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Zachor

"Remember"

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www.vhec.org

*"It is just getting dark. We have been in
Auschwitz for several hours. My mother
has been dead for several hours. Little,
dearest Potoyo, too. It is Wednesday, May
31, 1944."*

Isabella Leitner



MAY 31, 1944

Exhibit on view June 12 | August 30, 2002

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

You are invited to attend the
Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society for
Education and Remembrance's

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, June 12, 7:30 pm

Unveiling of the Balla Torah
Cantor Mordechai Edel & Annie Edel

Honouring new Life Fellows

Distribution of 2002 Annual Report

Election of 2003 Board Members

Refreshments will be served

An Announcement for the Holocaust Survivor Community

It is only natural that as we age we need to share our thoughts about the past, the present and the future. With this in mind, the Survivors Advisory Committee of the VHEC is offering several new opportunities for conversation.

Come and join us for Tea and Talk on Sunday September 29th from 2-4 pm at the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre, share your thoughts and experiences.

For survivors who wish to meet on a confidential one-to-one basis, special arrangements can be made by calling Alex Buckman at 604-980-7761 or Susan Bluman at 604-263-5869

Cover: Aerial photograph of the Auschwitz area showing a partial view of the I.G. Farben forced labor camp. USHMM Archives.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Docents: Scott Anderson, Wendy Barrett, Jody Dales, Mariette Doduck, Phillipa Friedland, Natalie Grunberg, Fran Grunberg, Lani Ho, Sheryl Kahn, Lise Kirchner, Gabriella Klein, Markus Kreitmair, Lani Levine, Jineane Payne Babish, Sally Rogow, Naomi Rozenberg,

Special projects: Sheila Barkusky, Amalia Boe-Fishman, Evelyn Goldman, Sydney Gordon, Lise Kirchner, Lisa Kleiman, Debbie Maki, Prof. Shia Moser, Yvonne Rosenberg, Mark Rozenberg, David Schaffer, Stan Taviss, Olga Medvedeva.

Mailing: Susan Bluman, Saul Cohn, Molly Goodson, Bob Seligman, Marilyn Weinstein, Lola Apfelbaum, Lillian Fryfield, Lisa Kafka.

Holocaust Symposium: Lola Apfelbaum, Jack Benisz, Agi Bergida, Susan Bluman, Alex Buckman, Lillian Boraks-Nemetz, Marion Cassirer, Saul Cohn, Mariette Doduck, David Ehrlich, Serge Haber, Chaim Kornfeld, Rob Krell, Inge Manes, Peter Parker, Rhodea Shandler, Ruth Sigal, Borge Stromgren, Bronia Sonnenschein, Louise Stein Sorensen, Tom Szekely and Danny Wollner, Barry Dunner, Prof. Chris Friedrichs, Graham Forst, Bonnie Belzberg, Judith Forst, Phillipa Friedland, Cathy Golden, Sydney Gordon, Fran Grunberg, Sheryl Kahn, Lise Kirchner, Ethel Kofsky, Rob Krell, Lani Levine, Lucien Lieberman, Craig McAdie, Steven Nemetz, Yvonne Rosenberg, David Schaffer, Judy Shandler, Adam Smollan, Dan Sonnenschein, Stan and Reena Taviss.

Donations in kind: Starbucks, Susy Siegel Catering

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

Inside this Issue

May 31, 1944 - New Exhibit	p. 3
Isabella Leitner	p. 4
Serpa Pinto	p. 7
Annemasse	p. 8
No Longer Alone	p. 9
Book Review	p. 12
Cards & Donations	p. 14

Zachor

Editor: Roberta Kremer
Design: Sean Matvenko

Syn-chro-nic-i-ty - *n.* The relation that exists when things occur at the same time. When one or more incidents that occurred separately seem to be related. The coincidence of events that seem to be meaningfully related.

May 31, 1944 was a significant date in the lives of many European Jews. For Isabella Leitner it was the day that her family, who were deported from Hungary, arrived in Auschwitz. The same day her mother and youngest sister were "selected" and therefore died in the gas chambers. It was also the day that important and controversial aerial photographs of Auschwitz were taken by the Allied forces. These photographs could have been used to bomb the rail lines leading to Auschwitz and therefore save thousands of Hungarian Jews, perhaps Isabelle Leitner's family. On May 31, 1944 SS Brigadier General Edmund Veesenmayer sent a telegram to Berlin describing the progress of the deportation of these same Hungarian Jews. He reported that up to and including May 31, 1944, 217,236 Hungarian Jews had been deported.

On May 31, 1944 the SS recorded that over a period of fifteen days, a total of 40 kilograms of gold had been removed from the teeth of Hungarian Jews who had been gassed at Auschwitz. This amount included the gold taken from those gassed upon their arrival on May 31, 1944. The deportees were from two trains, out of which 2000 men and women were sent to the barracks and 6000 were gassed.

On May 31, 1944 another group of fortunate Jewish refugees arrived in Philadelphia. They disembarked from the refugee ship Serpa Pinto, a ship that had been stopped in mid-ocean by the Germans. Upon the ship's arrival in the US, 74 Jewish refugees were taken by train to Canada. On that same day, May 31 the Gestapo arrested twenty-eight Jewish children, and their young guide, caught trying to cross the border from France to safety in Switzerland. They were imprisoned in the French town of Annemasse. They would be saved by the efforts of the town's mayor Jean Deffaugt.

On that that same day in England, US General Patton gave a motivational speech to the Third Army urging his troops to fight on and defeat the Nazi menace.

By examining some of the events of May 31, 1944 one can see the interrelatedness of what appears to be unconnected events in the Holocaust. Each has bearing on the other.

The exhibit concept is centred around a hand-made art folio created by printmaker and New York artist Gerson Leiber, who set the poem by Isabella Leitner titled May 31, 1944 into hand printed folio sheets. The artist, Gerson Leiber generously donated the entire folio to the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre in 2001 thereby making its presentation in Canada possible.

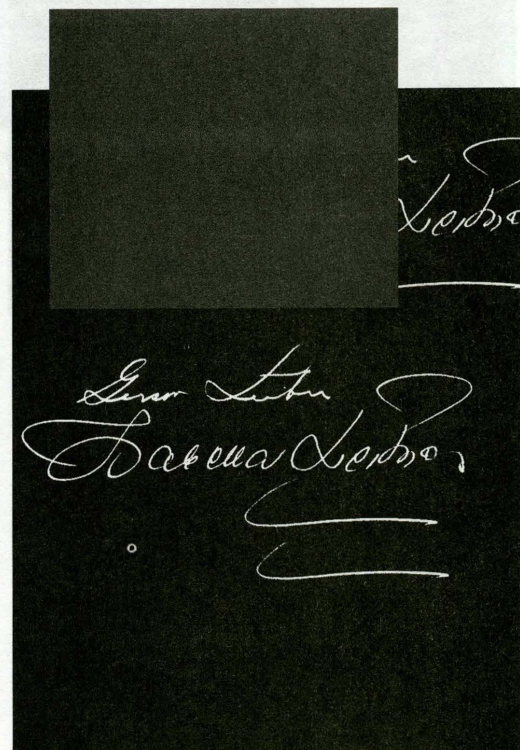
Gerson Leiber has had numerous one person and group exhibitions in galleries and museums throughout the United States and in Europe. Among his exhibitions are, Steinbaum Krauss Gallery, NYC; Kennedy Galleries, NYC; Arlene Bujese Galleries, East Hampton, NY; Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel; Vered Galleries, East Hampton, NY; Fine Arts Museum of Long Island, Hempstead, NY; Elaine Benson Gallery, Bridgehampton, NY. His works are in numerous private and public collections including, Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT; Library of Congress, Washington, DC; National Collection American Art, Washington, DC; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Boston, MA; Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA; Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY; The Museum of Modern Art, NYC; Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC; Whitney Museum of American Art, NYC and most recently Roy Neuberger, founder of the Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase College, SUNY, Purchase, NY. Leiber has won many awards and honours and is a member of the National Academy of Design. The folio May 31, 1944 was nominated for a 2001 Minnesota Fine Book Award.

MAY 31, 1944
ISABELLA LEITNER

LINOLEUM BLOCKS
BY GERSON LEIBER

NEW YORK CITY
MAY 2000

**It was a Wednesday afternoon,
the last day of a beautiful
month called May.**



I was born in May. I died in May." Isabella Leitner wrote in her memoir *Fragments of Isabella*. Leitner is the author of the poem displayed in the exhibit May 31, 1944, named after the title of the poem.

