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Zachor

"Remember"

The Newsletter of the Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society

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

No. 4, October 1996



PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

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As Part of Jewish Book Week

Sunday November 3rd, 1996

**at the Holocaust Education
Centre**

2:00 PM GENERATIONS...

**Mother & Daughter
Poetry Reading**

By Eva & Debórah Miller

Eva Mendel Miller grew up in Berlin where she experienced first hand, the birth and rise of Hitler's regime. Many of her closest friends perished in the Holocaust. Her novel, *The Last Expressionist*, explores one family's passage through those turbulent times. Eva Miller will be reading with her daughter, Debórah. Debórah will read from her recently published book of poetry, *I Will Burn Candles*.



Debórah Miller and Susanne Heinz

5:00 PM BURNING CANDLES...
Poetry Reading

by Susanne Heinz and Debórah Miller

Susanne Heinz was born in Russelsheim, Germany in 1960, immigrating to Canada in 1967. She was granted a Master of Arts Degree in Creative Writing in 1996 from the University of Calgary. The granddaughter of a Nazi officer, her poems reflect the anguish of what she calls her "tainted heritage." Susanne will recite some recent poems that deal with her conflicted feelings about her German heritage. These will be paired with selected works by Debórah Miller.

ANNUAL KRISTALLNACHT COMMEMORATION

8:00 p.m. Sunday

10 November 1996

**Beth Israel Synagogue
4350 Oak St., Vancouver**

"Auschwitz, Past, Present and Future"

**a joint address by two
outstanding scholars:**

**Professors Debórah Dwork
and**

Robert Jan van Pelt

See page 10 for details

BOOK LAUNCH & READING

7:30 p.m. Tuesday

3 December 1996

**Vancouver Holocaust
Education Centre**

OPEN YOUR HEART THE STORY OF JEWISH WAR ORPHANS IN CANADA

**by Author
Fraidie Martz**

See p. 13 for details

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

*to read and organize letters
we receive from students and
teachers*

**Call Frieda
at 264-0499.**

JOIN "THE HOLOCAUST IN LITERATURE" BOOK CLUB!

A new book club "The Holocaust in Literature" will be starting at the Holocaust Education Centre in November. This group will meet once a month to learn about the Holocaust through fiction. Author and educator, Miriam Waddington will lead the group. She is Professor Emeritus in literature at York University and the author of thirteen books of poetry, one volume of essays and one of short stories. If you are interested please call the Vancouver Holocaust Centre at **264-0499**.

**To place a paid ad in Zachor,
please call 264-0499. The next
publication date is early
January, 1997**

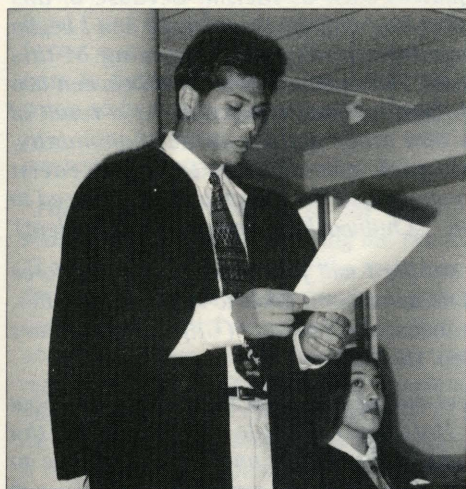
US HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM SEEKING INFORMATION ABOUT THE ILL-FATED JOURNEY OF THE "ST. LOUIS"

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is seeking information on the ultimate fate of all passengers of the St. Louis, the ship which sailed from Hamburg, Germany in May, 1939 for Cuba. The ship was forced to return to Europe after most of its passengers were denied entry even though they had acquired Cuban transit visas prior to their departure. The passengers disembarked in Antwerp in June of 1939. Testimonies and stories are being gathered from those who were not deported, from immediate relatives and members of the ship's crew. If you have any information please write directly to Joan Ringelheim or Sarah Ogilvie at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW, Washington, DC 20024-2150 USA.

EDUCATION PROGRAM

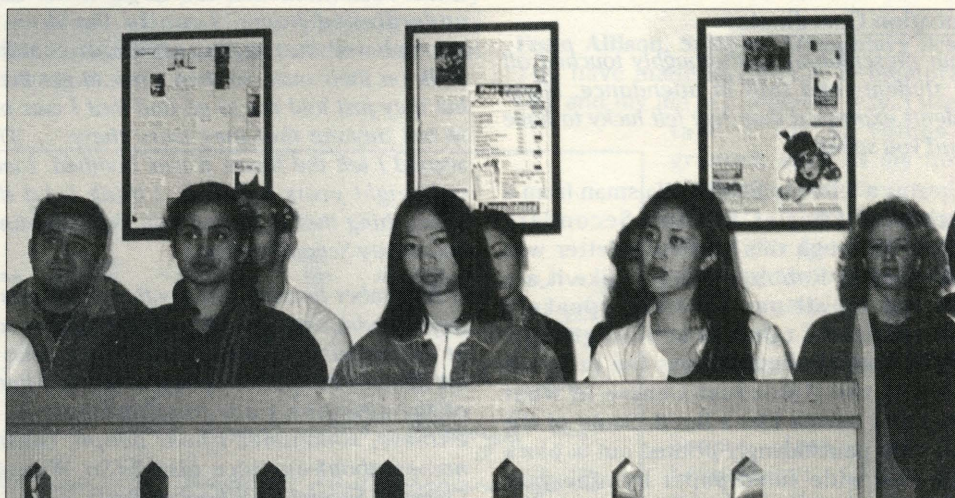
"A Mock Trial of Julius Streicher"

If you visit the galleries of the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre in the next two months, instead of finding a formal gallery exhibit you will see the suggestion of a court room, complete with a witness stand and judge's robes. If you are fortunate enough to come on a day that "court is in session" you will see high school students participating in the current education program: "The Mock Trial of Julius Streicher." Streicher, owner and publisher of the anti-Semitic newspaper *Der Stürmer* was in fact tried, convicted and sentenced to death at the International Tribunal at Nuremberg for his "crimes against humanity." The arguments and the role playing carried out by students, though fictitious, are all historically based. Student juries make their own decisions, sometimes finding him guilty and other times acquitting him.



This program allows students the opportunity to

- Learn and apply some of the legal principles of the Nuremberg Trials.
- Understand the role of hate propaganda in inciting groups to action, both during the Holocaust and today.
- Understand and discuss the legal and political impact of the Nuremberg Trials today including their connection to the investigation and prosecution of Bosnian war criminals at the



International Military Tribunal at The Hague.

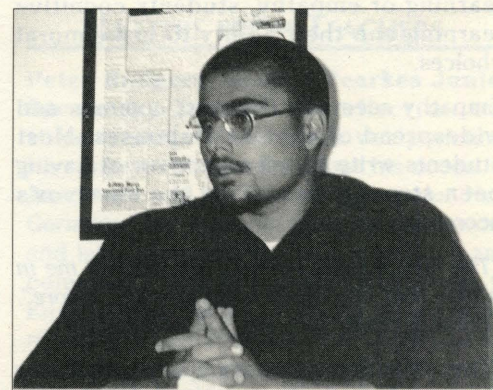
- Discuss how the trial of Julius Streicher relates to the prosecution of Canada's suspected Nazi war criminals.
- Discuss the relationship of hate literature and issues of freedom of expression.

A teacher writes about her students participation in the "Mock Trial" Program

On behalf of Foundation Alternative program we would like to thank Frieda Miller, Graham Sharpe, Jody Dales and Mariette Doduck for allowing us the opportunity to experience and learn about the Holocaust, racism and propaganda in a unique and fascinating environment. Students and staff enjoyed the Mock Trial immensely and were engulfed by Mariette's life story.

