving memory

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

August

Thursday August 20
Art and Atrocity
Interpreting the Holocaust in Art:
A Conversation with Artists
 7:30PM, Holocaust Education Centre

Membership Renewal Campaign
 Please consider renewing your 1998/99 membership to the Holocaust Education Centre.

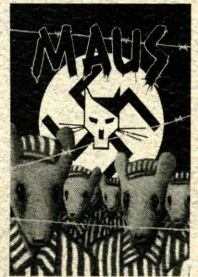
September

Tuesday September 8
Survivor Drop-In
 2-4PM, Holocaust Education Centre

Sunday September 27
High Holidays Memorial Service
 1PM, Schara Tzedek Cemetery
 2345 Marine Dr., New Westminster

October

Tuesday October 13
Comix 101 /
A Lecture by Art Spiegelman
 Presented by the Holocaust Education Centre, Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design, and Simon Fraser University, Spiegelman's lecture will provide an idiosyncratic and aesthetic overview of comics focusing on a dozen artists who inspired him. 8PM, Robson Square Conference Centre 800 Robson St., Vancouver
 Tickets: \$15 / \$10 INFO: 291-5100



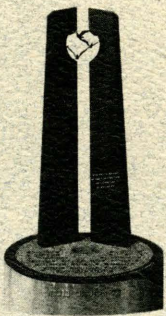
Wednesday October 14
MAUS: A Memoir of the Holocaust
Exhibit Opening & Reception
 7:30PM, Holocaust Education Centre
 MAUS runs until December 15th with selected Sunday afternoon openings.

November

Sunday November 8
Kristallnacht Evening Lecture
 This year's lecture will be given by scholar Dr. William Siedelman who will speak on medical ethics and the legacy of the Holocaust.
 7:30PM, Beth Israel Synagogue

November 28 and 29
Intergenerational Conference
 Saturday evening lecture and Sunday workshops for Holocaust Survivors and members of the Second Generation. Conference begins Saturday evening with an address by Daniel Bar-On of Ben Gurion University.
 Information and Registration: 264-0499

High Holidays Memorial Service



1PM Sunday September 27, 1998
 Schara Tzedek Cemetery
 2345 Marine Dr. New Westminster

Please join us in remembering

News and Notes

Inscription of Names to the Memorial
 If you have visited the Memorial at Schara Tzedek Cemetery recently you will see that the repairs to the Memorial are now complete. The **High Holidays Memorial Service** will take place September 27th and though new names to the memorial are not unveiled until the Yom HaShoah spring service, we can add them at any time. Please call the Centre if you have names you wish to be inscribed prior to the September Memorial Service.

Dr. Rudolf Vrba Honoured
 The University of Haifa has recently conferred upon local survivor **Dr. Rudolf Vrba** an honorary Doctorate of Philosophy. The degree was bestowed in recognition of his heroism and daring in exposing, during the war itself, the horrors of Auschwitz, which action led to the saving of Jewish lives; and in profound appreciation of his educational contribution and devotion to spreading knowledge about the Holocaust. Dr. Vrba presented the 1997 Kristallnacht Lecture.

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This month's cover: A child's shoe from the Kanada Barracks of Auschwitz. Donated by Ya'acov Handeli through Danny Zack.

Zachor

Remember

Tel: (604) 264-0499
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 The Newsletter of the Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society 10 - 510 W. 41st Ave., Vancouver, BC V6Z 3B2 October 1998

Editor: Roberta Kremer
 Layout & Design: Graham Sharpe



Detail of Phyllis Serota's "Order and Chaos"

art and atrocity

Interpreting the Holocaust in Art: A Conversation with Artists

THURSDAY AUGUST 20, 1998 7:30PM

Marking the close of the exhibit Order & Chaos

There is a increasing number of contemporary artists creating artwork dealing with Holocaust themes and imagery. The HEC receives numerous requests each year from artists wishing to exhibit in our galleries. Some are creating this work out of a direct personal connection as survivors, members of the Second Generation or with Jewish or European backgrounds. Other artists working with this topic have a historic, moral or "universal" connection rather than an experiential one. To work with Holocaust imagery opens up some of the most vexing and complex questions of historical appropriation and representation in art. For this reason the Holocaust Education Centre is hosting an informal discussion: *Art and Atrocity*.

This forum will deal with some of the issues confronting artists who deal with the Holocaust. For example, Holocaust images used by artists often border on

expressions of sentimentality or rely on easily identifiable images that have become emblematic of the Holocaust experience – icons such as the striped clothing, iron gates and disappearing train tracks. Many of these images have become stereotypic or even "trite," thus robbing the emotional or evocative power of the images – losing their impact in the process, and "flattening" the historical memory rather than highlighting or sharpening it. Contemporary art is often highly referential. Artists create work about how the Holocaust is represented as much as about the history and events of the Holocaust. What are the messages given off by work which is often more about cultural critique or victimization than about social action? What is the relationship of aesthetics and ideology – can or should artists do "beautiful" drawings of a crematorium? Does it further exploit unnamed victims to present their anonymous images as victims? Bring your thoughts and questions to an open discussion with this collection of artists.

Participating Artists

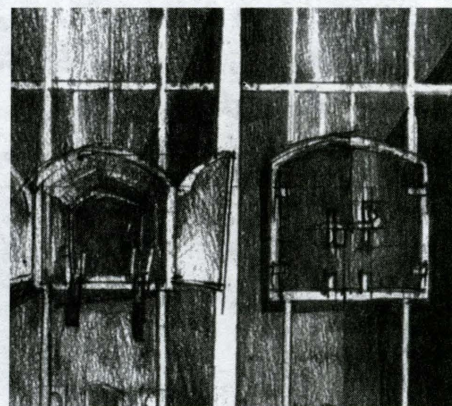
Pierre JP Bélanger was born in Montreal and studied Architecture in Paris, Barcelona, and at the University of Toronto. Pierre sees the need to publicly address notions of remembrance, the passages of time, and memory.

Linda Dayan Frimer has participated in exhibitions throughout North America. Linda was a facilitator for the Gesher Project: an exploration in writing and painting with local Holocaust survivors and members of the Second Generation.