Isabella Leitner was born in 1924 in Kisvárd, Hungary. Her 20th birthday was spent in preparation for the family's



Isabella Leitner

deportation the next day. That journey took her four sisters, her brother and her mother, with hundreds of other Hungarian Jews most from the ghetto at Kisvárd, to Auschwitz. Her mother and youngest sister were murdered on their arrival on May 31, 1944. Isabella was transported six months later to Birnbaumel, another concentration camp, where she worked on anti-tank traps for use against the advancing Russian army. She escaped with two of

her sisters during a severe blizzard while on a forced death march to Bergen-Belsen. A third sister perished in Bergen-Belsen.

After being liberated by the Russians on January 25, 1945, Isabella immigrated with her two remaining sisters to the United States, where they were reunited with her father who had gone there earlier to try and secure visas for the family. The Leitner girls arrived on May 8, 1945 (VE Day), the very day the war in Europe ended, making them the first survivors of Auschwitz to set foot on American soil.

Fragments of Isabella: A Memoir of Auschwitz, her first book, was published in 1978 to great critical acclaim. The work was considered for the Pulitzer Prize for that year. It was also awarded a place on the American Library Association's list of best books of the year for young adults.

The book has been translated into Japanese, German and Italian, and dramatic works based on it have been produced in Ireland, France, Austria, Iceland, Russia and the United States. In addition, an audio tape was recorded by the author, and a motion picture based on the book was produced by the Abbey Theater in Ireland. The film has been screened in support of Amnesty International, in Ireland, Great Britain, Canada, and in the United States at various film festivals. It has also been seen at various educational institutions and religious organizations.

Saving the Fragments: From Auschwitz To New York, a second work, and *Isabella: From Auschwitz To Freedom*, a combination of the prior books plus new material, followed the initial memoir. In 1992, *The Big Lie: A True Story* was published by Scholastic Books for elementary school children. This book retells Isabella's story in language suitable for young minds and its impact has been enormous. Fourteen editions have been printed, and hundreds of thousands of children throughout Canada and the United States have been exposed to this inspiring tale of love, courage in the face of evil, and survival with faith in the future.

Eat Shit

It is just getting dark. We have been in Auschwitz for several hours. My mother has been dead for several hours. Little, dearest Potoyo, too. It is Wednesday, May 31, 1944.

We are in this huge wet place. Thousands of us. They call it the showers. They call it disinfection, whatever that means. The SS are all around. Orders are being shrieked in a language we hardly understand, presumably German. The words sound like "Louse! Louse! Louse!" It seems to mean "Rush! Rush! Rush!"

We are being shoved, pushed, lined up. Some girls are working away in a fury. Only the work is unbelievable. We have never seen anything like it before. They are shaving the heads of the new arrivals. And their pubic hair. And their underarms. The furious speed is unbelievable. What they are doing is unbelievable...

What happened? That German who whistled while pointing some people to the left and some people to the right turned us all around in front of some horribly smoky place and made another selection. He took us out of the group, and they brought us here, and now there are four of us. We are so happy, and we look so terrible. What did they do to us, and where are we? What is going to happen?

Suddenly, in the midst of this chaos, this insanity, somebody steps through the window of our building and recognizes us, these four naked headed monsters. He shakes our shoulders, tears rolling down his face. "Listen to me...Eat whatever they give you. Eat. If they give you shit, eat shit. Because we must survive. We have to pay them back!" And within seconds, my brother disappears through the window.

from *Fragments of Isabella* by Isabella Leitner

Critical Photographs of Auschwitz-Birkenau taken on May 31, 1944

On May 31, 1944 the second South African aerial reconnaissance mission flew over Auschwitz. Its photographic objective was the Monowitz Industrial Plant. Significantly two photo frames showed all of Birkenau, part of the Auschwitz main camp and Birkenau, and three frames showed part of Auschwitz main camp, all photographed from a height of 27,000 feet. These photographs were part of a series of aerial photographs that were taken of Auschwitz by Allied reconnaissance units of the 15th US Army Air Force between April 4, 1944 and January 14, 1945. The photos were used to plan aerial bombing runs over Auschwitz, raids that tragically would only target the industrial areas, leaving the railway lines, crematorium and gas chambers intact. This fateful decision has been the subject of much debate, many articles and even whole books.

The Allies came to photograph Auschwitz because of the important war industry located there. By early 1944, intelligence reports described a giant fuel and artificial rubber factory in Monowitz. On April 4, 1944, a Mosquito plane from 60th Photo Recon Squadron of the South African Air Force flew out of Foggia airbase in Southern Italy to take the first aerial photographs of the IG Farben factory at Monowitz, only 4km from Auschwitz-Birkenau.

A typical mission employed two cameras equipped with lenses of different focal lengths. In order to ensure complete coverage of the target, it was common practice to start the camera rolling ahead of time, and stop it slightly over time. As a result, the entire Auschwitz camp was photographed for the first time. During that same period, the Allies had begun their planning of a comprehensive attack on the German fuel industry, and the Monowitz factory was high on the list of targets.

On May 31, a second plane was sent to the area. This time, it also took three photographs of Birkenau from an altitude of 27,000 ft, although the photo-analysts

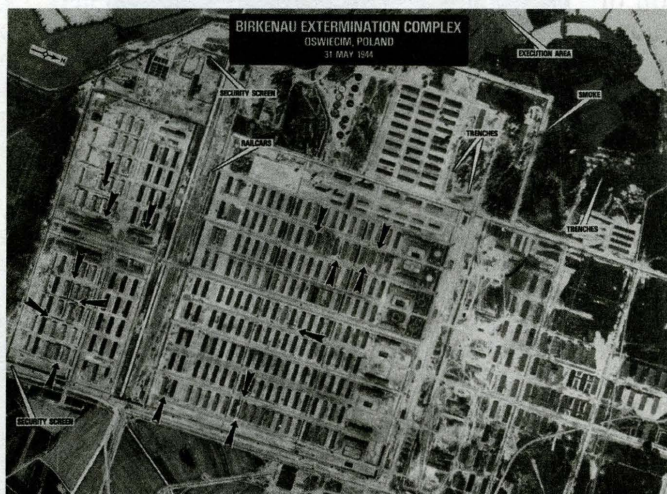
failed to identify the concentration camp. The photographs from this sortie showed the camp as it looked three days after the arrival of a major deportation of Hungarian Jews.

One of the great tragedies of the Holocaust was the refusal of the Allies to bomb Auschwitz. After 1943, the Allied forces clearly had the range and capacity to strike the railways leading to Auschwitz as well as the gas chambers. It had been beyond the reach of Allied bombers until airfields in Italy were acquired. Still no effort was made to bomb the gas cham-

The decision not to bomb Auschwitz was based on a US War Department secret policy not to divert military forces for rescue missions. Following the establishment of the War Refugee Board, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued an order on January 22, 1944 that called on all government agencies to take active measures to rescue European Jews. However, War Department officials, alarmed by the Presidential order, secretly established a unilateral policy of noninvolvement in rescue, in violation of the President's order. The "excuse" that was used by the War Department was that it would divert military power away from essential war operations.

It should be noted that the photo analysts never realized the significance of Birkenau, although Camp III, which was next to the IG Farben factory was identified as a concentration camp. For various operational reasons, the bombing of the Monowitz factory was delayed, but the Allied air forces continued to gather intelligence information about installations in the area. The factory and parts of the camp were photographed again on June 26, August 25 and September 8.

Meanwhile, the US Air Force started carrying out sorties in the area. The first American mission to the area near Auschwitz took place on July 8 by an F-5 Lightning plane from the 5th Photographic Reconnaissance Group of the 15th US Air Force, operating from Bari, Italy. The information gathered in various missions was used to plan the first bombing mission of the Monowitz factory on August 20th, in which the factory was damaged, but not destroyed. A second bombing mission was carried out on September 13th. Later sorties were carried out to estimate the damage to the factory, and the Germans' progress with its repair. The 5th Photographic Reconnaissance Group's Lightning planes also flew over the Auschwitz area on November 29th, December 21st, and finally on January 14th, 1945 – only two weeks before the liberation of the camp by the Soviet Army.



Aerial reconnaissance photograph of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp showing Auschwitz II (Birkenau), including the Gypsy camp. USHMM Archives

bers or the railways, despite numerous desperate requests for such actions, requests that intensified as the deportation of the Hungarian Jewish population began. Yet, some Jewish leaders and groups were against it, fearing that an attack on Auschwitz would kill large numbers of prisoners, but fail to destroy the gas chambers and crematoria. A decision to bomb the camp might have rescued as many as 400,000 Hungarian Jews – an outcome that is only speculation. What is certain is that destroying crematoria II and III at Birkenau would have eliminated 75% of its killing capacity at a time when it would have been difficult, if not impossible, to rebuild them. Inmates saw the planes fly over Auschwitz on a regular basis, striking other targets, which only intensified their feelings of abandonment.

