

The Newsletter of the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre

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# Zachor

"Remember"

Number 3  
July 2001

The background of the entire page is a dark, monochromatic painting. It depicts a concentration camp with multiple strands of barbed wire stretching across the frame. In the distance, a watchtower with a conical roof is visible against a lighter, hazy sky. The overall mood is somber and historical.

## What Words Could Not Express

The Art of Holocaust Survivors Henri Pieck and Esther Lurie  
August 1 - October 26, 2001



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

### Paragraph 175

Before the Nazis branded homosexual prisoners with the pink triangle, there was Paragraph 175, a 19th century statute in the German penal code which made homosexual activity a criminal offence. Exploring the ruthless application of this law by the Nazis, the directors of *The Celluloid Closet* and *Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt* have created an exceptional documentary, *Paragraph 175*. The film traces the spectre of persecution which resulted in the systematic destruction of the homosexual community. The directors weave archival footage with interviews of the few remaining survivors - four men and one woman - who courageously break the silence that has protected their suffering during the last 60 years. The survivors reminisce about 1920s Berlin, a homosexual Eden where clubs and bars offered pleasures and the queer community flourished. Archival footage and personal accounts of first romances, oppressive fears, and tragic separations allow us a truly unprecedented view of queer lives lived and lost under Hitler's regime. Tenderly rendered and intensely powerful, *Paragraph 175* fills an important void and recalls the need for vigilance and courage in the face of oppressive forces.

#### Paragraph 175 Screening

**Thursday August 9, 7:30 p.m. Vancouver Centre 1  
650 West Georgia (at Granville)**

A film by Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman

*There will be a panel discussion following the screening*



#### Donations to the Archives

Dutch language book on the Holocaust, donated by Sister Anne.

Photograph of the Warsaw Ghetto, donated by Jack Kuper.

A Hebrew book, donated by Myrna and Jack Sandler.

Various photographs and postcards from the Warsaw ghetto, donated by Arthur Hollander.

#### THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

**Special Projects:** Sheila Barkusky, Susan Bluman, Amalia Boe-Fishman, Esther Chetner, Leonore Freiman, John Gort, Ethel Kofsky, Gerri London, Debbie Maki, Prof. Shia Moser, Stuart Rothgiesser, Mark Rozenberg, David Schaffer, Dmitri Stone, Stan Taviss, Anand Toprani, Karina Wai, Gloria Waisman, David Zack

**Baking:** Gerri London, Gloria Waisman, Marilyn Krell, Sheryl Kahn, Rita Akselrod

**Docents:** Jody Dales, Nita Daniels, Fay Davis, Nadine Frame, Debbie Freiman, Phillipa Friedland, Fran Grunberg, Theresa Ho, Sheryl Kahn, Lise Kirchner, Gabriella Klein, Lani Levine, Karen Martin, Nava Mizrahi, Sally Rogow, Heather Wolfe

#### VHEC Membership

Most VHEC memberships will expire in September of 2001. Please renew your membership before September 30, 2001 by calling the VHEC at 264-0499. Renewal notices will be mailed in the fall.

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**Cover:** The cover is a partial view of an image created by Henri Pieck. It is on view at the VHEC from Aug. 1 - Oct. 26 as part of the exhibit, *What Words Could Not Express*.

## Zachor

Editor: Roberta Kremer Layout & Design: Sean Matvenko



## An educational challenge for Emily Carr students

by Carol Gigliotti and Leslie Bishko

Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design has built a relationship with the Vancouver Holocaust Centre through several class and student projects that have been created for use in the Centre's exhibitions and programs. VHEC Director, Roberta Kremer and Education Coordinator, Frieda Miller discussed the possibility of producing an interactive project for the Centre with Carol Gigliotti, Director of ECIAD's Centre for Art and Technology. Using this as an opportunity for interdisciplinary work between Carol Gigliotti and colleagues Sharon Romero (Design) and Leslie Bishko (Animation), the three decided to engage interested students in the project through Gigliotti's Designing for Interactivity III course, Romero's Type on Screen course and a directed study with one of Bishko's Animation students.

The students and faculty met with VHEC Staff several times to discuss what was needed and desired by the VHEC. The discussions emphasized the VHEC's educational and anti-racist mandate, the sensitivity of the subject matter and the need for historical accuracy in presenting information about the Holocaust.

It was jointly decided that a media-rich web site could present the stories of Holocaust artifacts in a unique, personal and educational way. The students, Rachel Moore from Animation and Gino Burich, Steve Flight, Rick Heywood, Sarah Ruediger and Sheri Bodnaruk from Interactive Design, consulted with faculty on the content and nature of the site. It was decided that the site should deal with the VHEC's upcoming exhibition on Ravensbrück, a women's concentration camp in Germany.

During our discussions, we were shown a powerful image: the Jewish yellow stars sewn onto the coats of children that were often carefully stitched by their mothers. Romero used the phrase, "The Sewing on

of Stars" in an assignment she gave to the Type on Screen students. Each student designed a unique typeface with the goal of representing the sentiment of this phrase.

Sheri Bodnaruk used the typeface she designed to be used on a quote that describes the landscape of Ravensbrück, "the bridge of ravens," as the place where ravens of the region came to die. This quote is part of the opening sequence visitors see when entering the site and creates a strong metaphor that orients visitors to its content.

Gino Burich and Steve Flight did primary research by interviewing local survivors Alex Buckman and Frances Hoyd. You can hear their voices on the site, accompanied by Rachel Moore's animation. Alex spoke about the censored letters written between his aunt Rebecca Teitelbaum, at Ravensbrück, and uncle Hermann Teitelbaum at Buchenwald. His aunt also created a book of recipes – only a small handful of books like hers have survived from the

women of Ravensbrück and other camps. Frances read the story of survivor Irene Klein, who kept the aluminum cup that held her daily soup in Ravensbrück. (The story of this "dishwater" broth, which somehow sustained her, was too painful for Irene to relate in person.) The paint-on-glass animations, inspired by the work of Caroline Leaf, who has made several animated films on Jewish subjects, draw the visitor into visual memories of these three artifacts. The letter, recipe book

and the cup are now part of the VHEC archival collection and will be featured in the upcoming Ravensbrück exhibition.