Nomi Kaplan emigrated in 1940 from Lithuania and began working with the Holocaust in 1985 as a means of confronting the experiences of her immediate family during the war. Nomi has had 23 solo exhibitions internationally and currently resides in Vancouver.

Phyllis Serota is a painter living and working in Victoria, BC and has shown extensively throughout Western Canada and the United States since 1977. Often concerned with personal and collective memory, Phyllis began working with the Holocaust in 1997.

Elizabeth Shefrin was born in Ottawa but spent part of her childhood in Italy as part of the United Nations' community. She has worked for 25 years as a self taught artist, writer, workshop facilitator and community arts worker.



Detail of Pierre Bélanger's "Station Z"

Preserving Holocaust Memory Through the Preservation and Use of Artifacts

The very word “archives” suggests a dark room, void of life with stacks from floor to ceiling filled with oddly numbered boxes. The room remains locked, access is limited. Once in a while someone dusts off the box and locates a specific artifact for a researcher. This description reflects the commonly held perception that artifacts lay untouched for years in an archives, stored away without use or anyone celebrating their existence. This does not describe the archives of the HEC.

Our collection of artifacts, numbering over 1300 objects are stored in gray boxes and are carefully secluded in a space where they can be kept safe and secure. They are also fully documented, catalogued, cherished, consulted and used in many ways to support our mandate of Holocaust education. They are presently becoming even more “visible” with the placement of three units of display which will bring more of our artifacts into view in the education room.

Most of the objects in our archival collection are “primary documents” and have come to our archive from our local survivor community. In the early days it was Rubin Pinsky who championed the value and importance of our archival collection.

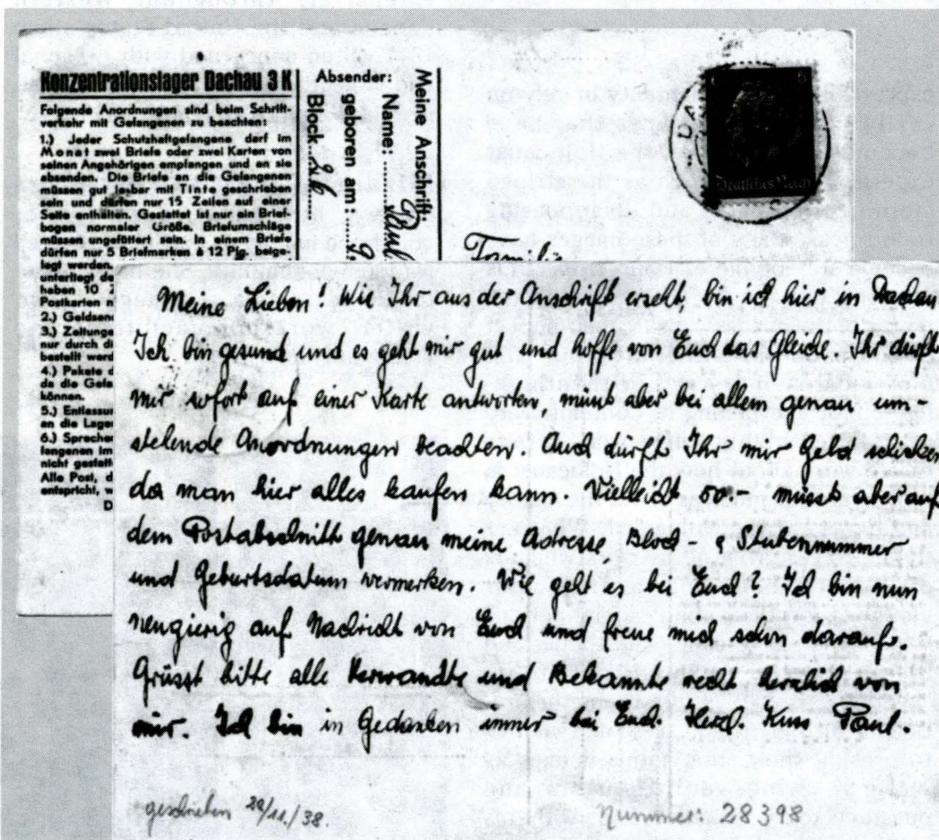
“... sometimes only the photo or postcard is what remains of a beloved family member or friend...”

The objects often faced the same hardships and dangers of their owners – sometimes only the photo or postcard is what remains of a beloved family member or friend, the person having perished in Auschwitz or whose fate remains unknown. In this way many of our artifacts are also “survivors.” In other cases such as passports, whether authentic or forged the object actually saved their life and is therefore a

powerful symbol of survival in itself.

These objects have educational as well as historical value – they can serve as an important catalyst giving immediacy and authenticity – communicating a sense that these events actually happened to real people. An object when handled or viewed in its physical presence has the power to bring the student back to the historic moment, to place the life saving passport in their own hands, to assist the imagination to visualize or contextualize abstract experiences. Artifacts bring the past into the present helping to establish a physical bridge by which the survivors story can be entered.

Every program, exhibit, and Teacher’s Guide uses images or reproductions made from the artifacts in the archives. Our discovery trunks, both for the teaching of Anne Frank and the most recent trunk on immigration contain replicas of nearly 100 items from our archives. During most exhibits, a selection of material relating to the



Translation of a postcard
written by Paul Meyer from
Concentration Camp Dachau 3K
November 1938

My Dearest! As you can see from the address, I am here in Dachau. I am in good health and I feel alright and hope the same for you. You are allowed to reply to me at once on a postcard, but must be sure to follow exactly the instructions on the reverse. You are also allowed to send money, as one can buy here everything. Maybe DM50 - but you must be sure to indicate on the postal money order my address, barrack and section number as well as my date of birth. How are you all? I am most eager to have news from you and await it anxiously. Please greet all relatives and friends most cordially from me. I am always with you in thought. A hearty kiss from Paul.

exhibit is placed in display cases. Images are used to illustrate articles in *Zachor* and in almost all of our publications.

Building an archival collection depends on the trust of our community, on our ability to care for and document the material and on our ability to educate our membership, survivors and their children as to the value of donation and preservation. First we need to be able to identify those things which should be saved.

"Building an archival collection depends on the trust of our community ... and our ability to educate our membership, survivors and their children as to the value of donation and preservation."