We found the "Teachers Guide" to be informative, helpful and easy to follow. Yet the booklet still allowed us some individualism, such as creating our own closing statements and answers to the councils' questions. With the help of our enthusiastic docent, Jody Dales, the debate between prosecution and defense was bravely fought. In the end, the defendant, Julius Streicher was found guilty of contributing to the deaths of six million individuals.

Afterwards we had an interesting discussion on propaganda and racism and related it to the issues of modern day Canada. The debates and discussion continued during our lunch break. It seemed everyone had an opinion.



After lunch, Mariette, a child Holocaust survivor was kind enough to share her emotional life story. We learned first hand how propaganda devastated her childhood. Through her memories the Holocaust became real for us. Her experiences with racism, hate, death and survival will stay with us a long time. We hope that what we learned will give us the knowledge and the courage to fight against what we know to be wrong. In a world of intolerance and fear, this new found knowledge will be our guide in the fight for freedom and respect.

*Sincerely,
Tammy Brennan*

Students Respond To Our Outreach Speakers

by Frieda Miller,
Education Coordinator

"Your presentation so thoroughly touched all the students and staff in attendance. Many students expressed that they felt lucky to have heard you speak."

So begins a letter to Robbie Waisman from a teacher at Charles London Secondary School. Although this particular letter was addressed to Robbie, ones just like it are received by all our survivor speakers following their talks to school groups. Letters from students across the province arrive at the Holocaust Centre in what sometimes seems like a flood. Some of the letters are painstakingly printed out in block letters on wide ruled paper by nine year olds and others come lovingly adorned with coloured pencil decorations and drawings.

Survivors treasure these letters tremendously. The letters affirm the importance of the difficult and emotionally demanding work done by the survivors. As educators we are fascinated by what these letters reveal about students affective learning or empathy, students cognitive learning and their ability to make moral choices.

Empathy seems to be the most common and widespread of student responses. Most students write to tell a survivor of having been strongly moved by the survivor's account.

"The talk of Peter Parker's life touched me in a way that has never overcome me before". (Burnaby North Secondary School student)

"Dear Mrs. Sonnenschein, I was touched by the speech you gave the school. I will never forget this day. You must feel really hurt inside. If this happened to me I would still be crying". (John Norquay Elementary School student)

Sometimes a survivor's account will resonate even more profoundly with students who have experienced racism, fled homelands or witnessed traumatic events. These students reciprocate by sharing their own experiences with the survivor. The raw honesty and power of these responses remind us that some of the students that survivors reach have complex and disturbing histories of their own.

"I remember something like your [story] but yours is more serious. It was in Iran when Iran and Iraq were in [at] war. I was just sitting with my father's parents, that was the last time I saw them, and then we heard sirens

which meant that we had to go in our safe underground home. I ran to the door. I remembered that my grandparents couldn't walk on their own, so then I ran to get them but they just told me to go and that I was not to tell anyone that they were there. ... The second I left the house it was bombed. I was only eight years old then. I think I did the worst thing that a person can do." (Sentinel Secondary School student)

"I remember hearing you say that there was a woman who was Catholic, along with her son at the orphanage, and she hated the Jews a lot. When I heard you speak about it, I think of the situation I am going through. As a Chinese, sometimes I hear people calling names about our race also." (Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School student)

Dear Mr Parker,

Your words brought understanding to me. Things that had before, seemed over, seemed far away, are now here, and relevant. Your words brought empathy. I think everyone left with your stories in their ears, your pain in their hearts.

You are right. The Holocaust was a horror the likes of which must never reoccur.

Sara

Students almost always write to say that they learned a great deal. Survivors do a remarkable job of relating the history of the Holocaust to current issues of racism and as a result, many students report an increased understanding about the roots and effects of racism. Incredibly, many students confess that they had never heard of the Holocaust before and that the survivor's account was their first introduction to this history.

"I thought the war was only amongst the adults and that children were left alone. After being indecisive at first, I have finally come to the conclusion that racism only sees a persons race and foresees everything else." (Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School student)

"We had been focusing a lot on group peer pressure in class and a lot of people didn't think it was that much of a problem but your story showed the effects of what can happen if you allow yourself to be pulled along with a group, even if you know it's wrong." (Fleetwood Park Secondary School student)

"I learned that not just Jews died but also gypsies, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses and people without blond hair and skin." (Gilpin Elementary School student)

When speaking to classes, survivors are careful to not leave students with a sense of powerlessness. Students are encouraged to take whatever small steps they can to counter racism in their own lives. Some students write to express their resolve to act on their new understanding. For that reason student letters which show resolve to change attitudes or behaviour are particularly gratifying.

"Two months ago Chilliwack was threatened by the opening of an Aryan nations Church. I have a vengeance against ignorance of any kind, especially ignorance which leads to prejudices such as racism. Because of this another boy with the same views and I began a petition opposing the opening of this "church." Our petition contained between two and three hundred signatures. As a result of this and other actions in our community, Chilliwack was declared an anti-racist community and the church was not allowed to open." (Chilliwack Secondary School student)

"In my life I will join a peace keeping force and do whatever it takes to stop wars in cities, countries and towns." (Gilpin Elementary School student)

"I feel that people need to be educated about the Holocaust. People need to know the weight of the matter and have a chance to learn from our past mistakes." (Chilliwack Senior Secondary School student)

These letters cannot help but strike a chord in us all. They go beyond expressing mere thanks to a survivor who has spoken to a class. They are testaments to the power of first hand eyewitness accounts in promoting empathy, understanding, and the desire to act morally.

"This is just another one of the many thank you letters you will be receiving. I, like most of the kids thought this was going to be 'a wasted hour' but, to my surprise, was quite different. I was quite shocked to actually 'see' someone who had been persecuted by the Nazis. I was horrified to hear about the 'hole'

near the outhouse. I mean, I can't even imagine what it would be like to one minute be in a line to the camp and then running to strangers you didn't know and have to trust them. It really was a shame that you couldn't keep a diary. The thing I was surprised about how you weren't permanently separated from your family. I was glad that I could hear from your experience. It helped me understand the war much better (I didn't understand most of Anne Frank's diary!!!). Thanks again for your knowledge that you shared with us!!" (Balmoral Secondary School)

"Your story impressed me a lot. It is a very touching story and I think my friends would say so. Although my writing is not very good but I want to thank you for telling me such a valuable story. It helped me know how much danger discrimination and racism can cause. I think it took you a lot of courage to live through those days. I, myself is a refugee and I had been through days similar with yours which had no food to eat. Of course, mine were not as bad as yours but at least I got the idea. Anyway I hope you feel better now, and I know those days are not easy to forget. However, you know, life does go on so be happy and enjoy life. Again thank you for bringing me such a valuable message." (Balmoral Secondary School)

"Thank you for coming to our school and sharing your experience during the Holocaust. The thing that surprised me the most was how far racism can go. I have never experienced racism and hope I never will. It is really sad about the Nazis, taking away all the rightful rights from the Jews and killing thousands of men, women, and children, because of their race. Hearing all of this makes me think, what if the target wasn't Jews but it was Orientals. Now I understand why we shouldn't judge people by their race but by the person inside. I would like to thank you again and I hope you will stop by to tell us more." (grade 7, Lord Selkirk Elementary)

someone is being racist. I learned that making decisions for oneself is very important and you have to be very careful about the group you join. In my life I will try to stop all racism, prejudice, or discrimination, and not create our own Holocaust.

when they told me stories. It made me think about all those families whose dads, moms, and children didn't survive.

From Allison, Sullivan Elementary School: You have made me look at Remembrance Day and my life in a different way. I used to take a lot of things for granted, such as my house, clothing, food, bed and my parents. I don't complain about the food we eat and when my sister does, I tell her not to complain and to be thankful. Thank you for coming and sharing with us.