The simple interface and navigation system was designed and programmed by Rick Heywood. He chose a muted colour palette which, in combination with the simple visual design, allows the depth of the content to take centre stage. Gino Burich and Steve Flight gathered historical information about Ravensbrück. The inmates of Ravensbrück were forced to construct the buildings of the camp. Later on, the camp became a centre for armament production. A lake near the camp was used as a dumping ground for the ashes of the victims, which today is visited by many in commemoration. Sarah Ruediger worked with Gino on building this information into images and text that visitors encounter when navigating the site.

This collaborative project became a thought-provoking and emotional challenge for everyone involved.

*The biggest challenge I went up against was not to show the Holocaust through stereotypical imagery but to portray emotion through type instead.*

**Sheri Bodnaruk**

*My contribution to the site was the animated sequences. I found it challenging to have the opportunity to animate stories so rich in detail and emotionally alive as those connected to the artifacts; the cup, the*

*letters, and the recipe book.*

**Rachel Moore**

*It was a learning experience, not only as a designer, but also as a person being educated about the Holocaust.*

**Sarah Ruediger**

*With very little knowledge of the Holocaust, the biggest challenge was trying to understand that humanity could be so dark and frightening.*

**Gino Burich**

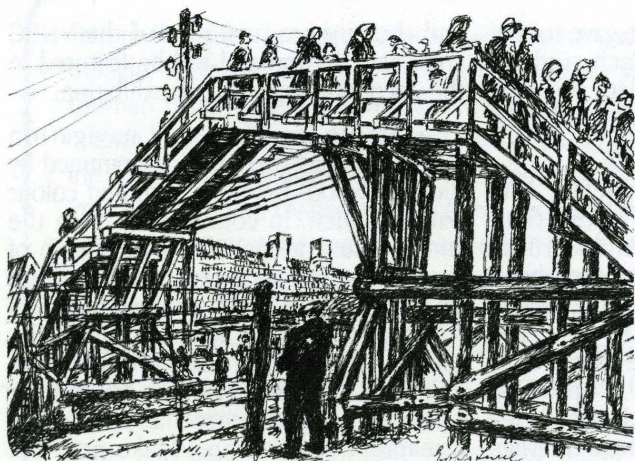


From left, Rick Heywood, Carol Gigliotti, Leslie Bishko and Rachel Moore



# WHAT WORDS COULD NOT EXPRESS

## VHEC Exhibit



*The Wooden Bridge*  
Esther Lurie, 1941

# esther lurie



*The Girl with the Yellow Patch*  
Esther Lurie, 1941

The summer exhibit at the VHEC consists of rare reproductions of artwork produced by two artist-survivors, Esther Lurie and Henri Pieck. These folios, produced shortly after the war, were generously donated to our archives. Luba Gempel donated the Lurie folio and Eva Dymant, whose mother may have received it shortly after the war by the author of the introduction, donated the Henri Pieck folio. This is the first time that these powerful and poignant works by the survivor-witnesses have been mounted and presented as an exhibit.

### Esther Lurie

Esther Lurie was born in Libau, Lithuania in 1913 to an enlightened traditional family. Recognizing their young daughter's artistic talent, Lurie's parents sent her to Belgium, where she had an older brother, to study art. She lived in Belgium between 1931 and 1935, first studying theatre design at the Superior Institute of Decorative Arts in Brussels, and later graphics and painting at the Academie Royale de Beaux-Arts in Antwerp.

In 1934, Lurie immigrated to Israel where she continued her artistic career and exhibited in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa. She worked as a theatre and stage designer in Palestine from 1934 to 1938, but returned to Europe in 1939 in order to complete advanced studies with Isidoor Opsomer in Belgium. After exhibiting her work in Riga, Lurie traveled to Belgium where friends invited her to spend the summer in Lithuania. Shortly after Lurie arrived in Kovno, World War II broke out. With the invasion of Lithuania in the summer of 1941, Esther Lurie was forced into the newly established Kovno Ghetto with the rest of the Jewish community.

While interned in the Kovno Ghetto, Lurie completed over 200 pen and ink sketches, most of which were destroyed. Lurie did her painting in the pottery workshop in the Ghetto where workers provided her with large pots in which to hide her work. She buried eleven paintings and numerous photographs in jars on October 26, 1943 in a special hiding area within the Ghetto. The Kovno Ghetto was liquidated in July 1944 as the Red Army approached. Houses in the Ghetto were set afire and many people lost their lives. In August 1944, Lurie was separated from her sister and her sister's son, who both later perished in Auschwitz. After being imprisoned in concentration camps in Nauen and Stutthof, Lurie was liberated in January 1945 by the Red Army. Following the war, she immigrated to Israel.

Mr. Abraham Golob, a past secretary of the Kovno Jewish Council, managed to save a small number of Esther Lurie's Kovno Ghetto works and preserve them in the archives of the Council of Elders. Following the war, Golob took the pictures to Israel where they were returned to the artist.

Lurie was thus able to assemble some of the work done in



# THE ART OF HENRI PIECK AND ESTHER LURIE

the Ghetto, which serves as an eyewitness account of Ghetto life and as a memorial to those that perished. The original works, reproductions of which are presented in the gallery, are in collections in the Tel Aviv Museum, the new museum in Haifa, Yad Vashem and the Ghetto Fighters Museum.

*I first met Esther Lurie in Italy during the Second World War when I visited the Jewish Brigade at the front and other camps where the rest of our military units were in the spring of 1945. A few weeks before the hostilities ceased in Europe, Israeli soldiers brought her to me in Naples as a miraculous survivor of the Nazi inferno, which had reached them as if by a miracle, while a front enveloped in flames divided them from the rest of the survivors. She suffered the unfortunate fate of those few inhabitants of the land of Israel, who were, in the eve of the war, caught up in it. In Kovno, where she was visiting her sister, she was imprisoned within the Kovno Ghetto. When the ghetto was liquidated, the Soviet Army moved her with other Jewish women who remained alive to a labour camp in Eastern Prussia, and only with the defeat of Germany, was she freed. She was lucky to have joined, as an Israeli, a convoy of liberated British prisoners. With this group she reached Odess, overland and then went by sea to Naples where she met our soldiers.*