Just trying to define what constitutes a "Holocaust artifact" is a conceptual minefield. Often it is impossible to identify the significance of what may look like a casual everyday item without an intimate knowledge of the events of the Holocaust or the specific survivor's history. Holocaust-related artifacts are so embedded in personal stories that if disassociated from the narrative they lose their meaning completely and the very definition of the object as an artifact. Often children or other relatives may come across postcards or photographs without knowing their significance. It is critical that survivors sit down with someone within their families, with an archivist or staff member to tell us the meaning or story associated with each item. It is the meaning that the survivor attributes to the artifact that interests us most.

We are interested in the donation of materials to our archives – things relating to the events and conditions of the Holocaust, photographs or items that represent cherished traces of families or people who perished or survived. We also collect anti-Semitic propaganda, evidence of resistance – objects and images that reflect cultural loss and the destruction of the rich cultural and religious communities before the war. We are interested in objects of Diaspora and dislocation as a result of the turmoil in Europe or as a direct result of the Holocaust. We are interested in images and documents that deal with DP camps, post war and later immigration, or those items that reflect the loss of careers or businesses due to the Nazi policies.

Many of the artifacts that reach us are in fragile condition or are in danger of deterioration. Not all the artifacts that people bring to us can be acquisitioned and taken into the collection because they do not fall within the mandate – or would not be able to be properly stored, cared for or used educationally.

In the future it will be the oral testimonies, and these few historic artifacts that will be the only remaining "traces" – the residue of the tragic loss known as the Holocaust – that will remain.

From the Archives

At the time we began to conceptualize and research the story of the Jewish community of Shanghai there was not one single item in the HEC archives relating to the experiences of the 20,000 Jews who fled Germany and Austria for safe haven in Shanghai during the Holocaust



– even though there were many families in the Vancouver area sharing this history. Within weeks a donor unconnected with our organization and unaware of the timeliness of his gesture donated a complete package of original documents relating to one Vancouver family whose journey had taken them from Vienna to Shanghai and finally to Vancouver. This material was "rescued" from a dumpster – placed there after being found wet and molding in a basement after the family home was vacated following the parents' death. After treatment to clean and preserve the documents, remaining family members were contacted. Their oral histories will form, along with this archival material, a significant section of the exhibition *"Bringing Our Memories with Us – Wartime Stories of Shanghai,"* to be mounted in the fall of 1999.

Shortly thereafter a photo album was brought into the Centre by a member of the 2nd Generation. It was one family's photo album who had fled Europe for Shanghai – a family where the principal people in the album were no longer alive and where much of the narrative has been lost. This album has been shown to other Jewish families in the community known to have lived in Shanghai before emigrating to Canada and has proven to be an important catalyst for stimulating their oral histories. From their responses and explanations of what is pictured in the album, the story of this family and others stories have unfolded. Through the integration of oral histories and the narratives

associated with our archival material the experiences of a whole community can be understood and shared.



A Refugee Identification Card of Manfred Rosengarten, father of Andy Rosengarten.

Senator Cairene Reay Wilson: Canada's Torch Bearer For Refugees

by Stanley H. Winfield

As Canadians, we are justifiably proud that our country has earned and deserves recognition as being one of the best, if not the best, country in the world in which to live. Regrettably, it also has the reputation of having one of the world's worst records for refusing entry to victims of Nazi persecution. Much has been written about Canada's attitude toward Jewish immigration during the 1930s and 1940s. The popular view is that there were no real challenges to the infamous Frederick C. Blair, the Deputy Minister of Immigration, or to Charlotte Whitton, then a prominent Ottawa social activist. Both were powerful advocates of the "none is too many" philosophy when it came to the admission of Jewish refugees, particularly during the decade preceding the war.

Throughout my reading of Canada's rigid immigration policy, one name kept reappearing. A line or two here and there would refer to a Senator Cairene Wilson, invariably portrayed as a champion of the Jewish refugee cause. In fact, the first time I had heard of her was in a letter from home in early 1945, while I was serving overseas in the RCAF. An uncle had written to me about Senator Wilson's personal efforts to bring Jewish war orphans, survivors of the Holocaust, to Canada.

Wishing to learn more about her I searched library data bases but with no success. Early this year I decided to use the facilities of the Archives of Canada to research the life of this remarkable Canadian who, on February 15, 1930, became the first woman appointed to the Senate, then elected the first President of the League of Nations Society of Canada, and in 1948, Canada's first woman delegate to the United Nations.

Prior to 1930, immigration to Canada

was virtually unrestricted and, for the most part, those who could produce proper certificates of health and good character were welcomed with open arms. However, in 1931, the law was amended by an Order-in-Council which restricted immigration to 1) first degree relatives of persons already in Canada; 2) bona fide agricultural settlers; or 3) persons possessing substantial capital. While racial prejudice undoubtedly existed at the time, it can be assumed that the motivating factor for this change in the law was primarily economic and not founded on anti-Semitism alone.

From 1933 onwards, Senator Wilson became a torch bearer for the rescue of the Jews of Europe, whom she described as "the people on Canada's conscience." She was tireless in her travels across the country, spending her energy presenting the plight of refugees to Canadians, urging individuals and governments to come to their aid. An editorial in the November 28, 1938, edition of *The Ottawa Citizen* applauded her efforts in drawing the Senate's attention to the fact that Canada was "avoiding its responsibility as a member of the British Empire in not coming to the aid of hundreds of thousands of dispossessed people in Europe." As early as November 1939, she urged that "an immigration council be established immediately to study the matter and permit the immigration of

its deep sense of the needs of suffering people. We cannot miss this opportunity."

In 1938, after the Munich Agreement drove thousands from their homes and added more innocent victims to the great mass of Jews already enduring Nazi persecution, Senator Wilson organized

"What I wish to urge is that Canada ... has an opportunity to show in a practical way its deep sense of the needs of suffering people."

and became Chairman of The Canadian National Committee on Refugees and Victims of Political Persecution. The purpose of the Committee was, inter alia, "to bring about a better understanding of the restrictions of immigration." Sadly, this organization was utterly ineffective in moving the government to a more sympathetic attitude towards Jewish refugees. The doors remained closed.