EDMUND VEESENMAYER

May 31, 1944, Edmund Veessenmayer reports on the deportation of Hungarian Jews

by Scott Anderson

On May 31, 1944, only two and a half months after the German occupation of Hungary began, Nazi officer Edmund Veessenmayer issued a report, which he later transmitted to Berlin, detailing the progress of the implementation of the Final Solution in Hungary. The telegram reported that, up to and including May 31, 1944, the total number of Jews deported into the German Reich was 217,236. He also stated that 50 Jews were interrogated in Stuhlweissenburg in order to obtain the location of hidden gold, silver and other valuables.

As Adolf Hitler's liaison and chief of operations during the Nazi occupation of Hungary, SS Brigadier-General Edmund Veessenmayer played a significant role in the Nazi occupation of Hungary. Born in 1904, he was an early member of the Nazi Party joining in 1925. Veessenmayer gained a position in the German Foreign Office in 1932. During the Battle of Britain, in 1940, he was appointed the Plenipotentiary for Ireland, a diplomatic position granting him full powers to represent the Nazi government. During his tenure he made plans for the use of the Irish Republican Army against England. In 1941, while in Zagreb, Veessenmayer began petitioning for the deportation of the entire Jewish population of Serbia. The deportation of Jews was his main area of responsibility, while in the Balkans, and he made frequent complaints to his superiors on the lack of consistency in the Slovakian and Hungarian governments adherence to the policy of "Judenrein".

In 1944, Hitler appointed him Reich Plenipotentiary to Hungary. As a principal Nazi in Hungary he was responsible, along with Adolf Eichmann, for the deportation and murder of the Hungarian Jewish population. With Eichmann, Veessenmayer oversaw, and reported on the mass deportations to concentration and extermination camps across occupied Europe. By the end of May 1944, the deportations of Hungarian Jews were at their peak. The majority of which would be deported between May 15 and July 9, 1944. In order to facilitate the deportations, Veessenmayer unsuccessfully attempted to persuade the Hungarian governmental authorities to aid the SS. This was made easier after the Arrow Cross, essentially a Nazi puppet

regime, came to power in Hungary in October 1944. The primary destination for trainloads of Hungarian Jews would be Auschwitz-Birkenau where thousands would ultimately be murdered in the gas chambers.



Hungarian deportees arrive at Auschwitz
USHMM Archives

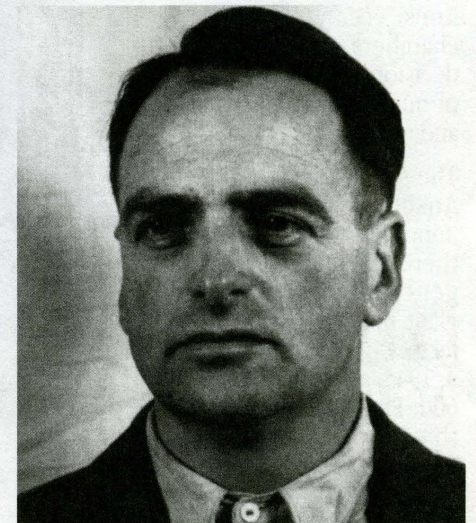
Veessenmayer also played a central role in the implementation of the death marches out of Hungary to more western destinations in Austria and Germany. As the Soviet army neared Budapest, thousands of Jews were ordered to march west with little or no food and water to sustain them. Their destinations were other camps, which were at that time not yet liberated and further from the collapsing fronts. Along the way many would perish from malnutrition and mistreatment. The Jews of Hungary were one of the last major groups to undergo mass deportation and murder. Ultimately, 450,000 Hungarian Jews from a pre-war population of over 650,000 would perish.

After the war, the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg tried Edmund Veessenmayer for war crimes. In April 1949, he was sentenced to twenty years in prison but his sentence was later reduced, through an act of clemency, to time served. He was released from prison in December 1951. There seems to be little documentation on Veessenmayer's trial and

limited evidence pointing to a motivation for reducing his sentence.

In May 1960, while in hiding in Argentina, Veessenmayer's ex-associate Adolf Eichmann was found and captured by Israeli agents. The following year, Dr. Edmund Veessenmayer was called to testify during the Eichmann trial as a witness for the defence.

During his testimony at the Eichmann trial, Veessenmayer admitted his role in and knowledge of the deportation of Hungarian Jews, both by train and through implementation of death marches, but consistently denied knowledge of the



Edmund Veessenmayer
Simon Wiesenthal Center Library & Archives

Final Solution. It was his belief that Jews were being deported for use as manual labourers. However, during the Eichmann trial the Attorney General and chief prosecutor, Gideon Hausner, stated of Veessenmayer:

"Veessenmayer was the German ambassador in Budapest. In our view he was one of those who instigated the German authorities to enter Hungary, so that...he might harness the Hungarians...to the destruction of the Jewish People.... I have no doubt that in my view Veessenmayer is guilty of crimes against the Jewish People."

Dr. Edmund Veessenmayer died in 1977.

The story of the Serpa Pinto reported as the ship reaches port on May 31, 1944

The Portuguese refugee ship the Serpa Pinto, sailing under a safe conduct guarantee carried a steady stream of fortunate refugees to safety in the United States and Canada during World War II. One such journey brought the ship to safe harbour in Philadelphia on May 31, 1944.

The ship had sailed from Lisbon on May 16, 1944, stopping in Oporto, Portugal on May 18 and in the Azores on May 21. In mid-ocean the ship was halted by gunfire from a German submarine. Two American passengers were carried off for questioning. Three hundred and eighty five people, both passengers and crew members were forced into lifeboats where they spent nine hours under threat of their ship being torpedoed. A 16-month-old baby daughter of Polish refugees, Beatrice Trapunski, daughter of Abrahm and Eva Trapunski, the ship's doctor Antonio Ferreira Machado and a cook lost their lives as German U-boats cruised around the lifeboats waiting for orders from Berlin on whether to sink the 8,267 ton steamer. As one of the refugees Maria Lowy reported:

"The German submarine officer threatened to sink the ship – the Captain ordered the lifeboats to be lowered immediately and this went on with rapidity and in such a panic that it is really a miracle that not more did happen. You know that the unfortunate doctor was drowned as well as one of the ship's cooks. You also know of the death of little Betty Trapunski, who the mother had reached down into a lifeboat before climbing in herself down the rope ladder. In that moment the boat went to pieces and the sailor who had held the child had to struggle for his life and apparently during the struggle he lost the baby.... Every moment we expected to hear the detonation of the torpedoed Serpa Pinto but then hours passed and we all regained hope."

Many who were onboard credit the Portuguese ship Captain Americo

dos Santos for saving the ship, his crew and his passengers. He negotiated with the Germans throughout the night, insisting that they radio Berlin to confirm their orders to sink the ship. He and his crew organized the difficult return to the vessel from the lifeboats.

The Serpa Pinto had long been involved in carrying European refugees to North America. Some of the refugees aboard had found themselves in Portugal after narrowly escaping from Nazi occupied France by crossing the Pyrenees on foot. On the ship were Leon Tenenbaum who had left a textile and carpet business in Paris and Albert Lichter a Polish refugee who had surreptitiously moved through four countries and escaped from a French concentration camp. Onboard was the Lowy family who came from Vienna, Austria where their dry goods store had been confiscated by the Nazis. Many on board carried forged documents or letters testifying that they were not Jews but Christians.

Upon landing in Philadelphia on May 31, 1944, the 74 refugees bound for Canada were escorted off the ship under heavy guard and put aboard a sealed train for the trip to Canada, therefore never technically being admitted to the United States. The refugees were traveling under the sponsorship of the American Joint Distribution Committee and were accompanied to Canada by David Rome of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

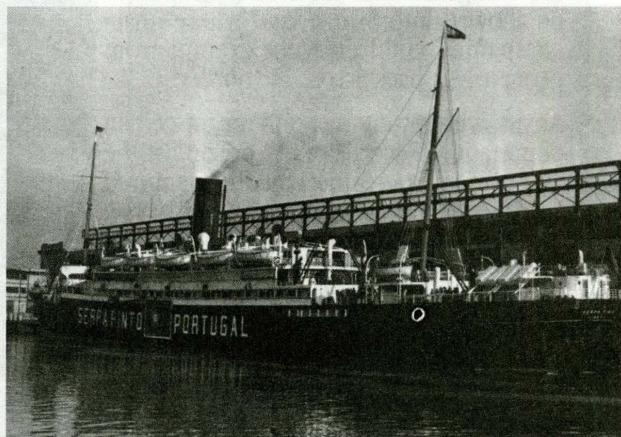
The Canadian Jewish Congress Archives have the lists of all of the Jewish refugees that came to Canada on three separate trips made by the Serpa Pinto, ending with the voyage that arrived on May 31, 1944. The Serpa Pinto was sunk by a German U-Boat attack in the Atlantic in 1945.