*While talking to her, I discovered that she was a painter and that in 1938 I had seen an exhibition of hers in Haifa. I had even acquired one of her pictures, but had never met her. I thought she had come to get advice on how to negotiate the bad conditions of the roads at a time of war and how to get back to Palestine. I was surprised to discover that her fervent wish was to first return to Kovno. All the time she was imprisoned behind the Ghetto walls, she had painted figures and events from Ghetto life. The treasury of her pictures-which were a witness to the frightful suffering and pain, the humiliation and death - she had hid in the ground in a place of safety. With the liberation she was not permitted to return to her hiding-place. She now wanted to acquire permission to go to retrieve her work and thus save them from oblivion.*

*Her request was not granted. She returned to Israel. I met her thirteen years later in Tel Aviv. By then she was a mother. She had a story to tell me. During the days of liberation, an exhibition took place in the hiding places of the Ghetto of some of her pictures. The secretary of the Ghetto Council acquired the pictures and photographed others as "witness" material. The secretary later escaped from the Ghetto and, with the help of the Jewish Rescue Organization "B'reha", he reached Israel. Throughout his troubles and tribulations, he safeguarded the collection of pictures and photographs until he was able to return them to their rightful owner, the artist Esther Lurie. These works in addition to her original compositions are presented in this folio.*

By Moshe Sharett, Jerusalem



Four Workers of the Airport  
Esther Lurie, 1942



At the Soup Kitchen  
Esther Lurie, 1942



# WHAT WORDS COULD NOT EXPRESS



*The Unattainable*  
Henri Pieck

## henri pieck



*On the Way to the Hospital*  
Henri Pieck

### Henri Pieck

The VHEC has not been able to find a great deal of information on the Dutch survivor and artist Henri Pieck. He served with the OGPU, the Soviet Military Intelligence Unit, between 1923 and 1934, where he was code-named "Cooper". He was imprisoned in the notorious Scheneningen prison in the Netherlands and later in Buchenwald Concentration Camp, where he was a leading figure in a clandestine mutual aid organization. It was the images of Buchenwald that Pieck so sympathetically portrays in his deeply disturbing and revealing charcoal drawings.

*One hears and reads about them, but words, however well chosen they may be, usually are behind reality. They approach it, but are only a partial and imperfect reflection of it. In the sound of the words thousand-fold reality is converted into standard notions that however richly and skillfully selected, are yet limited in number; with every deficiency of interpretation of it. For the right understanding of what they are to express, and appeal must be made on the imagination of him for whom they are intended. If this fails, they threaten to be misconstrued; and a wrong attitude, on occasion, is the consequence. He who fought or endured the war in a free country, has been still farther removed from the baseness of the enemy. His idea of him is incomplete; he has learned less to read through him. Reports of other people cannot always remedy this lack of experience efficaciously. He who himself was spared deprivation of liberty and threat of life in camp and cell, will sometimes fare likewise as regards a "Konzentrationslager" (concentration camp).*

*The hand of the clever artist may do beneficial work here. The sketches by Pieck, in 1941 my sympathetic and brave neighbour in Wing C in the prison of Scheveningen, later on one of the leading persons with the secret mutual organization in "Buchenwald", which made self-liberation and an orderly transition possible, are more striking and more poignant than many stories put together. Who puts them before him, approaches the reality of the "Nazi-culture" more clearly. He stands face to face with it. He will, if he does not willfully close his eyes, have to understand what happened over there and of what nature the driving and more or less readily cooperating forces were. Insofar as anybody who did not see or experience it himself, can understand it.*

From the Preface to the Henri Pieck folio, written by R.P. Cleveringa L.L.D., 1945.





## Survivor Outreach

by Rita Akselrod and Peter Suedfeld

The Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society's mandate is education and remembrance. One of the primary components of Holocaust education is the VHEC's Outreach Speaker Program. We the survivors, at the request of the schools, relate our horrendous experiences in the Holocaust. In the year 1999-2000, survivors reached approximately 16,800 students in 93 different schools and by speaking to groups at the VHEC as part of the school exhibit tours. We try to coordinate the ages of the survivors at the time of the Holocaust with the ages of the students they will be speaking to. Child Survivors form a significant percentage of those that speak in our Outreach Program.

Why do we do it? By sharing our pain with these students we come to terms with our suffering and we pay tribute to those that perished. Speaking about our experiences is painful, but the pain we experience is both healing for us and beneficial to the students.

The experience varies, but how can we measure the agony, the trauma? We the child survivors were so young, how can we resolve our tormented years in hiding? How can we resolve the fear? We were separated from our loved ones, living with strange families who ultimately became our families, and again some of us who were lucky enough to survive were reunited with our own families who were now strangers to us. Again we had to reacquaint ourselves with our Jewishness.

Having lived as non-Jews it became difficult and problematic. We were so lonely, we were so confused. To some extent we still carry these feelings. But sharing these experiences with the students is somewhat magical, they seem to empathize with our suffering, our experiences seem to inoculate them against racism and hatred, and they seem to look at the world in a much different light, they seem to question the deniers. If we can accomplish these kinds of results, surely our parents, our loved ones, who are not here to speak for themselves would be proud of us. We will continue to speak for them - we are survivors. In dealing with the complicated past of our childhood, the monthly meetings at the Holocaust Centre help us to create an atmosphere of friendship and camaraderie which helps us deal with our tortured childhood. In doing so it brings us together sharing a common bond.

March 09, 00

Dear Mr. Waisman,

I thought your life story was really touching. At the age of 8 you were picked on by the Nazis for being a Jew. When I was 8 I was in India living the life of a regular kid. When you were in the camps did you ever ask yourself if you were going to make it? If I was you I would probably go broke but I am not the kind of girl who gives up easily. Did you know what was going to happen to you in the camps? Holocaust, I think occurred because of racism and I know more than enough people who are racist and that includes my dad. Do you think there could be another holocaust with a different race of people? Some people in this world still think holocaust was a hoax and Jewish people just are trying to get attention. How do you react to it when you hear people say that? Thanks for coming to our school and describing the holocaust to us. Please try and respond to my letter. I am truly sorry if I spelled your name wrong.

Pardeep S.