Born in Montreal, Senator Cairene Reay Wilson died in Ottawa on March 3, 1962, at the age of seventy-seven. She was a devout Presbyterian. In an interview with *The Ottawa Citizen* on November 25th, 1939, she said: "We must not forget as Christians that Jesus and his family were all Jews." Her's was a voice in the wilderness of Canada's dismal immigration policy. She was determined to change it - she demanded action. She repeatedly called on the Canadian government to open the doors to the Nazi's victims, but to no avail. The grim reality was that the government of the day would never relent in its adamant refusal to change the official immigration policy, so ruthlessly enforced by the obdurate and anti-Semitic bureaucrat, Frederick Blair. However, this sad fact should not be allowed to blur Senator Cairene Wilson's advocacy on behalf of all victims of Nazi persecution. It is important and necessary that we remember, recognize and pay homage to this extraordinary Canadian who tried so sincerely and vigorously, albeit unsuccessfully, to rescue countless innocent human being from the Holocaust.

Source material taken from the Cairene Wilson Papers of the National Archives of Canada.



Jewish orphans at the Peterswald Children's Home, Lower Silesia.

refugees." The March 16, 1940, edition of *The Regina Leader Post* reports on a speech she gave the previous evening in which she said: "What I wish to urge is that Canada, an open and peaceful country, which needs more people, has an opportunity to show in a practical way

Journey to Canada – A Discovery Kit

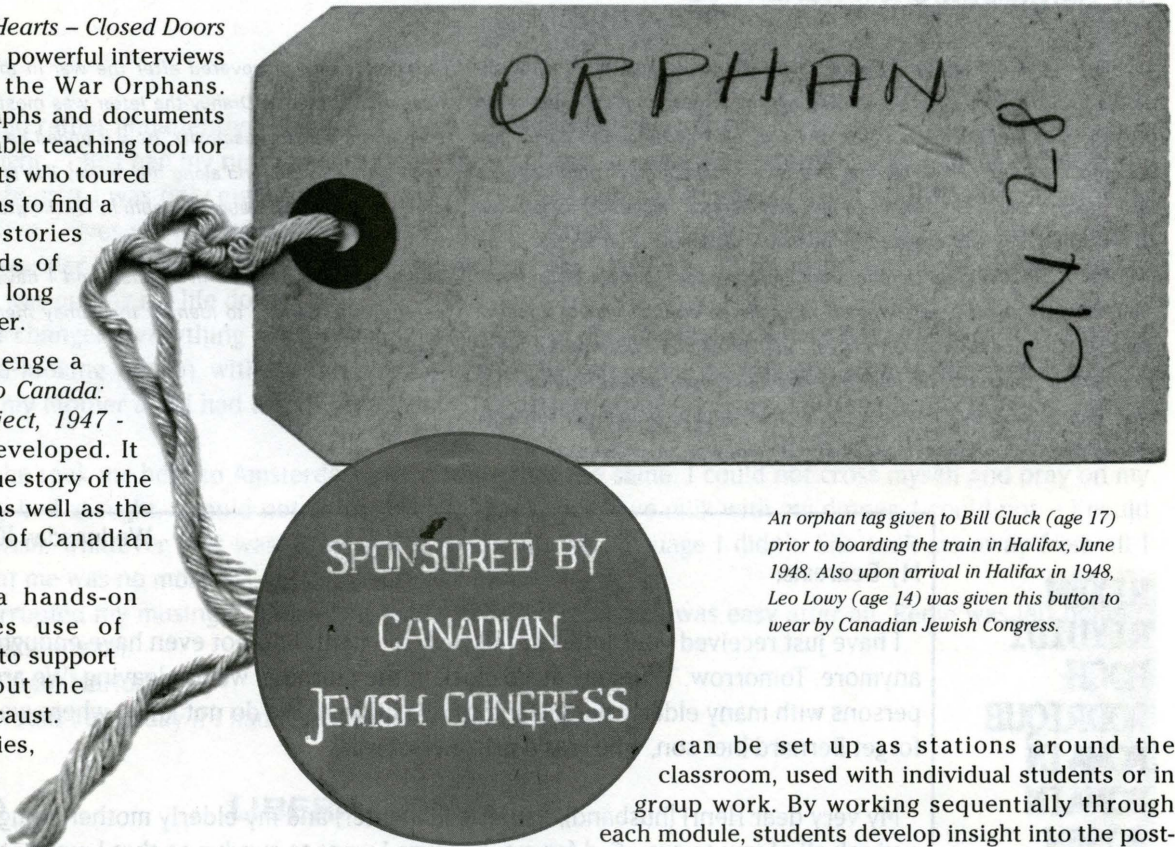
by Frieda Miller

The exhibit *Open Hearts – Closed Doors* grew out of some powerful interviews with several of the War Orphans. Their stories, photographs and documents proved to be an invaluable teaching tool for the hundreds of students who toured the exhibit. Our goal was to find a way of keeping these stories alive and in the hands of students and teachers, long after the exhibit was over.

To meet this challenge a discovery kit *Journey to Canada: The War Orphans Project, 1947 - 1949* has just been developed. It explores both the unique story of the War Orphans Project as well as the more general theme of Canadian immigration policies.

The kit features a hands-on approach and makes use of documentary evidence to support student learning about the aftermath of the Holocaust. The letters, diary entries, newspaper articles, photographs, identification cards and official documents contained in the kit are supported by information cards, posters and a Teacher's Guide. Together these materials guide student learning outward from the more personal and concrete to a larger understanding of this history and the issues.

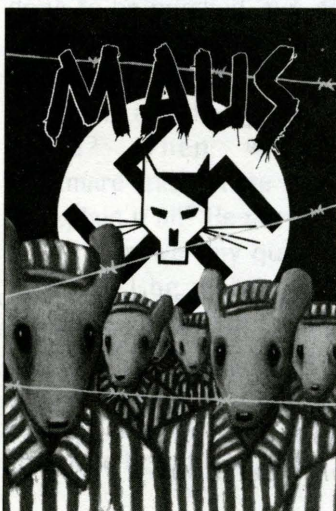
The kit is divided into seven thematic modules. Each module is comprised of a poster, a student activity card and a small portfolio full of artifacts and information cards. The modules



An orphan tag given to Bill Gluck (age 17) prior to boarding the train in Halifax, June 1948. Also upon arrival in Halifax in 1948, Leo Lowy (age 14) was given this button to wear by Canadian Jewish Congress.

can be set up as stations around the classroom, used with individual students or in group work. By working sequentially through each module, students develop insight into the post-war immigration experience.