Montreal had a Serpa Pinto refugee's reunion a few years ago, organized by John Margolis of Montreal, an infant passenger at the time. During that reunion Janice Rosen of the CJC Archives met Eva

Trapunski, the mother of the baby that died. The National Archives in the US has a 15 second movie news clip of the Jewish refugees from one of the Serpa Pinto crossings arriving in Montreal.



Refugees onboard the Serpa Pinto, on one of the voyages that brought European Jewish refugees from to Canada, Spring 1944. *Canadian Jewish Congress National Archives*



The boat Serpa Pinto, that brought European Jewish refugees from ports in Spain and Tangiers to Canada during 3 voyages in the spring of 1944. *Canadian Jewish Congress National Archives*

Jews arrested by the Gestapo on May 31, 1944 saved by town's Mayor Jean Deffaugt

On May 31, 1944, a group of border-runners were apprehended at the French border town of Annemasse. With an active French underground Annemasse had long been a clandestine escape route for Jews trying to cross into Switzerland. Before the German occupation, the Vichy-appointed mayor and police of the town would often look the other way and allow groups of Jewish children to cross into Switzerland. The mayor, Jean Deffaugt, a World War I veteran, despite harsh criticism from his fellow members of the French resistance, remained faithful to Marshal Pétain, yet he showed no obedience toward the Germans.

On May 31, 1944, twenty-eight Jewish boys and girls, aged four to sixteen, along with their guide, Marianne Cohn, a young underground activist, were arrested by the Gestapo and imprisoned in a wing of the Pax Hotel, which was being used as a Gestapo prison. Marianne, working for the French Zionist Youth Movement (M.J.S.), had made this trip several times, smuggling hundreds of Jewish children out of France into safety in Switzerland. The children had been carefully rehearsed to give only false names if stopped. Once safe across the border they were to retrieve the papers, which gave their true identities, which had been carefully sewn into the linings of their coats. They hoped to be allowed into Switzerland where unaccompanied children were exempt from being driven back across the border.

Arrest, without intervention meant certain deportation. Records of the prison list the fate of numerous other children captured in route. One record states: Children arrested ages two and a half to 18 caught trying to flee to Switzerland – sent to Drancy. Mila Racine arrested on Nov 21, 1943 – sent to Drancy. Drancy was a transit camp for those to be deported to Auschwitz.

Jean Deffaugt was summoned to the hotel by the underground, and with cunning and determination persuaded the Gestapo to release the youngest children, those aged four to eleven. Promising that he would return the children to the Gestapo upon being ordered to do so. The affidavit he signed stated: "I, Jean Deffaugt, mayor of Annemasse, acknowledge receiving from Inspector Mayer, chief of the

Security Services, eleven children of Jewish faith, whom I pledge to return at the first order." In a complex operation, Deffaugt transported the youngest chil-



Marianne Cohn

dren to Father Duret, a priest who hid them in Bonne sur Menoge until the end of the war. Later the Germans released seventeen more children into Deffaugt's care. On July 30, 1944 these children were taken to join the younger children.



Jean Deffaugt (on right)

Five older boys and six girls remained in the Pax Hotel prison with Marianne Cohn. They were marched daily along the street en route to German officer headquarters where they carried out housekeeping and kitchen duties.

Deffaugt pleaded with the Gestapo on

behalf of all the imprisoned Jews. Deffaugt secured an entry permit to visit other Jews held in the prison. Before each visit, Deffaugt collected food, medicines, blankets and other vital necessities for the Jewish prisoners. He fed them and bandaged their wounds before their deportation. Deffaugt and his wife knew that they were in danger and were under suspicion by the occupation regime. After the war, he admitted, "I was afraid. I never went up the prison steps without crossing myself or murmuring a prayer."

The Jewish underground asked Deffaugt to smuggle Cohn out of the prison by abducting her as she walked with the remaining children. When Cohn heard the plan from Deffaugt, considering it her mission to look after the children, she refused to abandon them. She feared that the Germans would punish the remaining children if she escaped. Aware that her survival chances as a Jew were slim, she courageously told her interrogators, "I have saved more than two hundred children, and if I were free, I would continue to do so." On the night of July 8, 1944, twenty-year-old Cohn was abducted from the prison by the Gestapo along with two other women. They were shot by the French militia in a nearby forest along with four members of the French underground. Marianne Cohn's body was found in a mass grave after the liberation of Annemasse on August 18, 1944.

Later that month, the Gestapo informed Deffaugt that the children had to "disappear" due to congestion in the hotel prison. Deffaugt once more secured the conditional release of all the Jewish children. On the last Sunday of July 1944, these children were taken to join the younger children. With the liberation of Annemasse by the US Army, the children were reunited and relocated to Geneva, where Jewish organizations oversaw their rehabilitation and care. Twenty years later, Deffaugt was still in touch with most of the children, receiving moving letters from Alsace, England and Israel. In their correspondence, the survivors often mentioned Marianne Cohn, who had given her life on their behalf. On February 25, 1966, Yad Vashem recognized Jean Deffaugt as Righteous Among the Nations.



Remembering Parents

by Irene Kirstein Watts & Leo Vogel

My mother came to England on a domestic permit shortly before the start of World War II. She arrived with a naïve confidence that stemmed from a sheltered existence carefully fostered by both her devoted father and her husband. That these stalwarts had never disappointed her, even though both were now without employment, citizenship or place of worship, did not for one moment make her doubt the future. Had her husband not been released from the concentration camp?

Before my mother left Berlin, the housekeeper taught her how to make apfelkuchen. Her father declared it to be a triumph – all that the new household would expect of her. Trustingly she believed the reassurances that they would soon be reunited. The present madness would pass, as had the pogroms in the East in the old days. All would be well. She never doubted those words even after her husband was immediately incarcerated as an "enemy alien".

The English madam issued kindly and largely incomprehensible instructions regarding her duties. Mother found the navy uniform with its muslin frilled apron and matching cap enchanting. The mirror in her icy attic bedroom showed her a Garbo-like figure masquerading as a maid. On her first evening, asked to bring in the sherry, mother placed a glass on the tray for herself. She anticipated this as an opportunity to get acquainted, an hour of 'Gemutlichkeit'.

"Two glasses will be sufficient", the madam said and waved her away.

Mother ran upstairs and cried.

Papa was wrong. That was the moment when she knew they would not be reunited as he had promised.

Irene Kirstein Watts

Song of the Hidden Child

Colours of nightmare and evil sound

I did not sing and I could not play,

How to distinguish night from day?

You see I was underground.

I kept my mother safe in my head

When they took my father away,

I needed to keep the dogs at bay

I pretended to be dead.

"Don't be afraid," voices said to me

"The soldiers are gone, come out and eat".

How can I; there are marching feet

What does it mean to be free?

We are adult now, the past keeps hold,

Uneasy at dark, hiding from light

Black dreams and shadows come in the night,

Still fear, as we few grow old.

Irene Kirstein Watts

November 25, 1996

Hall of Remembrance

I watch a wisp of smoke
rise from the perpetual flame,
that burns gently
in the Hall of Remembrance.
It twirls like a helix,
holding on to the secrets of life and death,
gathering the memories of parents;
mine and theirs,
and my other parents.

I float with it
before it disappears,
through a hole in the roof
into the cloudless sky over Jerusalem.
Trapped feelings trickle from me
as they escape my cavern of remembrance,
and mingle with this ghostly smoke.

I listen to the song of the Cantor,
rolling off the boulders of the wall,
where memories are steeped in pain.
Each note, explodes another tear in my head.

I fear that I too will die--
a feeling, strangely comforting.

I hear halting sobs around me
as we stand to commemorate the brave.
My sister, who's also not my sister,
stands in the place where her parents
ought to have been.
Her eyes turned inward,
reflecting on those bestial times,
long gone and still present.

In this most solemn of places,
the words of the Rabbi are like salve
as he bestows honour to those righteous people
who made it possible for me
to stand in this place,
at this time.