04.06.00

Alex,

When reading about the Holocaust in school, we come across numbers, facts and names. Hearing about the Holocaust from a survivor is a completely different story. The education we receive through our teachers and books does not affect me in a personal way - your story touched me and my peers greatly. The events came to life in our minds and hearts and we are grateful for what we learnt. It was much more than any educator could ever have done. Thank you for having the courage to tell your story. I hope you continue.

Thanks again,  
Collette Lynch



# ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL SYMPOSIUM

## History of the Annual Symposium on the Holocaust

by Bill Nicholls Special thanks for additional information from Graham Forst, Robert Krell and Frieda Miller

The Annual High School Holocaust Symposium took place on May 9 and 10 at the University of British Columbia for the twenty sixth consecutive year. This event is one of the centerpieces of our annual educational programs.

The story of the Symposium begins in the early 1970s, when the idea for a symposium came to Robert Gallagher, an Instructor in Religious Studies at Capilano College, who had learned about the Holocaust as a



High School Symposium Panel, 1997  
Prof. Bill Nicholls, second from right

graduate student in the Department of Religious Studies at UBC. He roped in friends to give leadership and organizational help, including his Capilano colleague, Dr. Graham Forst, Professor William Nicholls, then Head of the Department of Religious Studies at UBC, and Dr. Charles Paris, of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews. The group approached Morris Saltzman, then Executive Director of Canadian Jewish Congress, Pacific Region. Saltzman responded with enthusiasm and Congress threw its support behind the project. In 1978, sponsorship by the Vancouver School Board was granted, in addition to the original sponsorship by Congress, the Department of Religious Studies at UBC and the Humanities Division of Capilano College. During the early years of the Symposium other endorsements were received from the BC Teachers' Federation, the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews and the Rabbinical Association of Vancouver and Victoria.

The very first meeting of the committee was held in the downstairs restaurant of the Holiday Inn on Broadway. It was attended

by Robert Gallagher, Graham Forst, Morris Saltzman, Bill Nicholls, Charlie Paris, Dave Wall and Fred Lepkin. Dr. Robert Krell came on board soon afterwards. Dr. Krell says he had been independently approaching Saltzman with a similar plan while serving on the CJC Board. Dr. Krell had also already begun the taping of eyewitness testimonies of survivors.

This group, along with new members, became the Standing Committee on the Holocaust, co-chaired by Dr. Graham Forst and Dr. Robert Krell, representing Congress. Some of the survivors themselves, Vera Slyomovics, Leon Kahn, Sophie Waldman, Oscar Jason among others, also joined the Committee then and later. Since the Committee always included non-Jewish members, it was intended to be a free standing committee, and not a committee of Canadian Jewish Congress. It independently set policy and organized the Annual Symposium, enjoying financial and logistical backing from Congress. It was also felt that it was important for Holocaust awareness to be seen as a general human concern and not a specifically Jewish issue, as is indeed the case.

This arrangement lasted until the establishment of the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre, itself in many ways a fruit of the Symposium. In November 1998 the original Standing Committee was formally dissolved and reconstituted under the auspices of the VHEC. This acknowledged the expanded role and support being provided by the VHEC staff and its Education Coordinator, Frieda Miller. The committee became known as the High School Symposium Committee of the VHEC. At present this committee organizes the Symposium with funding from the Combined Jewish Appeal of the Federation. In 1998 an endowment from the Waldman Foundation added additional resources and will help to ensure the perpetuity of the Holocaust Symposium.

The first Symposium was held in 1975, meeting for one day on a small scale in Oakridge Auditorium. As more schools began to attend, the Symposium moved to the Ridge Theatre on Arbutus, and eventually to the Instructional Resources Centre of the Faculty of Medicine at UBC.

The move to UBC was made possible by Rob Krell; it allowed the Symposium to accommodate a considerably increased number of students. A second day was eventually added to accommodate the additional students who wished to attend. At first only local speakers were used, but as more funding became available outside speakers were brought in. The noted poet Irving Layton gave a memorable address to the first symposium held at UBC in 1978. The testimonies of our own survivors have always been central to the Symposium. The number of students attending has grown dramatically, reaching from one thousand to twelve hundred annually. If suitable larger accommodation were available, the numbers could easily be doubled.

The symposia are much valued by the teachers as a resource in combating racism in the classroom. Although the Symposium has always emphasized the uniqueness of the Holocaust, speakers never failed to mention the need for continual vigilance, no matter which group should become the target of organized hatred.

In its twenty six year history, the Symposium has helped educate over 24,000 students and their teachers. It has also

**In its twenty six year history, the Symposium has helped educate over 24,000 students**

helped develop a community of teachers who have gone on to become advocates of Holocaust education and anti-racism activists in their communities across the province. A striking testament to the enduring success of the Symposium is the fact that many of the younger teachers now bringing their classes to the Symposium, once attended the event themselves as high school students.



# ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL SYMPOSIUM

## 26th Annual High School Symposium on the Holocaust

by Graham Forst and Frieda Miller

This year marked the 26th anniversary of the Symposium, with over 500 students and teachers in attendance on each of the two days. Over thirty schools participated and the requests for places exceeded our capacity. The Symposium has achieved a certain continuity over its twenty six year history, but returning teachers tell us that although the structure of the Symposium remains familiar, they learn something new every time.

The familiar structure includes a lecture on the events and issues surrounding the Holocaust, documentary videos and small group sessions with eyewitnesses and survivors. A part of the day is also set aside for students to ask questions of a panel of survivors, theologians and historians. This year's panelists were professors Chris Friedrichs and William Nicholls and survivors Klara Forrai, Ruth Sigal, Bronia Sonnenschein and Peter Suedfeld. Teachers were able to share their classroom experiences with one another at the lunchtime caucus. The Kron Award for Excellence in Holocaust Education, the Lehrer Student Essay Prize, the B'nai Brith Student Essay Prize were awarded at the Symposium and the excellent reference book *The Holocaust Chronicle* was donated to the library of each school in attendance through the Leo Krell Book Fund of the VHEC. The day concluded with a moving candle lighting ceremony in which students paired with survivors to remember all victims of the Shoah.

Each year we try to build on this structure by introducing different

themes, inviting guest speakers and extending the lessons to current issues of racism and global citizenship. This year Professor Chris Friedrichs skillfully adapted his presentation to address the theme of the uniqueness of the Hungarian experience.