From Jasa, Kitsilano Secondary: After I had finished the book "Anne Frank", I felt there were still holes to be filled in. I believe listening to you, a living human being who can answer my questions which Anne could not, has filled in the holes. Thank you.

Dear Sarah,
I'm just writing to express my sincere gratitude to you for coming to speak to us of your experiences. I can see the pain that you went through and I want you to know that your efforts were not in vain. I don't think that a person in that room will forget the words that you spoke.

From Paul, North Delta Senior Secondary School: I wish to thank you for transporting me to a time and place I have studied, written on, discussed, yet never lived as realistically as I did yesterday. Your story will remain a part of my conscious thoughts. The innocent concept I have of childhood has matured in the last twenty-four hours. Thank you from one who is wiser today because of your kindness. I wish you well in your continued journey.

From Carrasco, Grade 8 English class: It really meant a lot to me that you were able to talk to us about your experiences with your family and others during the Holocaust. I was really moved by your story. It really helped me to understand your feelings and find the true meaning of survival and what it takes to keep hope in your heart throughout many hard times. Of all my experiences, I know none will be able to compare to those of the Holocaust and I thank you with great appreciation for sharing with us your memories and time.

From Yvonne, John Norquay Elementary School: You helped me understand how serious World War II was. Before you talked to my school I didn't really think the war was such a big deal. I know I had family in the war, but I really didn't pay attention

LETTERS FROM TEACHERS
Peter Rodgers, George Pearkes Junior Secondary School: The effect on our students of Mr. Ehrlich's talk was profound. He spoke so eloquently about his ordeal in Auschwitz and his experiences under Nazi Germany. Our students hung on every word and later swarmed him with questions and comments. The follow-up discussions in English and Social Studies classes were meaningful and enriched. It is important for us, that you keep offering this kind of experience for our youth. Our students are wonderful human beings who want to make the world a better place, just as we did in our youth. Being touched by a survivor brings the danger of extremism close to home. This can only help them guard against it as they grow to maturity.

Lynn MacMillan, Fleetwood Park Secondary School: It is with a great deal of emotion that I write this letter of thanks to you. I believe that it must also have been emotionally difficult for you to share those horrific memories. I also believe that the students gained a great deal by listening to your presentation. Although the movie "Schindler's List" enlighten them, your presentation was more personally meaningful to them.

LETTERS FROM OUR STUDENTS...

From William, Elementary School: I felt very sad when I saw the video, and was surprised that anyone could survive during that terrible time. I learned that racism and prejudice shouldn't be allowed and that we should always stand up to speak up if

A BRIDGE TO NUREMBERG: THE STORY OF BRONIA AND MARKUS

by Claudia Cornwall

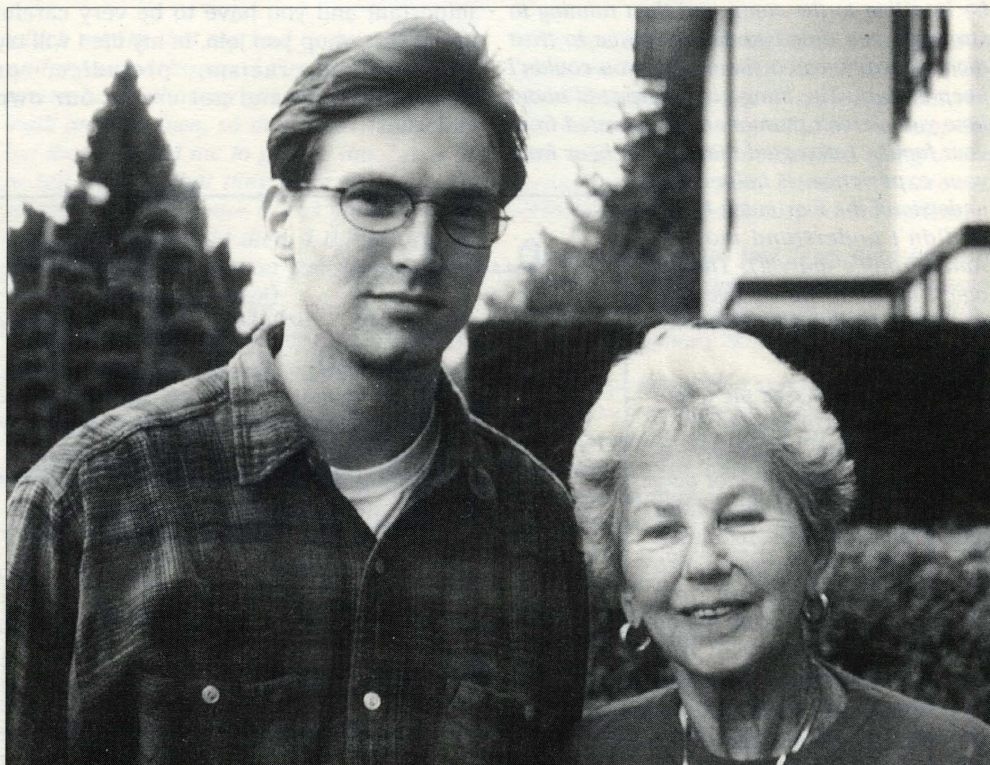
“You have to reach out,” says Bronia Sonnenschein, “otherwise the hate will never end. It will continue generation after generation.” During the past decade, Mrs. Sonnenschein’s beliefs have led her to visit schools all over British Columbia and to speak to thousands of students about her experiences in the Holocaust. Many of them have written to her afterwards to say how much they appreciated her visit and how much she has taught them. “But I never expected,” she says, “that my words would reach as far as Germany—and to Nuremberg of all places.”

Nuremberg—one thinks immediately of the huge rallies that Hitler staged there and of the Nuremberg Laws passed in 1935 that legalized discrimination against Jewish people. One thinks too of the fact that Nuremberg was such a potent symbol of Nazism that it was the site of the war crimes trials in 1946. It is no wonder that Bronia should find it remarkable that her story is now resonating in the hearts of young Germans in that particular city.

It really started in 1993 because of a friendship that developed here in Vancouver—in November of that year, during Holocaust Awareness Week. Bronia Sonnenschein was talking to a group of U.B.C. students at Hillel House. Everyone in the room listened carefully to what she said, but one student in the front row was especially attentive. When Bronia had finished speaking, he introduced himself. His name was Markus Schirmer. “I was deeply moved by what you said,” he revealed.

Two days later he phoned Mrs. Sonnenschein. In that telephone conversation she learned that the young man with the serious manner was not Jewish. He was German, in fact, and his home town was Nuremberg. He was twenty-three years old and he had come to U.B.C. to study history and English for two terms. He wondered if he could meet Mrs. Sonnenschein again. He wanted to learn more about her life and the tragic events that had overtaken it. Bronia recalls, “I was a little nervous, I must admit. I wondered why he was so interested in Jewish history and whether his family had anything to hide.”

Nevertheless, there was something about Markus Schirmer that she found reassuring. “I thought he had a kind honest face.” She agreed to see him.



Their first meeting lasted three hours. “We talked and talked. I can’t remember how many cups of tea I drank,” Bronia says. She told Mr. Schirmer about how she had fled her native Vienna for Poland. She recounted how there, she and her family had waited and waited for the papers that would have allowed them to emigrate to the United States. She explained that when the papers finally arrived it was too late. By that time, her family was trapped in the Lodz Ghetto. She told him about the years she had worked in the Ghetto and about the final terrible months she had spent in several concentration camps—Auschwitz, Stutthof and Pirna. She told him about the despair and exhaustion she had felt on a death march during the last days of the war. She told him about being liberated from Theresienstadt on May 5, 1945 by a lone Russian on horseback who said, “You are free. You can go home.”