Leo Vogel

December, 2001

OPEN HEARTS — CLOSED DOORS

Launching the War Orphans Project on the Web

by Frieda Miller

Web-Based Learning in the Schools

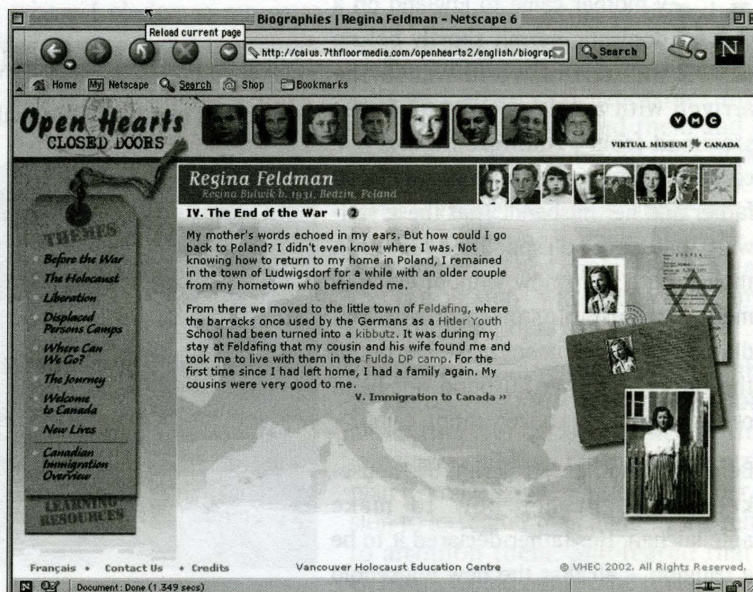
In the 1940s, Thomas Watson of IBM predicted that there would only be "a world market for maybe five computers."¹ Today, there are more than half a million internet connected computers in Canadian K-12 schools, the equivalent of almost two per classroom.² According to a recent study,³ most Canadians feel that the internet has significantly changed their lives. More than Japan, France, or the United States, Canadians have made the internet a regular part of their everyday lives and strongly identify it as a positive educational tool for children. Over 70% of respondents felt that it was important for children to have internet access at school. Furthermore, 67% of parents felt that their children's academic work had already benefited from going online.

Although some people remain skeptical about the value of putting computers in schools, most educators understand that the technology can be used to enhance teaching and learning. Having gone a long way ensuring the connectivity of schools, educators are now beginning to shift their priorities toward the development of high quality, curriculum-relevant digital content. Providing this content is where the VHEC feels it can best contribute to web-based learning in the schools.

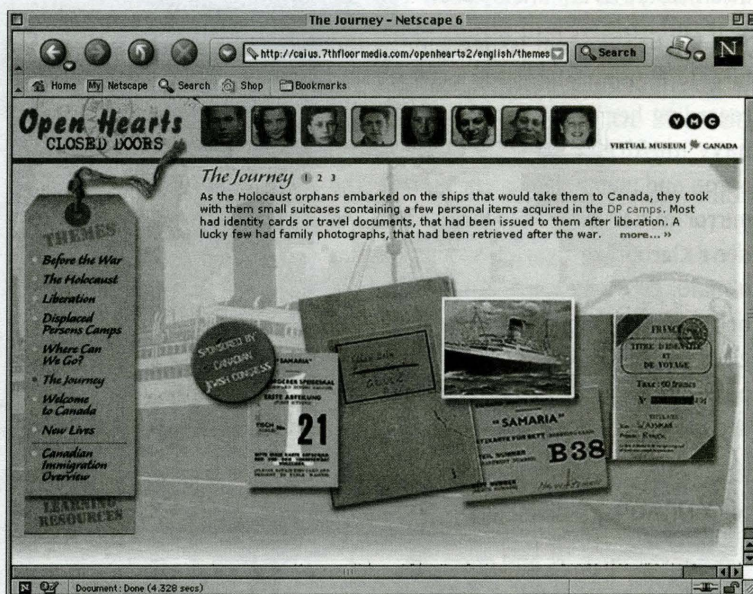
Providing Quality Content

It is against this backdrop, that the VHEC is pleased to announce the launch of its first online educational initiative in June 2002. Our intent is to harness these exciting developments in information technologies by providing content that is compelling, historically accurate and integrated into Canadian curriculum.

The interactive, multimedia project *Open Hearts — Closed Doors: The War Orphans Project* was developed for the Virtual Museum of Canada and funded by the Department of Canadian Heritage. The project takes a uniquely Canadian story and makes it accessible to a wide public audience. One pathway through the content is through the biographies of eight war orphans, a strategy which uses the affinity of age between the students and the young survivors to create a sense of historic empathy. A second pathway features the artifacts as historical evidence. This artifact-based approach capitalizes on the power of authentic documents to engage the viewer. A third approach makes use of the thematic strands as a point of entry into the historical chronology which begins with pre-war Jewish life and continues through the Holocaust and its aftermath to new lives in Canada. The sample screens shown on these pages demonstrate the rich content contained on the site.



Biography screen: Rolling over the portraits along the top menu enlarges the individual photos and brings on text revealing the names of the war orphans. Clicking on the photo opens a different series of screens, which tell the stories of the war orphans in their own words.



Theme Screen: When the user selects one of the themes, a screen like this one on the Journey appears. A brief text introduces the section. The graphics open sub-screens presenting artifacts, as well as audio and video accounts by the war orphans.

Teaching & Learning

The website provides teachers with the kind of primary documents that they would otherwise not have access to. It also offers them supporting resources, lesson plans and a curriculum fit in an organized framework that is easy to use and integrate into their classroom teaching. A comprehensive teacher's guide provides support for teachers wishing to extend the use of the online materials in ways that can be adapted to a variety of grade levels and subject disciplines. It is designed to promote critical thinking skills and make connections to language-based activities and other interdisciplinary extensions.

The bilingual nature of the site offers French teachers across the country a unique resource for Holocaust education in their own language of instruction. For teachers whose classrooms do not have the level of connectivity required to support a fully online experience, the website provides printable versions of the narratives, the documentary artifacts and the teacher's guide.

Project Development

The content of the site derived directly from the stories and artifacts of the eight war orphans who gave so willingly and generously of their time, David Ehrlich, Regina Feldman, Bill Gluck, Celina Lieberman, Leo Lowy, Mariette Rozen, Leslie Spiro & Robbie Waisman. To help us shape and deliver this content for the web, we were privileged to work with 7th Floor Media, one of Canada's leading new media groups, which has provided all aspects of interactive design and development for this production. Special thanks to Co-Directors: Noni Mate & Julie Zilber, Producer: Dennis Smith, Project Manager: Mary Watt, Graphic Designer: Karlos Ceberios, Programmer: Adam Rootman

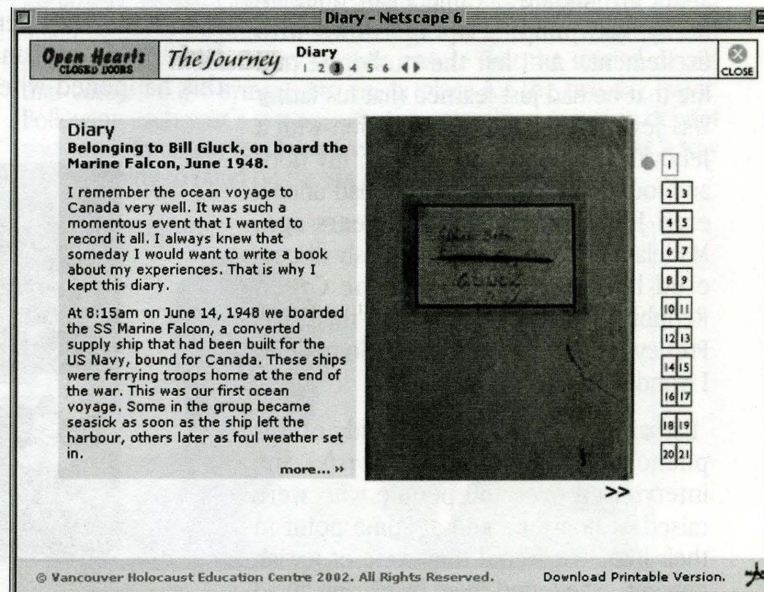
Audience evaluations were conducted during the development phase to assess teachers' response to the site. Teachers expressed an appreciation for the distinctive nature of the project, noting the powerful use of artifacts, personal narratives, multimedia and the site's usefulness for teaching.

Teachers have differing opinions as to how they plan to use the site. Some teachers would like to see students use the site at school while others plan to assign the site as part of a research assignment to be done by students at home. While most teachers expect that their students will browse the site online, a significant number of teachers were interested in downloading and printing the materials as tangible documents for their students to examine. This range of teaching strategies seems to reflect differences in individual teachers' familiarity with web materials as well as the accessibility and connectivity of computers in different schools or students' homes. This finding supports our decision to make the site as flexible as possible for a variety of teaching and learning approaches and classroom situations.