This provided context for our special invited Eibschutz Endowed Lecturer, a Hungarian survivor of Auschwitz, Renée Firestone. Renée's powerful presentation added life and

insight to the screening of Steven Spielberg's film *The Last Days*, in which she is featured. The students responded to the challenge of being addressed by a university professor at such a high level of discourse. Professor Friedrichs' strategy of talking-up to, not down-to students, clearly works well.

This year's Symposium was particularly special for the Co-Chairs of the Symposium, Dr. Robert Krell and Dr. Graham Forst for two reasons. Firstly, the quality of the student audience. Because there is so much competition to attend the symposia now, teachers frequently offer places only to their best students. The attention of the students never wandered during the entire day. Also, there was absolutely no attrition in their numbers after the lunch break.

Secondly, the courage and generosity of the survivors in giving up their time and even perhaps their peace of mind for a time, has never impressed us more. This is partly because as they get older, it clearly is becoming more, not less painful for them to tell their stories. Graham Forst attended seminars by Klara Forrai and Michel Mielnicki and said "I was more sad than ever listening to these 'veteran' speakers tell their stories – their voices slightly more frail this year, but more moving than ever. Suddenly, I was struck by the bitter truth that these people who have taught us so much will not be with us forever...and the question, 'What will we educators do then?' – which I have avoided thinking about – is now, I sadly acknowledge, no longer able to be ignored."

Students always tell us that the part of the day that has the most profound and lasting impact on them are their small group sessions with survivors. This year was no exception. Students seem to be more aware than ever that they are the last generation to have the privilege of hearing from survivors.

To the readers of *Zachor* from the survivor community, let me pass on these words from a tearful student who spoke to Graham Forst at the Symposium: "Please, Dr. Forst, tell the survivors that our lives have been changed because of them. We thank them from the bottom of our hearts."

The Symposium is co-chaired by Dr. Graham Forst and Dr. Robert Krell with the active participation of committee members, Rita Akselrod, Evelyn Goldman, Sheryl Kahn, Nina Krieger, Sean Matvenko, Frieda Miller, William Nicholls, Stuart Rothgiesser, Peter Seixas, Robbie Waisman, David Wall, Andrea Webb and Eric Wong.

The event is sponsored by the Waldman Endowment Fund of the VHCS, with additional support from the University of British Columbia and the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver.

Students met with the following survivor speakers in small group sessions: Lola Apfelbaum, Jack Benisz, Agi Bergida, Susan Bluman, Alex Buckman, Saul Cohn, Mariette Doduck, David Ehrlich, Klara Forrai, Serge Haber, Chaim Kornfeld, Leo Lowy, Inga Manes, Paul Meyer, Michel Mielnicki, Lillian Boraks-Nemetz, Peter Parker, Malka Pishanitskaya, Ruth Sigal, Bronia Sonnenschein, Louise Sorensen, Borge Stromgren, Peter Suedfeld, and Robbie Waisman.



Renée Firestone



# Cards & Donations

MAR. 14, 2001 - JUNE 15, 2001

## Mazel Tov

Ben Akselrod, In honour of your very Special Birthday. Sam & Lola Haber

Rita Akselrod, First & above all else we wish you good health & a long life on your Special Birthday. Regina & David Feldman

Larry & Esther Brandt, Mazel Tov & Best Wishes on your 50th Wedding Anniversary. Harold & Bella Silverman, Regina Wertman, Abe & Goldie Miedzygorski, Vera & Bernard Rozen, Harry & Resia Nortman, David & Grace Ehrlich, Margaret & Jack Fraeme, Izzy Fraeme, Irvin & Celia Lerner, Leo & Jocy Lowy, Aron, Sam & Al Szajman

Judy Breuer, Happy Birthday. Ellen, Barrie, David & Cathy Yackness

Mark & Marcie Fenster, Mazel Tov & Congratulations on the birth of your daughter, Zoe. The Second Generation Group

Renee Firestone, Thank-you for contributing to the success of our Symposium. The Board & Staff of the VHEC

Ben Folk, On your Special Birthday. Sue, Lee, Mark & David Cohene, Rose & Joe Lewin, Lola Apfelbaum, Mark, Rachel & Debbie Choit, Kathie & Harold Folk & Family, Leonard & Sheila Smith, Karl & Sabina Choit, Marcia & Steve Babins, Michael & Mary Cohene, Felice Rabinovitch

Judith Forst, Congratulations on being awarded the Order of BC, but we already knew how special you are. The Board & Staff of the VHEC, Ronnie & Barry Tessler

Lee & Milt Freiman, On the occasion of your Special Wedding Anniversary. Sol & Shirley Kort

Michael & Sandra Harris, Mazel Tov & Best Wishes on your upcoming Wedding! Irv Wolak, Susan & Joe Stein

Edwina & Paul Heller, Our Best Wishes on your Special Anniversary. Carol & Liliana Abraham, Mary Steiner, Sella Landau-Heller, Barbara Heller & Michael Karton, Daeniela & Stephen Berne, Sol & Shirley Kort, Ethel Bellows

Hannah Hirt, Mazel Tov on your 80th Birthday. Dr. Michael & Joice Myers

Alexander Mordecai Kahn, Mazel Tov & Best Wishes on your Bar Mitzvah. Pola & Henry Nutkiewicz, Paul & Edwina Heller

Ethel Kofsky, Rome Fox & the Yom HaShoah Committee, Congratulations on an outstanding evening. Regina & David Feldman

Joseph Lewin, Thinking of you and wishing you well on your Special Birthday. David & Cathy Golden & Family, Mark, Rachel & Debbie Choit

Otto Lowy, Mazel Tov on your 80th Birthday. Serge & Brenda Vanry

Wanda Melamed, With Special Wishes on your Birthday. Sella Landau-Heller & Family

Dr. Robert Mermelstein, Best Wishes on your Special Birthday. Sarah Spivack

Larry Meyer, With Best Wishes on your Birthday. Paul Meyer

Michel Mielnicki, Happy Birthday & many happy returns. Vivian & Jeff Claman & the Children

Nava Mizrahi, Mazel Tov on your wonderful achievement - Graduating from UBC. The Board & Staff of the VHEC

Susan Quastel, With Special Wishes for your Birthday. Sella Landau-Heller & Family