Unfortunately, the story of the Jewish war orphans was not an anomaly, but symptomatic of Canada's ethnically selective immigration policy at that time. The intent of this kit is to challenge young people to consider Canada's history and its responsibility towards the world's refugees today. The kit will be officially launched at the *Building Bridges Not Walls Conference* in Vancouver, October 1998 and will be available for loan to the schools this fall.



© Art Spiegelman

Interested in teaching, working with students and reading comic books ?

Volunteer docents (tour guides) needed to lead student visitors through the upcoming MAUS exhibit. Volunteer as much or as little as your schedule allows...

Docent training to take place in early October.

Call 264-0499 for more details.

Docents needed October through December 1998



THE LAST LETTER

By Serge Vanry

This letter was written by my aunt, Lisa Rosenblum (nee Kouchelevitch) on the eve of her departure from Drancy, the largest concentration camp in France, located in the suburbs of Paris. Lisa had stepped out of her apartment without her yellow star in order to make a quick purchase at a local grocery store. She was seen by a collaborator neighbour, denounced to the authorities and arrested immediately. She ended up in Drancy on October 7, 1943, and on October 28th was deported on train #61, joining 1000 helpless Jewish men, women and children on their way to a fearful destination: Auschwitz. On arrival, 284 men and 103 women were selected for forced labour, and 613 prisoners were gassed immediately after their arrival. By 1945, only 31 of the original group had survived, among them two women. Lisa, 54 at the time, was never seen again.

This letter was discovered after the war in the possession of her late husband. Written in Drancy the letter was most likely thrown off a death train on its way to Auschwitz. How it ended being delivered to the family and where it was found along the railway line is unknown. It is now in the archives of the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C..

The letter was written in Yiddish and I have added a few words in parenthesis in order to identify the family members and make the text clearer.

Wednesday [October 27th, 1943]

My Dearests:

I have just received your letter at this very moment. I do not even have enough strength to cry anymore. Tomorrow, Thursday at 3 o'clock in the morning, we are leaving. We are a group of 1000 persons with many elderly people and small children. We do not know where we are going. Do not forget Bernard [her son, who was a prisoner of war].

My very dear Henri [husband], Paulette [daughter] and my elderly mother, I hug you all to heart and ask all of you to pray G-d for me, because I want to survive so that I may see all my children again.

I want to embrace very hard all our family members as well as all our good friends. I beseech you not to step outside, because every day more and more people arrive here [after their arrests]. I hold you all very close to my heart.

Lisa

[Uncle] Zalman [Kalmanowitz], Esther and their son are leaving as well, on the same train.

RIXEM
RIYUIDI
ROCH
RODRIQUE
ROMAIN
ROMAIN
ROSEN
ROSENAU
ROSENAU
ROSENBERG
ROSENBERG
ROSENBERG
ROSENBERG
ROSENBERG
ROSENBERG
ROSENBERG
ROSENBERG
ROSENBLITH
ROSENBLOUM
ROSENFELD
ROSENTHAL
ROSENZWEIG

SIMONE	23.05.43	NICE
CONSTANTINO	07.02.83	PARIS
LEA	10.04.89	LIDA
ESTHER	27.08.69	BORDEAUX
LOTTE	08.12.03	ELBING
RACHEL	16.10.72	LODZ

"In a few simple words, this dramatic letter expresses the foreboding, terror and tragedy experienced by millions of our people, sent mercilessly to their deaths in inhuman conditions. I believe that these simple remnants of a terrible past, force us to pause and experience the agony deeply within ourselves. We feel a sharp pain in our hearts and we experience anger. Anger at an indifferent world that could not be bothered to intervene at the time, and now seems interested in forgetting, if not erasing, the memories of our loved ones. Lisa's voice reinforces our resolve to remember, speak to, and educate as many as possible. Her words will never be forgotten!" – Serge Vanry



THREE PROSE PIECES

By Marion Irene Cassirer

I CHOSE

"Choose," she said rather impatiently; "I have to complete this form to register you for school."

"Choose," I thought, "I just had my ninth birthday and I'm supposed to make a decision that will affect me the rest of my life." Actually I thought I was only eight, because I was very small and had been told again and again: "you are five, remember you are five." Fives were good, sixes were bad. As we started our escape, fives were safe; sixes had to wear the yellow star. No wonder I only remembered the day but not the age I really was. It was just one more addition to the stone necklace that was pulling my life down.

My mother had changed everything since she first appeared at the farmhouse where I was hidden barely three months ago. This old-looking woman, with the missing teeth, straggly hair, funny accent and flabby white skin. Everyone said this was really my Mother and I had to call her Mama. This perfect stranger? How could she be my mother? I had a family already.

Just the same, she took me here to Amsterdam and nothing was the same. I could not cross myself and pray on my knees in front of my bed at night. I could not go to church. I could not have milk with my dinner, I could not – I could not. I had to be Jewish, whatever that was. Praying I understood, the language I didn't. She took me away from all I knew and loved. That me was no more –

"Well," she interrupted my musings, "which is it going to be?" The choice was easy after all. Renie was left behind, the new me would continue on.

"Marion" I said, "I am Marion."

Who and what would I be today if I had chosen Irene?

CHILDHOOD

The dangerous times, filled with fright of the uniforms around me, constantly watching, watching. Having to hide my identity, shivering with cold and hunger, never safe. What is a child without laughter and toys, yearning to learn, unable to belong. What have I done to be pursued, run down and threatened with death. Am I different just because I have black hair, and the others are so blond? When will this nightmare end? Where is pappa to explain it all? He never came back to answer my questions. How can I be a child when I have to be responsible for myself? Childhood means danger, to be lived through as quickly as possible. To be a child is to be vulnerable.

LIBERATION

I remember.

I was pumping water. From the pump outside to fill a kettle for Moeke.

I heard planes and quickly looked up. These were "good" planes. I knew the markings by now. More and more planes flew overhead when suddenly the sky was filled with large mushrooms with men dangling from them; and funny double ones with jeeps or large boxes. I started to run into the fields, but Moeke quickly ran outside and pulled me back into the house.