Markus Schirmer asked if they could meet a second time and once again, Bronia agreed. The next time they saw each other was just before Hanukkah and the young German brought a gift—a book of poems by Inge Israel. Published in Canada, *Unmarked Doors* explores some of the complex feelings that a Jew experiences in becoming the friend of a German.

They kept meeting. And when Markus Schirmer’s parents came to visit him in

Vancouver in the spring of 1994, he naturally wanted to introduce them to his new friend. “Gruess Gott”, Mrs. Schirmer said as she walked into Mrs. Sonnenschein’s apartment. “This made me feel right at home with his parents,” Mrs. Sonnenschein says. “Gruess Gott was what we had said in Vienna where I grew up.” The four exchanged pleasantries, talked about things to do and places to see in Vancouver. Nevertheless, it was clear to everyone that this was not quite an ordinary social event. There was something Mrs. Schirmer felt she had to say. After about an hour had passed, her face reddened and she blurted out, “You know I was only a little girl when it all happened.” Bronia Sonnenschein replied, “I understand. I don’t blame you.”

“She was only a little girl of 7 or 8,” explains Mrs. Sonnenschein. “What could she have done? When I talk in the schools, the students often ask me whether I hate Germans. And I always tell them that I don’t. I will never forget what the Nazis did. But I don’t hold this generation responsible for what happened. They were far too young.”

As the spring term wore on, Markus Schirmer continued to study and deepen his understanding of the history of the Holocaust. He told Zack Kaye, then the director of Hillel House at U.B.C. that he was also very interested in the Jewish religion. According to Kaye, “Markus expressed a great interest in things Jewish and indeed

attended the Seder during Passover that year at our home. He explained to me that he felt he had a duty to talk about and teach the Holocaust to German young people, that he needed to know more about Judaism and to especially dialogue with young Jews about the whole experience."

Bronia Sonnenschein recalls that he asked whether he might be able to attend a service in a synagogue. "I remember once he came once to Beth Israel Synagogue with several Lutheran students. He paid very close attention to everything that was going on. And he had many questions--more questions than I could answer," says Mrs. Sonnenschein with a laugh. "I turned him over to Rabbi Solomon!"

When the term concluded, Markus Schirmer had to return to Nuremberg. "The last good-bye was hard" admits Mrs. Sonnenschein. "But Markus promised me that he would do in Germany what I am doing here--educate young people about the Holocaust. And when he was home, he kept writing to me. After he had been back for two years, he even phoned. It was unbelievable."

Mr. Schirmer resumed his studies at the university in Nuremberg with the aim of becoming a teacher. In the spring of 1996, as part of his training, he was given the opportunity to teach at a local high school. He included 9 lessons on the Holocaust. He devoted a portion of the time to telling his class Mrs. Sonnenschein's story and also made available some material about the history of the Jewish community in Nuremberg.

"I wanted to draw the students attention to the local Jewish history and what is left to see," Markus Schirmer recounted in a letter. "We took a look at the sites of various former synagogues and ghettos. In the early 14th century, the local Jewish congregation with about 1500 members was one of the largest in the empire then. On our way to the present synagogue we noticed the memorial plaque of the Jewish donor of the municipal library and the wall mosaics of Theodor Herzl and Walther Rathenau in a subway station. At the end of the tour we went inside the present synagogue which is very small, according to the size of the congregation: 450 members. Still it was interesting for the students to see the Torah shrine and the balcony for the women. Something that astonished them were the security precautions they didn't expect to be necessary."

"I am happy with the result of the project" Mr. Schirmer explained. "The majority of the students were open and quite interested. Obviously, your personal account has left a mark on them." One of the students even decided to send a letter to Mrs. Sonnenschein. "In my opinion you should go on with your lectures at the university in order to tell everyone about your life and especially about the time of persecution in Germany, so that this time will always be remembered and never forgotten," Tanja Bauer wrote.

For Markus Schirmer, meeting Bronia Sonnenschein was profoundly meaningful.

"My encounter with Bronia made this very dark chapter of German history much more immediate, brought it back to reality. I have learned it from schoolbooks and heard about it in university lectures. But only getting to know Bronia made it a real issue for me. It means a great deal to me that Bronia refers to our relationship as friendship. It is important for me to let her know that there are people in Germany who care and who will keep the memory of the Holocaust alive."

"He kept his promise to me," says Bronia. "He has restored my faith; I can trust again. And that is very important."

Jesse Sangha

Wed, Nov, 16, 1994

Today we herd Mrs. Sonnenschein speak about the Holocaust. When Mrs. Sonnenschein was telling about what happened to Mrs. Sonnenschein) sad story I was sad and my heart broke into pieces. Why did the Germans have to attack the Jewish people because the Jewish people had done nothing. The Germans "don't" have a heart. They should know that people are different. My heart breaks that they did that. I'm glad you told us this story. It was sad.

Jy. Jesse Sangha

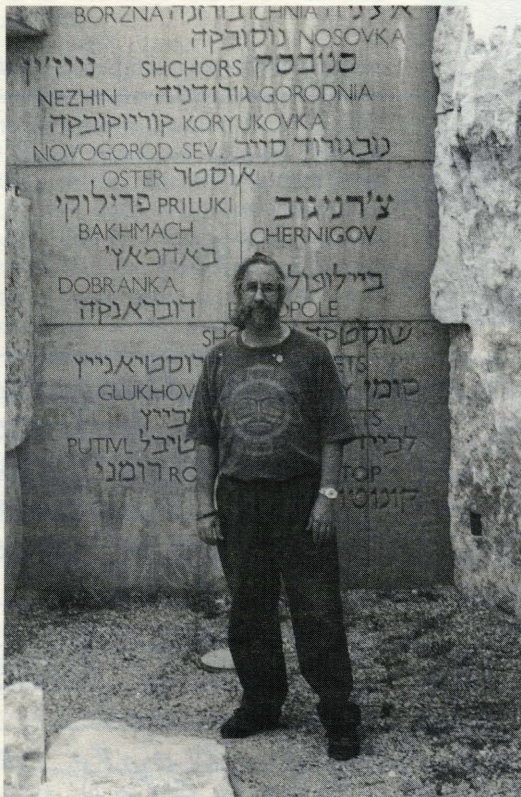
HOLOCAUST AND HOPE TOUR 1996

A Teacher Reflects

by G.A. "Sandy" Dore

"The Auschwitz you will see is not the one that I endured," said Bronia Sonnenschein, a survivor and friend. I asked her for advice prior to departing on the 1996 Holocaust and Hope Tour and upon returning I believe I understand what she meant.

This summer I was honoured by being chosen as one of fifteen educators from across Canada who primarily work in anti-racism and Holocaust Education to take part in B'nai Brith's League for Human Rights Holocaust and Hope program in Germany, Poland and Israel. The purpose of the program was to educate educators on the Holocaust with the hope that they would return to their classrooms and communities with new more realistic insights into this most important area of education.



Teacher Sandy Dore in Israel

From my perspective this trip achieved far more than I ever believed it would. The Holocaust and Hope Tour has caused a profound change in my perceptions of the Holocaust and my methods of teaching this event in history. I have found, for instance, that sheer numbers can become sedating, leading to a lack of realization of individual tragedies which every single one of the whole had occur to them—individual people, not numbers, with loves, laughter, pain, fear—everything that I have taken for granted as being always a part of my existence.

I have taught the Holocaust for most of my 25 years of teaching but nothing could have prepared me for Sachsenhausen, Treblinka, Madjanek, Auschwitz, Birkenau, Plazow and Dachau, each with their own horrors and individual evils.