Mrs. H. Ross, Happy Birthday Molly. Your children and grandchildren (David & Grace Ehrlich)

Dr. William Seidelman, Wishing you health & happiness on your 60th Birthday. Perry, Shelley, Michael, Jodi & Sara Seidelman

Ruth Sigal, Mazel Tov on your latest achievement. Sheila & Norman Archcheck, The Board & Staff of the VHEC, Howard & Elayne Shapray, Abe & Leyla Sacks, Sol & Shirley Kort, Cathy & David Golden, Michel & Fredericka Mielnicki, Lillian Boraks-Nemetz, Sharon & Irving Kates

In Honour of Joseph & Rosalie Segal. Leo & Jocy Lowy

Ronnie & Barry Tessler, Mazel Tov & Congratulations on the birth of your grandchild. Mitchell & Lynne Gropper

Lyliane & Larry Thal, Our Best Wishes for many more happy years to come. Shirley & Jerry Kushner

Abe Torchinsky, Mazel Tov on your Bar Mitzvah. Evelyn Lazare

Rudolf Vrba, Congratulations on being recognized & honoured as one of BC's most important authors. The Board & Staff of the VHEC

Irene Watts, Congratulations on your latest award. Lillian Boraks-Nemetz, Louise & Ike Stein Sorensen

George Wertman, Wishing you many, many more years of good health & many, many more Birthdays. Al & Anne Hersch

Yosef Wosk, Mazel Tov on your Honour. Ronnie & Barry Tessler

## Thank you

Lillian Boraks-Nemetz, In appreciation for all that you do. Jeanne Kent & Ruth Grunau

Larry Garfinkel, Thank-you, good luck & happiness always - to you, Sandy & family. Susan Bluman

Mr. Dave Goldman, Thank-you for your generous donation of the Papyrus Version 8.0. Lynn Griffith, Library Technician VHEC, The Board & Staff

Leon & Evelyn Kahn, Todah Raba. The Massel and Lipetz families

Leon & Evelyn Kahn, Thank-you. Lucien & Carole Lieberman

Marilyn Krell, Thank-you, in appreciation of all your help. Eileen Fleischer

Mr. Otto Lowy, Thank-you for your wonderful letter & donation. Your voice and presence at this year's Yom HaShoah Commemorative Event helped in making it such a success. The Board & Staff of the VHEC

Zev Shafran. Thank-you. Miriam Eisner

Robbie Waisman & Roberta Kremer, In appreciation of the time & energy spent ensuring that the recent Next Generation Event was successful & brought to fruition. Jody, Sheryl & Barry

Jewish Historical Society of BC, My sincere thanks to the staff of the Jewish Historical Society, the VHEC & the many people who shared their time and experiences with me over the course of my recent research. Barbara Schober

Dr. Barry Tessler, Thank-you, thank-you, thank-you. Candace Shadley

## Sympathy

The Bermann Family, With our very Deepest Sympathy on the loss of your Father. Gloria & Robbie Waisman

The Sharfe Family, To commemorate a wonderful person's memory. Robbie & Gloria Waisman

Mrs. Abells & Family, Deepest Sympathies on the loss of Bill. David & Grace Ehrlich

Morey Altman, On the loss of your Father. Frieda Miller & Roberta Kremer, The Board & Staff of the VHEC

In memory of Joe Auerhahn, Sherie, Jordan & Odie Kaplan, Robert & Marilyn Krell, Izzy Fraeme

Bunny Braverman, On the loss of your dear husband, David. Aron, Sam & Al Szajman, Regina & David Feldman, Irvine Wolak & Family

Mr. & Mrs. Brown & Family, On the loss of your Son. Cathy & David Golden

Isadore Burstyn & Family, On the loss of your

Donations received after June 15th will appear in the next issue of Zachor



Wife, Mother & Sister. Sarah Rozenberg-Warm

Tracey Cohen, In memory of your Beloved Grandmother, Anne Groberman. Hymie & Rome Fox & Family

Karen & Les Cohen, Our Deepest Sympathies on the loss of your Father. Avy & Sharon Zohar & Family, Sally, Sid & Alex Coleman, Gisi & Bob Levitt

Nita Daniels, Our thoughts are with you at this difficult time. Frieda, Rome, The Board & Staff of the VHEC

Gordon Diamond, Deepest Condolences to you and your family on the loss of your Beloved Father & Grandfather. Ida Kaplan, Leslie Spiro, Lillian Boraks-Nemetz, Izzy Fraeme

Charles & Isabelle Diamond, Deepest Condolences. Ida Kaplan, Izzy Fraeme

Family Eggener, Thinking of you and sharing your grief. Lisa Kafka

Irving Epstein, Thinking of you at this time. Lillian Boraks-Nemetz

Epstein Family, With Deepest Sympathy. Sam, Lola Haber & Family

The Gumprich Family, On the loss of your Beloved Mother, Jessie Kay. Robbie & Gloria Waisman

Lili Folk & Family, With our Deepest Sympathy. Don & Rachel Levine, Aron, Sam & Al Szajman, Helen Berger, Robert & Marilyn Krell, George & Frieda Wertman, Odie Kaplan, Jack & Henia Perel, Sid, Sally & Alex Coleman, Ida Kaplan, Regina Wertman, Harold & Bella Silverman, Ted & Babs Cohen, Lola Apfelbaum, Rachel & Herschel Wosk, Sally & Henry Zimmerman, Leo & Jocy Lowy, Margaret & Jack Fraeme, Izzy Fraeme, William & Lola Mendelson, Bernice Neuwirth, Sam & Lola Haber & Family, David, Cathy, Tyler & Shane Golden, Lil & Manuel Saperstein, Irv Wolak & Family

Hymie Fox & Family, Our Sincere Condolences on the loss of your Father. Sandy Shuler & Doug Folks & Family, The Board & Staff of the VHEC, George, Yvonne, Elana & Alisa Rosenberg, Ethel Kofsky, Jody & Harvey Dales, Frieda Miller & Daniel Shapiro, Bev Spring, Alan, Julia & Leora Morinis, Norman & Linda Gold & Family, Larry Garfinkel & Sandi Karmel & Family, Robert & Marilyn Krell & Family, Jack & Evelyn Huberman & Family