Open Hearts — Closed Doors is an interdisciplinary, educational project, designed to support teachers in the classroom as part of

a growing interest in web-based teaching and learning. The site helps us achieve our goal of providing distinctive and authentic content by making use of primary documentary materials that would otherwise be inaccessible to students, teachers and the wider public.

We do this with the understanding that although we can provide the content, we cannot transmit meaning and knowledge. Our hope is that students and others will be able to construct their own moral and affective understanding from the information provided on the site. Internet communication is merely a tool that offers us an opportunity to reach more interested learners and provide them with information and materials in a format that may help them develop and extend their own knowledge base.



Artifact Pop-up Screen: When a user selects an artifact a screen pops up over the thematic screen that allows the user to see the artifact up close. In addition, one of the unique attractions of the site allows users to print a replica of the artifact (through a pdf file), which becomes a classroom resource as outlined in the teacher's guide.

The site can be accessed from the VHEC website at vhec.org or from the Virtual Museum Canada site at virtualmuseum.ca. Anyone without internet access is welcome to drop by the Centre for a quick look at the site. Small group demonstrations can be easily arranged.

Footnotes

1. *The Experts Speak*, by Christopher Cerf and Victor Navasky (Villard, 1998).
2. *SchoolNet On-Line Connectivity Survey Report* by Jacques Drouin, Connectivity Manager SchoolNet. May 2000
3. *Implementation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Canadian K-12 Schools: An Overview* by K&V Stief Associates

BOOK REVIEW

Suddenly Jewish

by Barbara Kessel

Brandeis University Press, 2000

Reviewed by Claudia Cornwall

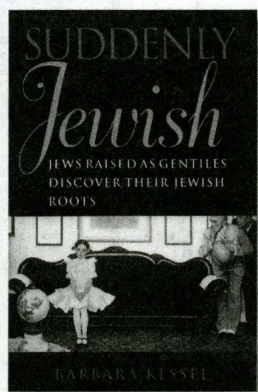
About ten years ago, I learned that three of my grandparents were Jewish. At first, I thought that I was the only person in the world who had made such a discovery. But I quickly found out this was not so. I kept meeting people who had a similar experience or who knew someone who did. Once when I was interviewed on TV about my 'finding', a cameraman, quite literally, was jumping up and down with excitement. As I left the studio, he told me that he had just learned that his father was Jewish. I fell into conversation with a Jehovah's Witness who came to my door and found out that her mother had uncovered Jewish roots. Several years ago, Madelaine Albright rather famously discovered her Jewish family in the Czech Republic. And recently I read that Elvis Presley may have been Jewish. Sometimes I wonder, *is everyone Jewish?*

Barbara Kessel has made a study of this phenomenon in *Suddenly Jewish*. She interviewed over 160 people who were raised as non-Jews and at some point in their lives discovered they were of Jewish descent. She found them by placing an ad in the New York Times and by posting queries on the Internet—on adoption webpages, religious webpages, genealogy sites—anywhere she thought that her subjects might be found. She interviewed these people in person, by telephone or through letters and emails. The transcripts of these interviews form the basis of her book.

Kessel identified four distinct groups. There are the crypto-Jews who are descendants of the Jewish victims of the Spanish Inquisition. These Jews are often referred to as Marranos—a term which Kessel explains is pejorative. "Marrano" actually means "swine" in Spanish. Why this term came to be used is not clear. It may have had to do with the fact that the crypto-

Jews had to be more Christian-than-Christian in order to escape suspicion, so they would make a show of eating the non-kosher pig. Or it may have had to do with the fact that even though these people had converted to Christianity, they were still despised. Kessel shows us that 500 years after the Inquisition, many of these families are still following Jewish traditions—sometimes without knowing they are Jewish. One woman said that the reason her family never ate pork was that it was too expensive. Another woman thought that her mother lit candles in the bedroom every Friday night because it was a Catholic custom.

The second group Kessel interviewed were hidden as children during the Holocaust. They were placed with Gentile families, in orphanages or convents. If this happened when they were babies,



they may have lost their memories of their parents. If their parents survived and came to reclaim them, they learned the story of their parentage after the war. But if their parents died, they often did not discover the truth until much later.

The third group that Kessel investigated are children of Holocaust survivors who were so traumatized by their experiences in the war that they concealed their identity. Like the hidden children, these individuals often discovered the truth about their families when they were older, sometimes from a distant relative, sometimes from documents. One story that I found particularly interesting was the Landmanns, who were Holocaust survivors who immigrated to New York City and raised their

three daughters as Presbyterians. One year, the family visited some friends of theirs who were Jewish. As it was the eve of Passover, they were invited to join in the Seder. "The girls looked on as their father, Mr. Landmann, sang the Passover songs in Hebrew, as though he had been celebrating the Jewish holiday all his life! "We thought he was so smart. Isn't Daddy amazing, we said, all he has to do is look at a foreign language, and he picks it up right away!" I think this is revealing of the way in which an identity narrative takes hold. Once it is established, only a major shock will crack the foundation. The fourth group that Kessel studies are adoptees. Most of Kessel's subjects knew they were adopted, but discovered their Jewish ancestry later when they began searching for their biological families.

The strength of *Suddenly Jewish* is in the sheer diversity of experience it lays bare—the seismic shifts of identity that Kessel describes—Marcel Nakache, hidden in a French convent as a child, grows up Catholic, decides to become a priest and then just before taking his vows learns that he is Jewish; Hana Mehdi, a twenty-six year old student grows up thinking she is the daughter of an Irish-American mother and a Syrian-Palestinian father and then learns that a Jewish man is her father.

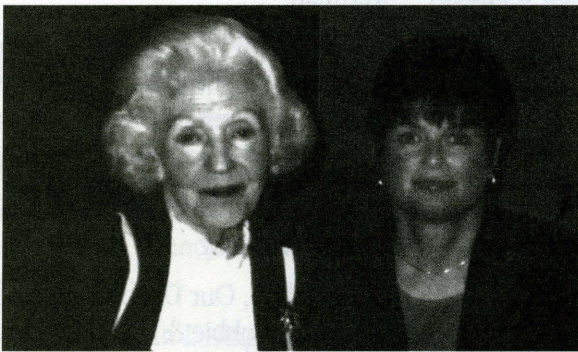
The book is weaker when it comes to explanations and conclusions. Why is it that many of the people Kessel talked to were attracted to Judaism well before they discovered their ancestry? In fact, fourteen of them had converted before they found out they had Jewish lineage. Kessel speculates: *Is there a Jewish gene? A collective unconscious?* But if that is so, why is it that some individuals were less affected by their discovery? Why did Peggy Alstrom, a writer in her mid thirties say, "...the discovery of our 'Jewish background' was a complete non-issue in our family." Kessel writes, "People who are at relative peace with themselves may simply absorb a new fragment of information and move on, making no significant alterations in self-image." But why, the reader is left to question. Obviously, the topic is huge and like a Russian doll, it contains within itself a series of topics. It will take more than one book to get to the smallest doll.

HIGH SCHOOL SYMPOSIUM ON THE HOLOCAUST

The 27th Annual High School Holocaust Symposium was held at the University of British Columbia on May 8 and 9, 2002. Over 1000 students and teachers attended from 35 Lower Mainland schools. As usual the request for places exceeded the capacity, but those schools that could not be accommodated will be given priority to attend next year.

This year's Eibschutz Endowed Lecturer was the Polish Catholic rescuer Irene Gut Opdyke, a recipient of the Righteous Among Nations award. On both days, her presentation was met with a standing ovation from students. Equally appreciative was the audience on hand at the VHEC for Mrs. Opdyke's reading and book signing on the evening of May 7th, moderated by Yvonne Rosenberg.

Every year, Professor Chris Friedrichs finds a new way of presenting the history of the Holocaust in a way that reflects the year's chosen theme. This year he addressed students on the topic of *The*



Irene Gut Opdyke (left) and Yvonne Rosenberg at the book reading

Holocaust: Can Something So Evil Teach Us Anything? and fielded many of the moral and ethical questions addressed to the panel.

The panel, moderated by Dr. Robert Krell and Frieda Miller, also included Irene Opdyke and survivors Lillian Boraks-Nemetz, Marion Cassirer, David Ehrlich and Peter Parker. This part of the program gives students an opportunity to ask wide-ranging and high-level questions, many of which are very personal.

Every year, students report that the part of the day that is the most meaningful to them and has the most lasting impact, is the time that they spend in small groups with survivor speakers. This year, those who so generously agreed to share their experiences with students were Lola Apfelbaum, Jack Benisz, Agi Bergida, Susan Bluman, Alex Buckman, Lillian Boraks-Nemetz, Marion Cassirer, Saul Cohn, Mariette Doduck, David Ehrlich, Serge Haber, Chaim Kornfeld, Inge Manes, Peter Parker, Rhodea Shandler, Ruth Sigal, Borge Stromgren, Bronia Sonnenschein, Louise Stein Sorensen, Tom Szekely and Danny Wollner. Second Generation Barry Dunner also spoke.