Soon we were surrounded by Canadian soldiers in their khaki uniforms and brown boots. They motioned to us, with smiles, imagine – SMILES, that we should go into the barn for our safety.

This was the beginning of the battle for the now-famous bridge at Arnhem. We heard the "ping" of bullets, and the "ack-ack" and booms of heavier fighting. By early evening the sky was red, orange, purple and black from all the smoke of battle.

Our fields were empty now of soldiers and parachutes. Parachutes were everywhere, covering the ground like a patchwork quilt even in the trees. Those wonderful parachutes; soon to become skirts and dresses, ribbons for my hair, curtains and drapes, tablecloths and bedcovers and so much more.

Vader explained to us all that now we were free. Moeke went out to her "Resistance" garden. A tiny patch not filled with potatoes or sugarbeets, but with flowers. Only ORANGE flowers. I saw her hold her hands in prayer and look up into the red sky, her lips moving. Then she bent down and picked ALL her orange flowers and brought them inside the house.

Cards & Donations

MARCH 25 TO JULY 15

Donations

In Memory of Tom Everall, from Catherine, Ralph, Michael & Jordana Zbarsky.

In Memory of Henry Hister, from Art Hister & Phyllis Simon.

In Memory of Leo Simon, from Art Hister & Phyllis Simon.

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

To the Heller Endowment Fund In Honour of Paul & Edwina Heller, from Dr. Carol & Liliana Abraham, Frances Adaskin, Janet Adaskin, Roberta Beiser, Ethel Bellows, Frances & Samuel Belzberg, Maxine Berry, Irene Bettinger, Douglas Harold Brown, Eva Cairns, Sergiu & Robinne Commissiona, Robert & Raananah Davidovici, Jack Diamond, Dr. Sherold & Shirley Fishman, Ancie & Arthur Fouks, Tamara Frankel, John & Marta Friesen, Abe & Lou Gercik, Paul & Maryke Gilmore, Norman Gladstone, Mr. & Mrs. Leon Glassman, Barbara Heller, Kitty Heller, Rowena & David Huberman, Robert & Marilyn Krell, Pat & Harold Laimon, Sella Landau-Heller & Family, Harry Locke, Anne Mathisen, Inge Manes, Margaret Mathisen, Max & Eva Miller, Lillian Nemetz, Michael & Brenda O'Keefe, Helen Olfman, Claire Osipov, Susan Quastel, Annette Rothstein, Gordon & Marion Smith, Mary Steiner, Harry & Irene Syz, Ronnie Tessler, Dr. Maelor & Muriel Vallance, Sophie Waldman.

Thank You

Jill Charkow, With Appreciation, from Lili & Izak Folk.

George Febiger, Thank You for Your Donation In Recognition of My Memoirs, from Michel Mielnicki.

Graham & Judith Forst, In Appreciation For Your Dedication to the Symposium, from Louise & Ike Stein Sorensen.

Norman Gladstone & Birgit Westergaard, Thank You for Hosting Our Friends & Family, from Naomi Gropper & Daniel Steiner.

Cathy, David, Shane & Tyler Golden, For Your Thoughtful Gift for Adam, from David & Heather Bogoch & Family.

Mr. & Mrs. Schwartzman, Thank You for the Invitation, from Leo & Jocy Lowy.

Speedy Recovery

Hildy Barnett, from Leslie Spiro.

Helena Cantor, from Robert & Marilyn Krell.

Gallia Chud, from Eeta Rolingher.

Charlie Davis, from Emmy Krell.

Regina Feldman, from VHCS Board & Staff.

Molly Gutkin, from Robbie & Gloria Waisman.

Morley Koffman, from David Shafran.

Mrs. L. Moses, from David & Grace Ehrlich.

In Sympathy

Shelley Adler, On the Loss of Your Mother, from Lyliane & Larry Thal.

Hildy Barnett, Thinking of You, from Lyliane & Larry Thal & Family.

Sheila Bermann, With Deepest Sympathies, from Dorothy Goldenberg, Robbie & Gloria Waisman.

Mr. & Mrs. Bremner, On the Loss of Your Son, from Lyliane & Larry Thal.

Morris Charkow, On the Loss of Your Brother, from Lyliane & Larry Thal & Esther Kaufman.

Mr. & Mrs. Ted Cohen, On The Loss of Your Sister, from Ben & Rose Folk, Lili & Izak Folk, Lyliane & Larry Thal & Esther Kaufman.

Charlie Davis, Thinking of You, from Lyliane, Larry, Todd & Ricki Thal & Esther Kaufman.

Gina Dimant, In Memory of Your Husband, from Abe & Goldie Miedzygorski, Lillian Nemetz.

Saul & Rosie Dimant, In Memory of Your Father, from Erika & Zoltan Fleischer, Scott's, Mark's & Ernie's Families.

Shirley Diner, Thinking of You, from Lyliane & Larry Thal & Family & Esther Kaufman.

Marianne Epstein, On the Loss of Your Husband, from Joe & Ina Auerhahn, Esther & Larry Brandt, Laurie & Michael Bertrand, David & Barbara Feldstein, Rose & Ben Folk, Lili & Izak Folk, Bertha & Izzy Fraeme, Bernie & Marilyn Hooper & Family, Helen Hooper, Elizabeth Krell, Joseph & Rose Lewin, Maurice & Renee Lifchus, Elizabeth Stern, Judy & Victor Stern & Family, Elizabeth, Richard & Arthur Wolak.

Mark & Sylvie Epstein & Family, On the Loss of Your Father & Grandfather, from Laurie & Michael Bertrand, Rose & Ben Folk, Lili & Izak Folk, Larry & Miri Garaway & Family, Bernie & Marilyn Hooper & Family, Howard & Sunni Stein, Saul & Sandy Youssiem.

Anna Ezekiel, On the Loss of Your Husband, from Ida Kaplan, Michel & June Mielnicki.

Abe & Freda Gefen, In Memory of Your Brother, from Ben & Rita Akselrod.

Ruth Hollander, In Memory of Your Husband, from Susan Bluman, Rosalie & Saul Dimant, Dennis & Joyce Hoffman, Richard & Peggy Sun (Richard's Coiffure).

Melvin Kero, Our Thoughts are With You, from Lili & Izak Folk.