Our tour started at B'nai Brith headquarters in Toronto where

we met past participants, other members of our group, survivors of the Holocaust and the Executive Director of the League for Human Rights, Dr. Karen Mock, who would lead our group. We flew first to Berlin where we were met by a young German graduate student whose willingness to explore German history and attempt to understand events gave me hope for future generations. Our group visited historical sites associated with the Holocaust, the Topography of Terror, Wannsee House and Sachsenhausen death camp. I won't ever forget the wind blowing across the assembly square, the evil symmetry of the camp itself, the "hospital," the separate SS detention and killing area and the closeness of the SS family housing to the killing pits.

From Berlin we traveled to Munich and Dachau where young German students were on field trips and where I was overwhelmed by the lack of respect for the sanctity of the grounds by some of these young people and could not help but hope that my students in Kelowna would honour this area and not throw their waste food and cigarette butts where thousands lost their lives.

From Munich our group flew to Warsaw and on to the desolation of the rocks of Treblinka, the loudest silence that I have ever experienced. Our group was alone at this memorial and we all searched our souls for answers to questions that remained unanswerable.

In Poland it was our honour to be joined by a survivor and his two adult daughters. He was returning to Poland for the first time since his liberation, "to attempt to put some ghosts to rest and end some nightmares," with his daughters to accompany him, share his experience, and provide love and support. I will always have very special memories of their love for each other, courage, compassion and devotion to each other and our group—another ray of hope for the future.

Leaving Warsaw we traveled to Lublin and Madjanek where ashes and shoes and the proximity to the city made this death centre almost surreal, like a death camp situated near peoples' backyard playground. When our group left Madjanek I was filled with an overwhelming sadness and hopelessness.

"Our youngest daughter was expecting our fifth grandchild when I walked through Madjanek and witnessed the mute testament to lost innocents through the simplicity of rooms filled with children's' shoes. How many beautiful grandchildren were butchered?"

The apprehension was tangible about our next stop, Krakow, where the "work camp" Plazow, situated in the city itself was brought to the world's attention by *Schindler's List*. Beauty combined with unfathomable atrocity, how can the human psyche reconcile this?

The next journey was to Auschwitz and Birkenau. Finding words to describe these two places is not an easy task. The lives, the

generations, the futures that were obliterated in these two ultimately evil institutions leave one questioning the human condition and asking once more questions that have no answers.

Bronia's words came rushing back to me as I walked past the boarded up women's sterilization barracks next to the cruelly sadistic holding cells and "trial" area down the cobbled road past more brick barracks to the "re-created" gas chambers. This was a personal journey that will live with me forever as was the walk into Birkenau through the horrible gates down the tracks to the crematoria and stark memorial at the end. The place where the end of millions of

Auschwitz / Madjanek were "re-created" as if that somehow makes them less horrible. I believe that in order to "re-create" something, it has to have been created in

the first instance. To that extent the creation of the gas chambers show the deniers and their agendas in their true colours, a fact which I personally find very disturbing in our society and one which

MUST be challenged at every opportunity. This tour has provided me with the first hand experience to undertake this struggle.

My deepest respect and gratitude is given to Mrs. Bronia Sonnenschein and Mr. Robbie Waisman who both, in their own ways, gave me the strength to undertake this journey. I

"The place where the end of millions of lives occurred, now so quiet, serene and peaceful... the wind was blowing and cold"

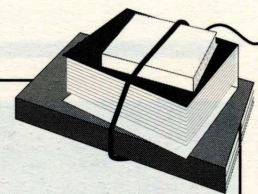


lives occurred, now so quiet, serene and peaceful... yet the wind was blowing and cold. Our group left Warsaw and Poland for Israel where we would have entirely different experiences. As I flew towards Jerusalem I was left with an overwhelming sadness and a fear that within the next twenty years in Poland there would be no Jewish presence, no one to look after the cemeteries or attend synagogue and I hoped that "The Final Solution" would not be allowed to triumph in the end.

Holocaust deniers in their literature like to point out that the gas chambers in

earnestly hope that I will be able to repay them and the millions of others by being a witness in the classroom for as long as I continue teaching!

Sandy Dore is a teacher and Chair of the Program Against Racism of the Central Okanagan Teachers' Association.



NEW BOOKS TO OUR LIBRARY

Generously donated by Fraidie Martz, Rita Akselrod, Judy Shapiro, B'nai B'rith, Roberta Kremer, Jan Kedzierski, Gabi Kosinka, Leon Komar, Serge Vanry, Phyllis Solomon, Robert Krell, Werner Wolfe, Frieda Miller, Carole & Lucien Leiberman, Rabbi Solomon, and Solly Kaplinsky.

The Journey by Ida Fink.

The Samaritans: Heroes of the Holocaust by Bartoszewski and Lewin.

Mosaics of a Nightmare by Aranka Stadler.

Letters From the Warsaw Ghetto, 1938 to 1942: An Addendum to Memoirs, by Leon Komar

Memorial to the Jews Deported from France.

Jewish Culture in Prague.

Perpetrators/Victims/Bystanders: The Jewish Catastrophe, 1933-1945 by Raul Hilberg.

A Visit to the Old Country: German Cities Extend Invitations to Their Former Jewish Citizens.

Doctors of Death (4 Volumes) by Phillipe Aziz.

Fugitive Pieces by Anne Michaels.

Rescue as Resistance: How Jewish Organizations Fought the Holocaust in France by Lucien Lazare.

Stalin Against the Jews by Arkady Vaksberg.

The White Hotel by D.M. Thomas.

In The Warsaw Ghetto: Summer 1941.

What's To Become of a Boy? by Heinrich Boll.

Unto Every Person There is a Name: Remembering The Six Million.

The Cycle of Paintings of the Prague Burial Society.

Lost and Found: A Second Generation Response to the Holocaust by Solly Kaplinski

KRISTALLNACHT COMMEMORATION 1996



This Year's Kristallnacht Commemoration

*A joint address by two noted
Holocaust scholars*

**Professors Debórah Dwork &
Robert Jan van Pelt**

"Auschwitz: Past, Present and Future"

**Sunday, November 10
at 8:00 p.m.**

**Beth Israel Synagogue
4350 Oak St. Vancouver**



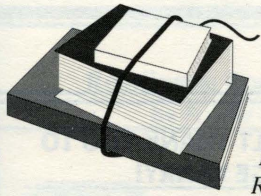
Debórah Dwork is Rose Professor of Holocaust Studies and Modern Jewish History at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. She is the author of *Children With a Star: Jewish Youth in Nazi Europe* (1991) and numerous other works on the history of the Holocaust and the history of children. **Robert Jan van Pelt** is Professor of Cultural History in the School of Architecture at the University of Waterloo in Waterloo, Ontario. He has published numerous books and articles on the history of architecture and on the planning and construction of the Auschwitz concentration camp. Professors Dwork and van Pelt are the co-authors of *Auschwitz, 1270 to the Present*, published this year by W.W. Norton and the Yale University Press. This important new history of the community and camp of Auschwitz, based on a detailed study of previously overlooked blueprints and other records, shows how the planning and construction of what became the Auschwitz death camp emerged out of the Nazis' long-term aims to re-Germanize eastern Europe.

The Kristallnacht address by Professors Dwork and van Pelt will be illustrated by slides showing how the Auschwitz camp was planned and built

and how the speakers believe the memorial site might be developed in the future. Following the close of the program, members of the audience who wish to do so may gather in Beth Israel's Maccabee room where the speakers will be available to answer questions.

The Kristallnacht program commemorates the "Night of Broken Glass" of November 9-10, 1938, when synagogues and Jewish places of business all over Germany were destroyed—a major escalation of the Nazis' anti-Jewish program which eventually led to the Holocaust. The keynote address will be preceded by the traditional candle lighting ceremony in memory of the six million Jews killed by the Nazis between 1939 and 1945.

The Kristallnacht commemorative program is sponsored jointly by the Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society and the Adult Education Committee of Congregation Beth Israel, with funding from the Combined Jewish Appeal of the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver and from Congregation Beth Israel.