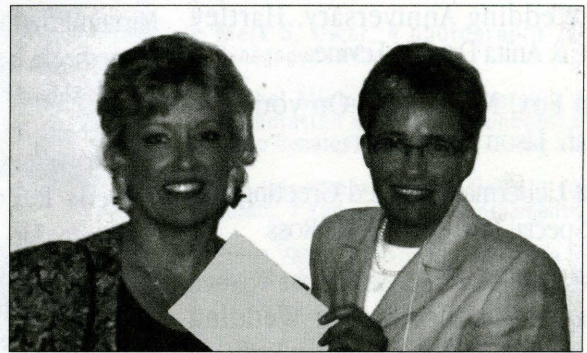
Over lunch, teachers had an opportunity to meet with each other and to share some of their best practices in Holocaust education. Frieda Miller welcomed teachers and updated them on recent and projected VHEC activities and programs. This year one of the young teachers in attendance recalled having come to the Symposium as a high school student. The experience had been so powerful that she had resolved to bring her own students.

This year, the Meyer & Gita Kron Award for Excellence in

Holocaust Education was presented to Virginia Slayton of Little Flower Academy for her extensive Holocaust biography unit and her demonstrated commitment to Holocaust education. Also associated with the Symposium are two student essay prizes, which are awarded annually to students who have demonstrated an excellent understanding of one of the essay topics. This year's Lehrer Essay Award was awarded to Supna Sandhu from Moscrop Secondary School (teacher, Elizabeth Byrne) for her essay *A Horror Finally Unleashed*. The B'nai Brith Essay Prize was awarded to Andrew Dhillon from St. George's School (teacher, David Darling) for his essay *Life Unworthy of Life*.

Every school in attendance received a copy of Irene Opdyke's book *In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer* for their school library. This much-appreciated gift is provided through the generosity of the Leo Krell Memorial Book Fund of the VHEC. *The Holocaust Chronicle* was provided through a generous donation from Leon Kahn in honour of all those from his Shtetl of Ejszyski.

The Symposium Planning Committee consisting of Dr. Graham Forst and Dr. Robert Krell (co-chairs), Rita Akselrod, Scott Anderson, Evelyn Goldman, Sheryl Kahn, Sean Matvenko, Frieda Miller, William Nicholls, Stuart Rothgiesser, Robbie Waisman and Andrea Webb worked very hard to ensure that the myriad details that comprise the symposium are in place for the two-day event. Following each year's symposium, the committee meets to debrief and carefully assess feedback from students and teachers as a way of continuing to build on the success of past programs.



Frieda Miller (right) presents the KRON award to Virginia Slayton

The success of the symposium is due in large measure to our most dedicated volunteers. Those who assisted this year were Bonnie Belzberg, Judith Forst, Phillipa Friedland, Cathy Golden, Sydney Gordon, Fran Grunberg, Sheryl Kahn, Lise Kirchner, Ethel Kofsky, Rob Krell, Lani Levine, Lucien Lieberman, Craig McAdie, Steven Nemetz, Yvonne Rosenberg, David Schaffer, Judy Shandler, Adam Smollan, Dan Sonnenschein, Stan and Reena Taviss.

This year's symposium was dedicated to the memory of Sophie Waldman, a long-time supporter of the symposium. Sponsorship for the Annual High School Symposium was provided by the Waldman Endowment Fund of the VHCS, the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver and the University of British Columbia.

The symposium concluded with a very moving candle lighting ceremony in memory of all the victims of the Shoah. Students were paired with survivors to light candles, in a very fitting end to an intensely thought-provoking and emotional day.

Mazel Tov

Rita Akselrod, With our Love on your Special Birthday. Regina & David Feldman

Mrs. Helen Berger, With very Best Wishes for a Happy & Healthy year. Lisa Kafka

Andre & Gertie Blum, Best Wishes for Happy & Healthy Birthdays. Daniel & Vera Wollner

Saul Cohn, Happy Birthday to you! Lola Apfelbaum

Dr. David Damien, Congratulations! On the Birth of your Son, Nathan. Robbie & Gloria Waisman

Steve & Erika Erdos, In Honour of your 50th Wedding Anniversary. Hartley Levine & Anita Daniels-Levine

Aiden Fox, Mazel Tov! On your Bar Mitzvah. Jason Uhrmacher

Celina Lieberman, Belated Greetings on your Special Birthday. Gloria Ross

Sara & Sam Mandelbaum, Best Wishes on Sam's Birthday & your Wedding Anniversary. Charlotte & Jeffrey Bell

Sam Mandelbaum, Wishing you a Happy Birthday. Emerich Klein

Cornelia Oberlander, Congratulations on the receipt of your Honorary Doctorate. Frieda Miller & Daniel Shapiro

Dr. W. Seidelman, Congratulations! & Best Wishes on your Career Change. Shelley & Perry Seidelman & Family

Ruth & Cecil Sigal, With Love & Best Wishes on your Special Anniversary. Norman & Sheila Archeck

Peter Suedfeld, Congratulations on your

talk at the USHMM. The Board & Staff of the VHEC

Get Well

Gabriella Klein, Hope you Get Well Soon. We're all thinking of you! The Second Generation Group, The Board & Staff of the VHEC

Lola Apfelbaum, Wishing you a Speedy & Full Recovery. Gerri London, Gloria Waisman & the Survivor Drop-in Group, Regina & David Feldman, The Board & Staff of the VHEC, Pola Nutkiewicz

Saul Dimant, Wishing you a Speedy & Full Recovery. Izzy Tischler, The Szajman Family, Izzy Fraeme & Family

Miriam Friedberg, Our Best Wishes for a Thorough Recovery. Tom Szekely & Janice Masur

Dr. Robert Krell, Warm Wishes for a Speedy Recovery. Robbie & Gloria Waisman, Dr. Arthur & Judy Dodek, The Choit Family, Johanna & Sid Levitt, Morley & Fay Shafron, Bob & Helen Coleman, Frieda Miller & Daniel Shapiro, Wednesday Discussion Group, Cookie Mackoff, Jack & Karen Micner, Izak & Lili Folk, Mark Steinberg, Lucien & Carole Lieberman, Leo & Jocy Lowy

Otto Lowy, Wishing you a Speedy Recovery. Esther & Larry Brandt

Prof. Moses Steinberg, Wishing you a Speedy Recovery. Izzy Tischler & Reva Puterman

Sympathy

Jack Altman & Family, Our Deepest

Condolences on the Loss of your Father, Sam. Tanice, Kirk & Amy Miller, George & Frieda Wertman

Michael Altman & Family, Our Deepest Condolences on the Loss of your Father, Sam. George & Frieda Wertman, Ida Kaplan, Odie Kaplan

Mrs. Basia Altman, Our Deepest Condolences on the Loss of your Husband, Sam. George & Frieda Wertman

Peter Berger & Family, Deepest Sympathy on the Loss of your Beloved Mother & Grandmother. Ida Kaplan

Birnbaum Family, On the Loss of your Husband, Father & Grandfather. Anita Shafran & Family

Paula Cohen, Our Deepest Sympathy on your Loss. Robbie & Gloria Waisman

Dr. Jeffry Davis, Our Condolences on the Loss of your Mother & Grandmother, Esther. Cathy & David Golden & Family

Gina Dimant, With Sympathy & Love. Lillian Boraks-Nemetz, Marsha Garfinkel, Ester Blum, Sam Geller, Helen Hooper, Ida Steinberg, Ida Mooney, Ezekiel Mattuck & Sylvia Nemetz, Esther & Larry Brandt, Robert & Marilyn Krell, Mark, Sylvie & Mary Epstein & Family, Gloria, Gerri & Survivor Drop-in Group, The Board & Staff of the VHEC

Rosalie Dimant & Family, With Heartfelt Sympathy on the Loss of your Beloved Saul. Evelyn & Leon Kahn, Esther & Larry Brandt, Elizabeth Wolak, Richard & Arthur Wolak, Rose & Ben Folk, Rose Lewin, Eddie, Debbie, Roxy & Jacob Lewin, Emmy Krell, Lili & Izak Folk & Family, Sally Zimmerman, Regina & David Feldman & Family, Ida Kaplan,

the Szajman Family, Rachel & Herschel Wosk, Jack & Henia Perel, Anita & Avi Perel-Panar & Family, Karl & Sabina Choit, Regina Wertman, Harold & Bella Silverman, Perry & Shelley Seidelman & Family, Leo & Jocy Lowy, The Board & Staff of the VHEC