Ben Kurtz & Family, Our Thoughts are With You, from Cathy & David Golden.

Lana Landa, On the Loss of Your Sister, from Lyliane & Larry Thal.

Ken Levitt, On the Loss of Your Mother, from Lili & Izak Folk.

The London Family, On the Loss of Your Father, from Gloria & Robbie Waisman.

Gerri London, On the Loss of Your Father, Lyliane & Larry Thal & Family.

Belva London & Family, In Memory of Your Mother & Grandmother Jean Weiss, from Joseph & Rose Lewin & Family.

Alan Margulius, In Memory of Your Aunt Maisie Schloss, from Susan & Joe Stein.

Dr. Robert Mermelstein, In Memory of Your Mother, from Peter & Joan Karasz.

Reverend Fred Metzger, In Memory of Your Beloved Wife, from Robert Krell.

Lesley Anne McKnight, In Memory of John Henry Farnfield, from David Shafran & Families.

Frances Morton, In Memory of Our Beloved Cousin Leon, from Rosa & Elie Ferera.

Myrna Rabinowitz, On the Loss of Your Father Izak Kleinman, from Ruth & Avi Hess/Dolgin, Alina Wydra & Alan Posthuma.

Elaine Ross, On the Loss of Your Mother, from Lyliane & Larry Thal.

Leah Saltman, On the Loss of Your Husband, from Karen & Steve Kline & Family, Frieda Miller & Daniel Shapiro & Family.

Harold Shacter, In Memory of Your Mother, from Robert & Marilyn Krell.

Arnold Shain, On the Loss of Your Son, from Lyliane & Larry Thal & Family.

Steven & Cathy Shain, On the Loss of Your Nephew, from Lyliane & Larry Thal & Family.

Esther Weinstein & Family, In Memory of Your Husband & Father, from Ben & Rita Akselrod.

Marilyn Wohl & Family, On the Passing of Your Mother & Grandmother, from Cathy & David Golden.

Mrs. Reta Wolochow, On the Loss of Your Dear Brother, from Lili & Izak Folk, Lyliane & Larry Thal.

Dr. Izzy Wolsch, In Memory of Your Wife Betty, from David & Regina Feldman.

Rose Zivet & Family, Deepest Sympathy On Your Great Loss, from Leslie Spiro.

Mazel Tov

Pearl Adilman, In Honour of Your 85th Birthday, from Ruth & Cecil Sigal.

Rita & Ben Akselrod, On Your 50th Wedding Anniversary, from Esther & Larry Brandt, Alex & Colette Buckman, Ted & Shirley Cohn, Lili & Izak Folk, Evelyn & Irving Goldenberg, Ida Kaplan, Frieda Miller & Daniel Shapiro, David Shafran & Family, Herb & Barbara Silber, VHCS Board & Staff.

Jonas Altman, On Your Graduation, from Lyliane & Larry Thal & Family.

Jennifer Ames, On Your Graduation, from Lyliane & Larry Thal & Family.

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Averbach, On Your 60th Wedding Anniversary, from Esther & Larry Brandt, Leo & Jocy Lowy, Mr. & Mrs. Batt, Harold & Leah Berner.

Irene Brandt, On Your Special Birthday, from Esther & Larry Brandt.

Ryan Davis, On Your Graduation, from Lyliane & Larry Thal & Family.

Bella Dexall, In Recognition of Your 80th Birthday, from Mr. & Mrs. Batt, Harold & Leah Berner, Esther & Larry Brandt.

Ms. Sylvia Eibschutz, Wishing You Many More Happy and Healthy Years, from Hans & Anne Philipp, Mitchell & Lynne Gropper, Michael & Phyllis Moscovich.

Min Fayerman, On Your 75th Birthday, from Birgit, Yosef & Norman Gladstone.

Dr. Ernie Forrai, On Your 75th Birthday, from Dr. & Mrs. R. Mermelstein.

Graham Forst, Mazel Tov on the Marriage Of Your Daughter Paula, from Bronia Sonnenschein, Ronnie & Barry Tessler.

Judith Forst, Brava!, from Ronnie & Barry Tessler.

Sharon & Irv Hochman, On the Birth of Your Child, from Leslie Spiro.

Dorothy & Sam Hoffman, May You Have Many More Happy Years Together, from Frieda Miller & Daniel Shapiro & Family.

Leon & Evelyn Kahn, On Your 45th Wedding Anniversary, from Rose Marie & Leon Glassman and Abe & Leyla Sacks.

Ida Kaplan, In Appreciation of Your Contribution, from Esther Dayson.

Dr. Sharon Kileny, Congratulations On Receiving Your Medical Degree, from Hymie & Rome Fox & Family.

Dr. Robert Krell, Thank You for all of Your Years of Hard Work and Dedication, from Michael & Kristina Berman, Jody & Harvey Dales, Ben & Esther Dayson, David & Estelle Fogell, Hymie & Rome Fox & Family, Leo & Jocy Lowy, Michel & June Mielnicki, Norman & Sandra Miller, Frieda Miller & Daniel Shapiro & Family, Michael & Phyllis Moscovich, Teresa Pryce & Mario Buff & Family, Drs. Isaak & Bluma Tischler, Rachel & Herschel Wosk, David Shafran, Ronnie & Barry Tessler.

Mr. & Mrs. Victor Liff, Wishing Health and Happiness, from Leo & Jocy Lowy.

Jeff Lowenstein, On Your Special Birthday, from Cathy & David Golden.

Leo Lowy, On Your Birthday, from Betty & Louis Averbach, Esther & Larry Brandt.

Josef Machek, On Your Birthday, from Michel & June Mielnicki.

Sol Meyer, With Very Best Greetings For Your Birthday, from Paul Meyer.

Dr. & Mrs. M. Milstein, Happy Birthdays, from Dora & Jake Rozen.

Michel & June Mielnicki, Wishing You A Wonderful Wedding Anniversary, from Vivian & Jeff Claman & Family.

Dr. Israel & Sheila Muskovitch, On Becoming Grandparents, from Leslie Spiro.

Mr. & Mrs. J. Perel, On the Birth of Your Grandson, from David & Regina Feldman.

Harry & Reisa Nortman, Wishing You a Joyful Pesach, from Oscar Jason.