Izzy Fraeme & Family, In memory of Bertha. Rosalie, Saul, Dov & Sally Dimant, Rachel & Herschel Wosk, Sally & Henry Zimmerman

Leonore & Milton Freiman, Our Deepest Sympathies. Ruth & John Campbell, Lani Levine & Andrew Thom

Luba Gempel, With Deepest Sympathies on the loss of your Sister. Felice Rabinovitch, Sue Cohené, Izzy Fraeme, Margaret & Jack Fraeme

Mrs. Anne Hersh, Our Sincerest Condolences. Aron, Sam & Al Szajman, George & Frieda Wertman

Arlene & Shelly Howard, Our Deepest Sympathies. Karen & Stephen Klein

Gloria Joachim & Family, In memory of your Father & Grandfather. Judy, Neil, Dory &

Megan Kornfeld

Naomi Katz, Our Deepest Sympathies. Louise & Ike Stein Sorensen

Mr. Harvey Kom, Our most Sincere Condolences on the loss of your beloved Wife, Laura. Cathy & David Golden

Marty Lemish, In memory of your Father. Ethel Kofsky

Morley Lercher, Our Deepest Condolences to you and your family on the loss of your Brother. Dr. Michael F. & Joice Myers

Rose Lewin & Family, With our Deepest Sympathy on the loss of Joseph. Don & Rachel Levine, Cathy & David Golden, Pauline & Lennie Babins, Sherie, Jordan & Odie Kaplan, Saul I. Gopher & Michael Cohen, Robbie & Gloria Waisman, Michel & Fredericka Mielnicki, Harold & Estelle Yochlowitz, Jack & Karen Micner, Aron, Sam & Al Szajman, Emmy Krell, Shirley & Jerry Kushner, Helen Berger, Abe & Goldie Miedzygorski, Emerich Klein, Ted & Babs Cohen, Irvine Wolak & Family, Jack & Henia Perel, Ida Kaplan, Sally & Sid Coleman, Regina Wertman, Harold & Bella Silverman, Robert & Marilyn Krell, Leah & Abraham Fox, Susan Bluman, Lola Apfelbaum, Jack & Evelyn Huberman & Family, Harry & Gloria Harris, Rachel & Herschel Wosk, Helen & Lou Lavinthal, Sally & Henry Zimmerman, Leo & Jocy Lowy, George & Frieda Wertman, Margaret & Jack Fraeme, Susie, Murray, Carly & Adam Isman, Izzy Fraeme, Bernice Neuwirth, Sam & Lola Haber & Family, Rosalie, Saul, Dov & Sally Dimant, David, Cathy, Tyler & Shane Golden, Dr. Isser Dubinsky, Dr. Toni Wertman & Family

Dr. Sharon Lewin, My Deepest Condolences, on the loss of your Father. Barbara Bluman

Mr. & Mrs. Ed Lewin & Family, In memory of your Father & Grandfather. Sid, Sally & Alex Coleman

Burstyn, Lyman & Lister Families, In memory of your Beloved Wife, Mother & Grandmother. Hymie & Rome Fox & Family, Peppa & Brad Martin, Fran Ritch, Cathy Ritch & Ron Paperny

Henry Narayan, We are very sorry to hear of the passing of your wife, Vimla. The Board & Staff of the VHEC

Mrs. Arlene Nitikman, Our Heartfelt Condolences on the loss of your Mother & Grandmother. Cathy & David Golden & Family

Mrs. Pola Nutkiewicz, Our Sincere Sympathy on the loss of your Beloved Sister. Harold & Bella Silverman, Ben & Rose Folk, Izak & Lili Folk, Lola Apfelbaum

Mr. & Mrs. David Peha, In loving memory of our dearest Auntie Katherine. Rosa & Elie Ferera

Deborah Ramm-West, Our Deepest Sympathies on the loss of your Father. The Board & Staff of the VHEC, Cathy & David Golden, Ethel Kofsky, Frances Hoyd, Marion Cassirer & Miriam Friedberg, the Second Generation Group, Jack & Karen Micner

Diane Rogers, With Deepest Sympathies on your loss. Debby Freiman & David Schwartz

Moe Samuel, In memory of your Wife. Leslie Spiro

Dave Shafran, In memory of your Wife. Leslie Spiro

Zev, Elaine & Anita Shafran & Families, With Deepest Sympathy on your loss. Ronnie & Barry Tessler, Linda & Ted Mann Zacks, Michel & Fredericka Mielnicki, Annette, Syd & Melissa Shafran, Gerri & Mark London, The Board & Staff of the VHEC, Avy & Sharon Zohar & Family, Izzy Fraeme, Ida Kaplan, Jody & Harvey Dales, Lillian Boraks-Nemetz, Leslie Spiro, Barbara & Herb Silber, Leo & Jocy Lowy, Sam & Lola Haber & Family, Evelyn Toban, Hymie & Fay Davis, Lyliane & Larry Thal & Family, Hymie, Rome, Aylee, Danya & Aiden Fox

In memory of Katalin Spiro, Lil Shafran, Rachel Samuel & Ava Samuel. Leslie Spiro

Mr. & Mrs. Harold Stern, Our Sincere Sympathy on the loss of your Son, Sheldon. Harold & Bella Silverman

Mrs. Bessie Wolfe, In memory of your Husband Abe's yartzeit. Harry & Gloria Harris

Dr. Jerry Zaslove, Condolences on the loss of your Mother, Sylvia Portman Zaslove Miller. Donald Grayston

Marian, Leon, Gretle Zetley & Family, On the loss of your Husband & Son-In-Law. Jack & Henia Perel

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### Get Well

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Norman Archeck, Thinking of you & wishing you well. Cathy & David Golden & Family

Bill Brandt, Best Wishes for a Speedy Recovery. Margaret & Jack Fraeme, Aron, Sam & Al Szajman, The Second Generation Group

Oscar Dirnfeld, Best Wishes for a Speedy Recovery. Aron, Sam & Al Szajman

Regina Feldman, Hope you are feeling well soon. The Board & Staff of the VHEC

Monte Glanzberg, Hope you are feeling better soon. The Board & Staff of the VHEC

Bernard Goldberg, We miss seeing you here at the Holocaust Centre. Hope you are feeling better soon. The Board & Staff of the VHEC