Debórah Dwork &
Robert Jan van Pelt

(New York: W.W. Norton, 1996), 443 pp.

Reviewed by Chris Friedrichs

The term "Auschwitz" is almost synonymous with the Holocaust. We say that certain policies "led to Auschwitz"; we suggest that the world has changed (or perhaps that it hasn't) "since Auschwitz." The six million victims of the Holocaust were killed in countless different ways, but nothing seems to encapsulate their experience so powerfully as the image of Jews arriving at Auschwitz and being "selected" either for the gas chambers or for what, in most cases, was a slower death by slave labour and starvation.

Yet long before there was a camp there was a town called Auschwitz, and the authors of this remarkable book argue that we cannot understand what happened in the camp unless we also know something about that town and its history. Debórah Dwork and Robert Jan van Pelt add little to what is already known about how the camp functioned once the systematic murder of the Jews got underway. But what they have discovered about the history of Auschwitz and its significance to the Germans before 1941 will force even the most knowledgeable experts to think about the origins of this ultimate symbol of evil in an entirely new way.

Auschwitz is also known as Oswiecim and today it is situated in Poland. But the authors begin by pointing out that the town was founded in the Middle Ages as a German community. Like some other areas of German settlement, the region around Auschwitz eventually became over-whelmingly Polish. By the early twentieth century, however, many Germans were dreaming of re-Germanizing the "lost" areas of eastern Europe. When Poland was invaded in 1939, these dreams could at last be put into practice. Heinrich Himmler specifically targeted Auschwitz as a key site for re-Germanization, partly because the massive IG

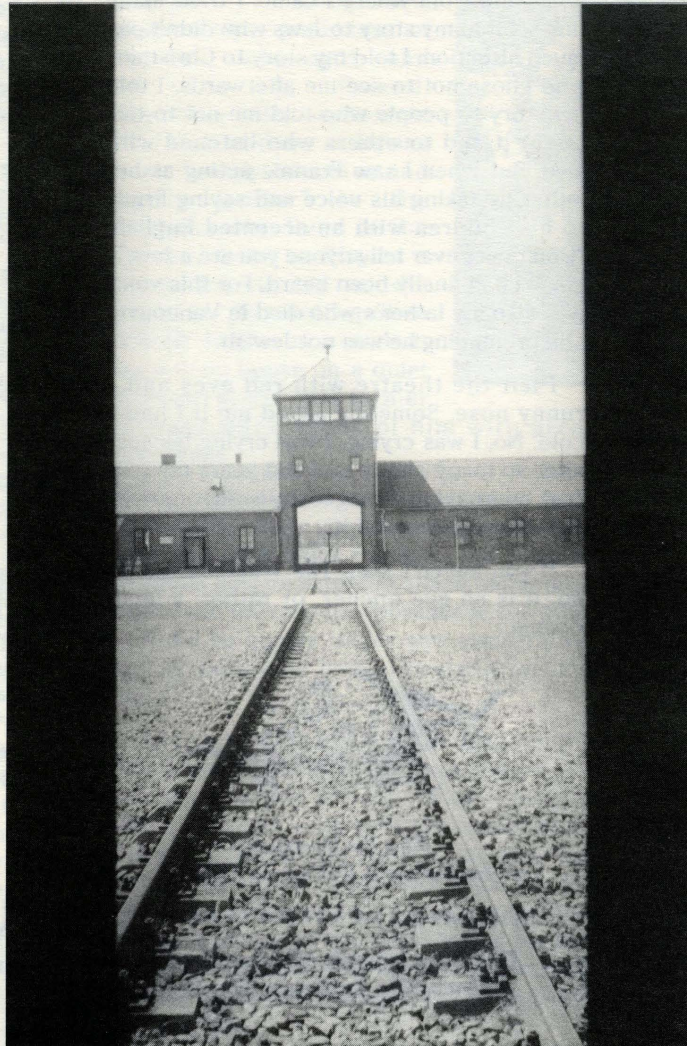
Farben industrial concern was interested in developing chemical works there. Poles and Jews would be expelled from the region or held in a new concentration camp to provide a labor pool for IG Farben, while ethnic Germans would be brought to Auschwitz to run the factories and operate the vacated Polish farms. One obstacle was that the town of Auschwitz was considered too run-down to be appealing to the German newcomers. But that problem could be solved: German architects and planners were brought in to redesign the city and develop attractive new neighborhoods suitable for "aryan" inhabitants. The concentration camp itself would include a lavish headquarters for the SS, including an enormous suite for Himmler to occupy on his occasional visits to the site. Dwork and van Pelt have found all the plans and drawings and include many of them in their

book. The barracks and latrines for the inmates were hastily drawn and quickly constructed—most of the barracks were in fact prefabricated stables, converted to accommodate many humans in stalls originally designed for one horse each. But the architects and designers lavished endless attention on the camp headquarters, down to making scale drawings of the armchair in which Himmler would sit during his visits as unofficial lord of the re-Germanized district of Auschwitz.

Everything changed in 1941. When Germany attacked Russia, the idea of re-Germanizing the east was transposed to a much larger scale of operations. Himmler lost interest in the town and region of Auschwitz. But the camp was already there, and the facilities were easily and instantly converted to new uses. Some of the Jews who were deported to Auschwitz would still be used as slave labor for the IG Farben plant. But the rest would be exterminated. The camp became the Auschwitz we know about.

This is a powerful book and a highly readable one. In the architectural charts and plans which are reprinted here, the authors show us a side of Auschwitz that is virtually unknown. But they never for a moment lose sight of the human tragedy. The testimony of survivors is quoted at length to show what was actually happening inside the camp while planners and architects were quibbling about where to place the "SS village" or which crematorium design was most effective. Scholars may disagree about the exact contribution this book makes to the vast field of Holocaust studies. But there is no doubt that it presents the story of Auschwitz from an original, provocative and unforgettable perspective.

Dr. Chris Friedrichs is Professor of History at the University of British Columbia and chair of the Kristallnacht Commemorative Program Committee.





"NO LONGER ALONE"

A Play With Heart: The Power Of Truth

by Anne Derek

On Sunday August 25, 1996 I went to the Norman Rothstein theatre to see *The Waltonsteins*—a 'traumady' of errors written and played by Frannie Sheridan. The program described *The Waltonsteins* as the sadly humorous story of a woman's awakening identity. The author and performer has based the Waltonsteins on her real life family story. After harrowing wartime experiences, her Holocaust survivor parents met, married and raised their seven children in Canada as Catholics. Frannie Sheridan was born in Ottawa in 1961. Every night before she went to sleep she was told that another holocaust was impending. She and her six brothers and sisters were warned repeatedly to never, ever tell anyone they were Jewish.

In this one woman show, writer and actress, Frannie Sheridan illustrates salient moments of her family life. She starts with a convincing portrait of her childhood hiding in a laundry basket; little nine year old Frannie frightened and bewildered by all the family's tensions she was witnessing around her. Later there is a striking depiction of the Sheridan family dynamics that shows the relationship of their placement at the dinner table to particular characteristics in each family member. Later we see Frannie trying to find meaning in her life, wondering who she was, and where she fit in. Finally we find out what happens to the various members of her family and where they are now.

It was an intense and moving performance. During the play I was overwhelmingly taken by the similarities between Frannie's life experience and my own. Frannie was actually saying to an audience at the Norman Rothstein theatre what I had been feeling for so long. Someone at last felt as I did: a sense of not belonging, being alone with secrets in the Christian world, alone in the distanced Jewish world, and mostly, alone in my own family.

Frannie had the courage to show her family life as she experienced it—as a child growing up in Ottawa in the sixties. She broke the taboo of keeping up appearances and perpetuating myths such as the myth of

the saintly parent who in spite of adverse circumstances comes out perfectly loving and accepting. We all know that is not always the case.