Jack & Doreen Rozen, On the Birth of Your Grandchild, from Robert & Marilyn Krell & Family.

Professor Martha Salcudean, On Winning the Killam Prize for Engineering, from Robert Krell, VHCS Board.

Professor Martha Salcudean, On Being Appointed to the Order of British Columbia, from the Child Survivor Group.

Stan & Shirley Schwartz, Happy 25th Anniversary, from Lyliane & Larry Thal.

Joseph & Rosalie Segal, On Your Wedding Anniversary, from Leon & Evelyn Kahn.

David Shafran, On Your 75th Birthday, from Harold & Leah Berner, Kates Family, Jack & Chana Margalit, Anita Shafran & Family, Zev & Elaine Shafran & Family, VHCS Board & Staff.

Charna Shapiro, On this Very Special Day, from Goldie & Avrum Miller, Karen, Steve, Erin & David Kline.

Ike & Louise Sorensen, On Your Son's Wedding, from Alex & Colette Buckman, Marion Cassirer & Miriam Friedberg.

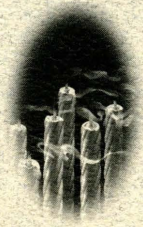
Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Szajman, On Your 50th Wedding Anniversary, from Lola Apfelbaum, Esther & Larry Brandt, Abe & Goldie Miedzygorski.

Robbie Waisman, Our Wishes for a Successful Term as President of the VHCS, from Gerri & Mark London.

Jonathan Wall, On Your Graduation, from Lyliane & Larry Thal & Family.

Dr. Bud & Ruth Wolochow, On the Occasion of Your 50th Anniversary, from Birgit, Yosef & Norman Gladstone.

Mrs. Rachel Wosk, On Your Special Birthday, from Regina & David Feldman.



Board Welcomes New President and Pays Tribute to Outgoing President Dr. Robert Krell

The VHCS honors Dr. Robert Krell, a master builder, whose vision of a better world shaped a lasting legacy for future generations.

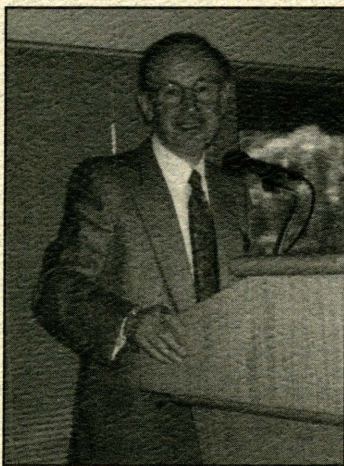
Over 200 people attended a special tribute dinner held at the Richmond Country Club on May 16th to honour HEC founder Dr. Robert Krell for his many years of service to the VHCS. The community and members of the VHCS expressed their sincere appreciation, warmth and respect for the many years of service that Rob has given to the Society. Rob served as President of the Board from 1985 until June of 1998.



Dr. Robert and Marilyn Krell

Rob Krell began his long and committed involvement in Holocaust education in the early 70's - initially through his work with Canadian Jewish Congress. In 1975, with Dr. Graham Forst, he founded the Annual High School Symposium on the Holocaust. Rob has been instrumental in establishing the audio-visual survivor testimony project, and in establishing the Child Survivor and Second Generation groups. Rob has published many scholarly articles and a full length book dealing with the psychological effects of the Holocaust on survivors and their children.

Robbie Waisman has now assumed the presidency of the Board of the VHCS. Robbie's long involvement with the Society began in 1983 with his outstanding service as an educator-speaker as part of the Survivor Outreach program. Robbie remains in great demand as a speaker - continuing to speak to schools all over the lower mainland and as far away as Bonners Ferry, Idaho. Robbie Waisman served as treasurer from 1984 until 1995, where he oversaw the fundraising committee. Most recently he served as first Vice-President.



Robbie Waisman

Life Fellows to the VHCS Awarded at AGM

At the Annual General Meeting in June three new highly deserving life fellows were named - Rita Akselrod, Dr. William Nicholls, and Robbie Waisman. The awarding of a life fellowship is given in recognition of special contributions in the area of Holocaust remembrance and education.

William Nicholls was one of the early founders of the Annual Holocaust Symposium in 1976 as well as one of its first featured speakers. He has been an activist, a defender of Israel, worked to free Jonathan Pollard, and been a fighter against anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial. Dr. Nicholls, retired professor of the Department of Religious Studies at UBC authored the scholarly study *Christian Anti-Semitism - A History of Hate* published in 1993. The inscription in that book reflects Bill's commitment: "To the survivors of the Holocaust, and in particular to those who have undertaken the task of bearing witness to a new generation."

Robert Waisman was born in Skarczysko, Poland. He suffered terrible losses throughout the war. After his liberation at Buchenwald he was taken to Ecouis in France with about 480 other youngsters. Robbie arrived in Canada in 1949 as one of the Canadian Jewish Congress war orphans and went on to become an accountant, family man, and community leader in both Calgary and Saskatoon. Fortunately for our organization he moved to Vancouver in 1977 where he quickly joined in the work of the VHCS with great dedication. Robbie has been Treasurer and Vice President of the Society and now will serve as the President of the VHCS. Robbie is also an outstanding survivor speaker and teacher.

Rita Akselrod was born in Romania. As a child she wore the yellow star during the German occupation. She was fortunate to survive with her immediate family intact. They fled Romania via Hungary and Austria. She was married in 1948 to Ben Akselrod and they came to Canada in 1951. Throughout her life Rita has overcome adversity with activism. Her daughter's tragic death led to her founding Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). Her war memories and her husband's experiences led to her dedication to Holocaust education. She has served as Director of the Outreach Program and as Vice President of the Society with great distinction. Last year she received the YWCA Woman of Distinction award for her work with the Louis Brier Home and Hospital, and the Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society. She brought us great honour and now we honour her with a Life Fellowship.

Life Fellows of the Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society

Rita Akselrod	William Nicholls
Mariette Doduck	Rubin Pinsky
David Ehrlich	David Shafran
Ernie Forrai	Vera Slyomovics
Paul Heller	Bronia Sonnenschein
Oscar Jason	Ronnie Tessler
Leon Kahn	Robbie Waisman
Leo Lowy	Sophie Waldman

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