Ron Hatch, My very Best Wishes for a Speedy Recovery. Lillian Boraks-Nemetz

Rose Jordan, Glad to hear you are getting better. We miss you. Shirley Stein

Joe Lewin, Wishing you a Speedy Recovery. Margaret & Jack Fraeme, Robert & Susan Hector, Sam & Lola Haber, Sally & Sid Coleman & Miedzygorski Families

Frieda & Lou Segal, Our thoughts are with you & your Family. Cathy & David Golden

David Shafran, Hope you are feeling better. Shirley Stein

Mr. Meyer Wall, Wishing you a Speedy Recovery. The Poker Gang

Jack Wolfe, Our thoughts are with you & we are wishing you well. David & Cathy Golden & Family





## 2001 LIFE FELLOW RECIPIENTS

### Susan Bluman and Lillian Boraks-Nemetz

Susan, born in Warsaw Poland, was among those lucky few that managed to get a visa from the now famous Chuine Sugihara –the Japanese Consul stationed in Vilnius Lithuania. In 1941, after having spent six months in Japan, Susan and her late husband Nathan arrived in Vancouver. They had 40 American dollars in their pocket. When we had the exhibit *Visas For Life*, Susan was of great assistance and a source of first hand information on Chuine Sugihara. Susan contributed material and oral history to the *Fragments* exhibit as well.



Susan Bluman and VHEC President, Robbie Waisman

Along with Paul Heller, Susan was one of the original founders of the program commemoration marking the Anniversary of the liberation of the Warsaw Ghetto, a program that has evolved into our Yom HaShoah community commemoration.

In addition to serving for a number of years on the Board of the VHEC, Susan has taken an active part in our Annual High School Symposium, been a committed Outreach Speaker, educating young students and serves on the important Board Survivor Advisory Committee. This year Susan trained as a peer counselor, a program that will reach out to assist aging survivors.

Susan has been a committed Board member and gives generously of her time. You might find Susan helping on the phone or stuffing envelopes or doing what ever is needed at the Centre.

She has contributed a great deal to our Centre and we thank her for her quiet wisdom and guidance. It is with pleasure that the Board honours you with the Life Fellows certificate.

Lillian was born in Warsaw, Poland. In 1940, Lillian's family was forced to move to into the Warsaw ghetto. In 1942, after narrowly escaping deportation numerous times, her father made arrangements for Lillian to escape from the ghetto and be placed in hiding where she remained for two years. She was eventually reunited with her parents. The family immigrated to Canada in 1947, settling in Vancouver.

Lillian is the author of the highly successful trilogy of young adult novels: *The Old Brown Suitcase*, *The Sunflower Diary* and *The Lenski File* and a book of poetry, *Ghost Children*. She has translated two volumes of poetry by Polish émigré writers and is an instructor of creative writing in Continuing Studies at UBC.



Lillian Boraks-Nemetz and  
VHEC President, Robbie Waisman

Lillian has served on the Board of the VHEC for many years. She has been deeply involved in the Child Survivor Group, serves as a much-acclaimed speaker in our Outreach Speaker Program. Lillian is presently serving on the important committee working to meet the needs of our aging survivors. Lillian, along with Louise Stein Sorensen, was instrumental in getting the successful Survivor Drop-in program off the ground when they were initiated over three years ago. This year Lillian trained as one of the peer counselors that will work with our aging survivor community. In addition, Lillian was on the planning committee for the special event honouring the humanitarian Janus Korczak.

It is with pleasure that the Board honours Lillian as a Life Fellow for all of her literary achievements and for her work on behalf of the VHEC.

### Donations to the Library

The Holocaust in Literature for Youth by Edward T. Sullivan, donated by Kit Krieger.

Survivors and Students: Learning About the Holocaust Experience by F. Wood and J. Wajsenberg, donated by Frieda Miller.

The Road to Auschwitz: Fragments of a Life by Hedi Fried; One Generation by Elie Wiesel; Nazi Germany and the Jews, Vol. 1 by Saul Friedlander; Fragments: Memories of a Wartime Childhood by Benjamin Wilkomirski; Children of the Holocaust by Laurel Holliday; The Survivor by Terrence des Pres; My German Question by Peter Gay; The Fifth Son by Elie Wiesel; Bury Me Standing: The Gypsies and their Journey by Isabel Fonseca; The Brown Plague: Travels in Late Weimar and Early Nazi Germany by Daniel Guérin; Stille by Wendy Oberlander (video), donated by Wendy Oberlander.

A Time for Toys by Margaret Wild, donated by Barbara Paterson.

The Nazi Officer's Wife: How One Jewish Woman Survived the Holocaust by Edith Hahn Beer, donated by Inge Manes.

Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland by Jan T. Gross, donated by Andrew Thom.

Jews in Liepaja, Latvia 1941-45 : A Memorial Book by Edward Andrews and Juris Dubrovskis, donated by the authors.

The Sovereigns: A Jewish Family in the German Countryside by Eric Lucas, donated by Rob Krell.

The Jew of Linz: Wittgenstein, Hitler and Their Secret Battle for the Mind by Kimberley Cornish; The Beautiful Days of my Youth: My Six Months After Auschwitz by Ana Novac; Moral Responsibility in the Holocaust: A Study in the Ethics of Character by David H. Jones; A Nation on Trial: The Goldhagen Thesis and Historical Truth by Norman G. Finkelstein; Crown of Thorns by Stephane Groueff; Psychiatrists, the Men Behind Hitler: The Architects of Horror by Thomas Roder; Death of Medicine in Nazi Germany: Dermatology and Dermatopathology Under the Swastika by Wolfgang Weyers; I will Bear Witness: A Diary of the Nazi Years, 1933-41 by Victor Klemperer; The Wikomirski Affair: A Study of Biographical Truth by Stefan Maechler; Prisoner 88 by Roy T. Tanenbaum; Long Shadows: Truth, Lies, History by Erna Paris; God Does Play Dice: The Autobiography of a Holocaust Survivor by Klara Samuel; Ashes and Miracles: A Polish Journey by Irena Friedman Karafilly; Voices of the Shoah: Remembrance of the Holocaust by David Notowitz (CD-Rom), donated by Judy Shapiro.

Return to Life (CD), donated by Solly Kaplinsky.

Papyrus Software Bibliography System, donated by Dave Goldman.