FRANNIE SHERIDAN

Like Frannie Sheridan, I also had to tell my story. I had to tell that I really was a Jew. A year after the Anschluss, before leaving Budapest, my parents and I were baptized as Protestants. I was four years old. We lived in Morocco during the war years, later moving to the United States and then to France where I had my own family. My parents and I were reunited in Canada in 1965 where we have lived ever since. In all those years we remained Protestants in name only and never discussed the matter.

During all those years I wanted to tell who I was and from where I came. I tried many times. I told my story to Jews who didn't pay much attention. I told my story to Christians who chose not to see me afterwards. I told my story to people who told me not to talk about it and to others who listened with awe. But when I saw Frannie acting as her father by taking his voice and saying firmly to his children with an accented English: "Don't ever ever tell anyone you are a Jew," I knew I had finally been heard. For this voice was also my father's who died in Vancouver still pretending he was not Jewish.

I left the theatre with red eyes and a runny nose. Someone asked me if I had a cold. No, I was crying. I was crying because after so many empty and sad years my pain had been acknowledged by someone who had also experienced it.

If you haven't seen *The Waltonsteins*, do go. It is an eye opener, or rather, a heart opener.



***The Waltonsteins*
at the Norman Rothstein Theatre**

Performance on Nov 3rd at 8:00 p.m.

**Tickets available through the Box
Office of the Rothstein Theatre**

A HEART-FELT THANK YOU TO SERGE VANRY!

Dr. Serge Vanry, the outgoing president of the Child Survivor Group of Vancouver, has been an inspiration to us throughout his term of office. He has gently brought us closer to understanding one another better, by encouraging us to open up more, and thus helped to further the healing process of our traumatic childhood experience. He fostered upon us patience, warmth and caring.

He opened his house to us at all times, making us feel like family. He encouraged informal social gatherings such as Chanukah parties, Passover seders, picnics, and tea parties. We met one another's spouses and families, and even had a most successful retreat during which we were able to communicate our innermost thoughts and feelings. Serge was successful at inspiring our members to come forth and take charge of different projects and exhibits at the Holocaust Education Centre.

We deeply thank you, Serge, for all you have done for us, and wish you great luck in all your future endeavours.

We also give a whole-hearted welcome to our incoming President, Louise Stein Sorensen. We offer her full support and wish her a happy and successful term as our leader.

**Lillian Boraks-Nemetz
Past President**

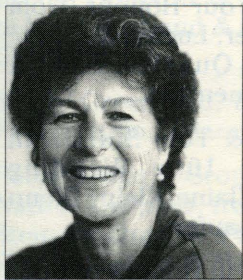
A Time For Survivors

A drop-in time to share and visit in the Survivors Lounge, is being planned. All Survivors, Child Survivors and Second Generation survivors will be welcome to visit and share a cup of coffee or tea and to be in "your space." This sharing time will be hosted by the Child Survivors Group of the VHCS. Watch for times and dates to be announced in the next Zachor.

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

READING & BOOK LAUNCH... "OPEN YOUR HEARTS"— THE STORY OF THE JEWISH WAR ORPHANS IN CANADA

Reading & Book Launch by Fraidie Martz



**Tuesday
December 3,
7:30 pm at the
Vancouver
Holocaust
Education Centre**

Open Your Hearts tells the story of the 1,123 Jewish war orphans that the Canadian government reluctantly allowed into Canada from 1947 to 1949.

In the cavernous reception area of Pier 21 in Halifax on a gray September day in 1947, a group of men and women waited for the first twenty Jewish orphans who had survived the Holocaust in hiding or in concentration and labour camps. They were allowed into Canada under the terms of a unique federal order-in-council. This was not only the beginning point of their new lives, but also the culmination of years of work by Canadians across the country. No one knew, given the terrible traumas these young people had endured, what to expect; no one knew the extent of the kindness and generosity that awaited them in Canada.

Drawing on archival materials, memoirs, diaries and oral interviews the author recounts what happened as the European orphans and their new country adapted to each other. *Open Your Hearts* is first and foremost a human interest story about how children and adolescents, traumatized by the Holocaust and deprived of everything considered essential for normal development, flourished and became productive citizens in the care of a protective community. It also chronicles a unique experiment in the integration of refugees by an ethnic community—an experiment which may hold lessons for current immigration policy in Canada.

After receiving a Master's degree in social work Fraidie Martz worked in the Department of Psychiatry at Montreal's Jewish General Hospital at a time when the clientele included large numbers of survivors of the Holocaust. She later practiced in a variety of settings, both in Montreal and Vancouver, where she now lives.

EXCERPT FROM OPEN YOUR HEARTS

From Chapter 6

Arrival and Reception

As one problem was resolved another was sure to take its place. The largest number of youngsters, 798, were sent to Montreal and Toronto. Unlike the smaller cities where the orphans were placed immediately in homes, the leaders of the Project agreed that a waiting period in some type of reception centre was necessary. At the same time everyone was determined to avoid creating what could become permanent institutions for a hard core of unplaced orphans.

In Toronto, the Reception Centre was housed in the former Jewish library at Harbord and Markham Streets about a half a mile from the YMHA. The former Director of the Centre, Dr. Joseph Klinghofer, previously a professor of modern languages and literature in Poland, describes with amusement his function there as having been "partly educator and partly janitor" to the orphans who lived in the Centre, forty to fifty at a time. Now in his middle eighties, this soft-spoken scholar resides in a modest, book-lined house on a quiet Toronto street. His former charges often speak of him with great reverence.

Dr. Klinghofer underscores with philosophic irony the diverse roles history cast him. In a mock confessional tone he recounts how he entered Canada under false pretenses, the only way possible at the time. In order to qualify under new immigration labour policy he had to pretend to be a tailor.

After surviving the war working for the Polish underground as a BBC translator, he had made his way to a D.P. camp in Austria, where he found work with the International Refugee Organization (I.R.O.) and later the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (H.I.A.S.). He was then delegated as secretary to Max Entin, chairman of the Commission for the selection of needle workers for Canada, who befriended and encouraged him to apply for immigration.



Dr. Klinghofer picks his words with the care of someone searching for a secure foothold on a hazardous mountain climb. Taking as much time as he needs, he will not move to a new subject until he has first found the exact right word to express his thought. The long pauses that punctuate his speech are set by a meter that recognizes no audience. One can easily imagine the unwavering sincerity this man - who speaks eight languages fluently and reads two others - brought to the care of the young refugees under his care.

"My job was not easy. It was made the more difficult because I often had to take the orphans' side and quarrel with the social workers who tended to present reality very harshly. They of course had their own agenda to follow. I had much compassion for those children because, to some extent, they had been misled in the refugee camps. I understood their psychology better. But there were some social workers, especially Rose Wolfe, now Chancellor of Toronto University, who tried not to be bookish, and shared my sentiments."

Reaching back in time Dr. Klinghofer slowly shifts position and eases himself deeper into his armchair. As he speaks of the youngsters' states of mind an unmistakable sadness creeps into his voice and eyes, and one senses the source of his deep understanding. Is he speaking as much about his own disappointment and hardships as the boys' and girls' when he says:

"There was a tremendous gap between the hopes of these young people and the realities of Canadian life. For one thing, their will to survive was made possible by the hope that once peace came, the world would make up for their sufferings and all their dreams would come true. They expected to be received with open arms and to be compensated for their losses. Also, they had been fed the idea that they were coming to a golden land, and that they would be adopted by rich families who would give them the opportunity to study in high school and go on to university. The reality was different. Very few were adopted, and in many cases the adoptions didn't work

Continued on p. 15

RECEIVED FROM
JULY 16TH TO SEPTEMBER 30TH

Donations

To The Lövi Memorial Scholarship Fund, from John Mate, Judy Mate.