Faye Elias & Family, Our Deepest Sympathy on the Loss of your Father. Izak & Lili Folk, Ben & Rose Folk, Rose Lewin, Cathy & David Golden & Family, Jack & Karen Micner, David & Grace Ehrlich

Evelyn Goldbloom, Our Deepest Sympathy. Robbie & Gloria Waisman

Binny Goldman, In Memory of your Dear Mother. Robbie & Gloria Waisman

Mrs. Sherry Mayers, In Loving Memory of your Mother & Grandmother. William & Lola Mendelson

Mrs. Sylvia Nesson, In Loving Memory of your Mother & Grandmother. William & Lola Mendelson

Bernice Neuwirth, Our Deepest Sympathy. Regina & David Feldman & Family, George & Frieda Wertman, Esther & Larry Brandt, Robert & Marilyn Krell & Family, Ida Kaplan, The Board & Staff of the VHEC, Gloria, Gerri & Survivor Drop-in Group

Pola Nutkiewicz, Our Deepest Sympathy. David & Grace Ehrlich, George & Frieda Wertman, Robert & Marilyn Krell, Jack & Jenny Rootman, Leon & Evelyn Kahn, Lola Apfelbaum, Izak & Lili Folk, Ben & Rose Folk, Harold & Bella Silverman, Regina Wertman, Irv Wolak & Family

George Ostry, With Deepest Sympathy. Irv Wolak & Family

Jineane Payne Babish, Our Deepest Condolences. The Board & Staff of the VHEC

Allen & Sylvia Pelman & Family, With Deepest Sympathy. Izzy Tischler & Reva Puterman, Abe & Goldie Miedzygorski

Mrs. B. Segal, Our Heartfelt Condolences on the Loss of your Father & Grandfather. David, Cathy, Tyler & Shane Golden

Harry & Wendy Stryer, In Memory of Freda Stryer. The Miedzygorski & The Coleman Families, The Choit Family, Ethel, Matthew, Michael & Jordan Kofsky, Izzy Tischler & Reva Puterman, Lisa Weinstein & Bernie Conn

David Tessler, Our Deepest Sympathy. Robbie & Gloria Waisman

Mrs. Marlene Wexler & Family, Sorry to hear of your Loss. Leo & Jocy Lowy

Rabbi Yosef Wosk & Family, With Deepest Condolences on the Loss of your Father. Leanne Nash, Michel & Fredericka Mielnicki, Evelyn & Leon Kahn, Izzy Fraeme & Family, Frieda Miller & Daniel Shapiro, Aron Szajman & Family, Ida Kaplan, Leo & Jocy Lowy, The Board & Staff of the VHEC, Izzy Tischler & Reva Puterman

John Zbarsky, Our Condolences on the Loss of your Father & Grandfather, Sid. Cathy & David Golden, Anita Shafran & Family

Mrs. S. Zbarsky & Family, Our Condolences on the Loss of your Husband, Sid. Cathy Golden (Doduck)

Thank you

Judith Forst, In Appreciation of your performance at Yom HaShoah. The Board & Staff of the VHEC, Ethel Kofsky & Rome Fox, co-chairs Yom HaShoah Committee

Bill Gluck, Thanks for Lunch! The VHEC Staff

DONATIONS TO THE ARCHIVES

Leonore Etkin, Armband with Nazi emblem.

Jack Kuper, Photographic print of the Warschauer Ghetto.

Myrna and Jack Sandler, Hebrew magazine published in 1947 detailing life in the Displaced Persons Camps.

Arthur Hollander, 6 letters written from the Warsaw ghetto. 4 photographs of the Hollander family.

Katalin Kunovits, A postcard sent to the donor's father in Jalsva forced labour camp in Hungary by her mother (Magdalena) just before she was deported to Auschwitz.

Paul Meyer, 1 telegram regarding immigration to Canada. 3 letters by Immigration Canada. 1 letter by the Deutsche Bank. A 2-page circular on exporting funds from Germany. A letter granting permission to export belongings. A 4 page guide in German on the steps one has to take to get permission to emigrate.

Mark S. Dwor, 4 photographs of the Synagogue in Cracow.

Michel Mielnicki, 1 membership card: Association of Former Concentration Camp Inmates, 1966.

The late Rabbi Dr. Imre Balla, 1 family Torah, 1 Yad, and 2 silver ornaments.

Serge Vanry, 1 postcard from Serge to his Mother Sarah in Drancy Concentration Camp.

Sister Anne, 1 book entitled "Nazi Hell".

Louis Checov, 1 book entitled "Our Destruction in Pictures".

Misha Menczer, 1 ID card from the American Joint Distribution Office in Paris. 1 special services for immigrants card. 1 Receipt for donation to the state of Israel. 6 stories written by Eliezer (Elieser) Mottel Menczer. 1 Romanian Visa to go to Paraguay. 1 DP camp ID card for Eliezer Mottel Menczer. 1 DP camp ID card issued to Regina Menczer. 1 visa for travel to Canada.

Graham Sharpe, "The Jewish Question" Number 41 of the "Oxford Pamphlets on World Affairs" by James Parkes, "Fascism Over Canada: An Expose" An anti-fascist publication written by Fred Rose in 1938.

Marlene Franks, US anti-Nazi magazine, 1939.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

German Social Security & Polish Ghettos

Since 1997, German Social Security pensions have been available to survivors who performed labor for nominal pay in the Lodz ghetto, and were residents of Germany between 1945 and 1949. A later amendment extended eligibility to certain other ghettos with similar conditions in the annexed or occupied area of Poland. Now a further change in legislation governing German Social Security pensions for work in Polish ghettos has been announced. The new legislation expands eligibility to all ghettos in annexed or occupied Poland and removes the 1945-49 German residency condition. Since work in ghettos will also be evaluated on a higher scale, survivors who are currently receiving a German Social Security pension may apply for an increase in their present rate.

The new eligibility criteria specify that the work must have been performed above the age of 14 years old, for a salary. Required proof is a sworn statement from two witnesses.

For information & applications, please contact the Social Security offices of the German government at the address below. Survivors can obtain free assistance from the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre. Call 604-264-0499 to make an appointment.

German Social Security Offices:

Landesversicherungsanstalt (LVA)
Hamburg
Ueberseering 10
22297 Hamburg, Germany
Tel: (49-40) 6381-0
Fax: (49-40) 6381-2999

Donor Opportunities

The VHEC always has a long list of things that we need and can't afford. There are numerous new videos and books we would like to have in our library, many of interest to students and teachers. The oral history collection, taped in the early 1980s and 1990s is in desperate need of preservation through their translation to DVD or CD-ROM format. Our well used photocopier and laser printer are on their last legs. Our exhibits and Teacher's Guides are under-funded. Sponsorship of \$500 gets your name on an exhibit poster or Teachers Guide. We would like to sponsor more teachers from Vancouver Island and other parts of BC to attend the Shafran Teacher's Conference in February 2003. We are also in need of a digital camera. Many of these sponsorship opportunities are in the \$50 to \$100 range, others in the \$1000 to \$5000 range. If you are interested in helping us satisfy any of our "want" list please contact Roberta Kremer, Executive Director at the VHEC, 604-264-0499.

DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Anti-Semitism in Slovak Politics (1989-1999)" by Pavol Mestan; Fragments of Memory: from Kolin to Jerusalem by Hana Greenfield, donated by Andrew Karsai.

Cachee by Marguerite Elias Quddus, donated Rene Goldman.

Holocaust, donated by Bronia Sonnenschein

Book of Memory: Victim list of Babiya, donated by Joseph Polisky

Hasidic Tales of the Holocaust by Yaffa Eliach, donated anonymously

Jorg Haider's Anti-Semitism by Anat Peri, donated by the author.

Ravensbruck by Jack G. Morrison, donated by the publisher.

Teresienstadt Exhibit Catalogue, donated by Hilda Everall.

Surviving Hitler by Andrea Warren, donated by Aviva Roseman.

Memoirs of Rhodea Shandler, by Rhodea Shandler, donated by the Author.

Image Before My Eyes by Lucjan Dobroszycki & Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett donated by Donald and Gelna Hendin.

Holocaust / Maps and Photos by Martin Gilbert, donated by Gloria Hendon

Rescue: The Story of How Gentiles Saved Jews by Milton Meltzer, donated by Roberta Kremer.

Daniel's Story by Carol Matas, donated by Barbara Hirsch.

Skala (Yizkor Book) by The Skala Benevolent Society, donated by Mark Steinberg.

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