To The Heller Endowment Fund, from Barbara & Michael Heller.

In Memory of Ketty Menache, from Rosa & Elie Ferera.

Speedy Recovery

Ben Akselrod, from Ida, Sherie & Odie Kaplan, Susan Quastel, Joseph & Rose Lewin, Rose & Ben Folk, Gene & Dana Schwartz, Robbie & Gloria Waisman, Joe & Ina Auerhahn, Frieda Miller, Ronnie Tessler, VHCS Board & Staff, Leon & Evelyn Kahn, David & Lil Shafran, Lyliane & Larry Thal, Esther Kaufman, Helen Berger, Tibor & Agi Bergida, Leo & Jocy Lowy, Lola Apfelbaum,

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Joyce Alderman, from VHCS Staff.

George Argamnay, from Shoshana & Moshe Fidelman, Esther Kaufman.

Dr. Allen Diner, from Lyliane & Larry Thal.

Sidney Eager, from Jody & Harvey Dales.

Sid Golden, from Leo & Jocy Lowy.

Edwina Heller, from Mary Steiner.

Bill Moscovich, from David & Grace Ehrlich.

Mrs B. Zack, from Minnie Donner.

Mazel Tov

Karl & Sabina Choit, On Your 50th Wedding Anniversary, from David & Regina Feldman, Esther, Eric, Shayne & Karen Labis.

Joe Cohen, On Your 75th Birthday,

from Leon & Evelyn Kahn.

David Feldman, On Your 70th Birthday, from Jody & Harvey Dales.

Felicia Folk, In Honour of Your 50th Birthday, from Ben & Rose Folk.

Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Gaerber, On Your 35th Wedding Anniversary, from Helene & Herb Rosen & family.

Dr. Frieda Granot, In Honour of Your Appointment As Dean of Graduate Studies, from Robert & Marilyn Krell & Family.

Roberta Kremer, Wishing You Much Success in Your New Position, from Barbara Silber.

Johanna Levitt, Wishing You a Special Birthday, from Lyliane & Larry Thal, Esther Kaufman.

Tyla Meyer, Best Wishes on Your Birthday, from Paul Meyer.

Mr. & Mrs. Marty Noodelman, Mazel Tov, from David & Regina Feldman.

Peter & Carol Oreck, Mazel Tov on Robbie's Engagement, from Ronnie Tessler.

Gerald & Gladys Rose, On Your 50th Wedding Anniversary, from Aliza Kornfeld.

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Elayne Shapray, Very Happy 50th Birthday, from Neil & Judy Kornfeld.

Carla & Ari Shiff, On the Birth of Your Son, from Elaine Klein, Glenn Laufer & Sam Klein-Laufer.

Ruth Sigal, In Honour of Your Special Birthday, from Norman & Sheila Archeck, Susan Curtis.

Stanley & Jane Silverman, Mazel Tov on Your New Grandson, from Marla & Peter Gropper.

Dr. Peter Suedfeld, On The Honour of Your Being Awarded the Canadian Psychological Association's Donald O. Hebb Award for Distinguished

Contributions to Psychology as a Science. Robert and Marilyn Krell.

Ronnie Tessler, In Your Honour, from Frieda & Daniel Miller, Lucien & Carole Lieberman, Susan Quastel, Irma & David Zack, I. Bill Gruenthal.

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Morris J. Wosk, On the Occasion of Your Receiving the Freedom of the City Award, from Robert & Marilyn Krell.

Gerry Zipursky, Wishing You a Memorable Year in Eretz Yisrael, from Ronnie Tessler.

Sympathy



Karl & Sabina Choit, In Memory of Your Sister, from Esther Kaufman.

Sylvia Eibschutz & Family, In Memory of Your Mother, from Sam & Lilly Hamer, Ronnie & Barry Tessler, Michael & Phyllis Moscovich & family, Miriam, David, Fanny & Sam Gropper, Henry & Pola Nutkiewicz, Alex & Gina Dimant, Rachel & Herschel Wosk, George & Frieda Wertman, Sam & Lola Haber, Irvine Wolak, David & Lil Shafran, Joe & Ina Auerhahn, Norman Gladstone & Birgit Westergaard, Myrna Levin, Irving & Noreen Glassner, Lyliane & Larry Thal, Esther Kaufman.

Izak Folk & Family, In Memory of Your Sister, from Esther Kaufman, Joe & Ina Auerhahn, Joseph & Rose Lewin, Robert and Marilyn Krell and family.

Ben Folk & Family, In Memory of Your Sister, from Matilda Kneller, Joe & Ina Auerhahn, Esther Kaufman, Joseph & Rose Lewin.

Vicki Friedlander, On The Loss of Your Husband, Tibor & Agi Bergida.

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Cathy Goldman, With Our Deepest

Sympathies on Your Loss, from Lyliane & Larry Thal.

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Dr. Ruth Grunau & Family, On The Loss of Your Father, from Robert & Marilyn Krell & Family.

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Dr. Michael Kent, On the Loss of Your Father, from Robert & Marilyn Krell & Family.

Ruth Levin, In Memory of Your Husband, from Cathy & David Golden.

Risa & Bill Levine, With Sympathy, from Howard & Sunni Stein.

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Mr. & Mrs. L. Thompson, On the Loss of Your Brother, from David & Grace Ehrlich.

Dr. Charles Tennen & Family, With Sympathy, from Leo & Jocy Lowy.

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Mrs. Mindelle Wajzman, On the Loss of Your Husband, Rita & Ben Akselrod.

Thank You

Lindsay Brooks, With Our Appreciation, from Elaine Klein, Glenn Laufer & Sam Klein-Laufer.

Perry Ehrlich, In Appreciation, from Dr. Joan Pinkus & Marc Levine.

Leon Kahn, from Ronnie Tessler.

Sigrid Kolding, With Our Appreciation, from Elaine Klein, Glenn Laufer & Sam Klein-Laufer.

Dr. Peter Lutsky, With Our Appreciation, from Elaine Klein, Glenn Laufer & Sam Klein-Laufer.

Joan Lyndon, With Our Appreciation, from Elaine Klein, Glenn Laufer & Sam Klein-Laufer.

Bruno Patassini, With Many Thanks, from Leo & Jocy Lowy.

Kevin Rosner, For Serving on the Outreach Committee, from Rita Akselrod.

David & Lil Shafran, With Thanks, from Sharon & Irving Kates.

Carolyn Woszcyna, For Serving on the Outreach Committee, from Rita Akselrod.

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Judgement On Nuremberg School Programme Development: Frieda Miller, Evelyn Neaman, Raymond Schachter, Mark Wexler, Cathy Moss, Linda Clode and her students, Catherine Mori and her students

Open Your Hearts (Continued)

out well. For most of them life in Canada meant being assigned to a home where they were given room and board, and sent for training or work in manual occupations."

Applying the insights of the teacher he was, Dr. Klinghofer used many educational methods to "lead them away from their realms of fantasy towards seeing the realities of life in Canada." He accomplished this by inviting rabbis, lawyers, business people, and others to the Centre to speak about the hardships of their younger years and to tell how hard they had to work until they slowly made progress. The question and answer periods were a very important part. "We also tried to cheer them up and to soften their disappointments by introducing musical hours and, whenever possible, obtained tickets for them to attend concerts."

FROM THE BOARD

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Holocaust Education Centre of the Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society for Education and Remembrance, has been open for two years. Its activities have demonstrated the need for such an institution as ours. The Holocaust Education Centre preserves historical memory in the service of enhancing contemporary memory to face the future. For the contemporary issues of the day have not changed fundamentally from those dark days when racism and prejudice flourished so fiercely as to culminate in the most grotesque mass murder of all time. Racism continues to flourish and anti-Semitism, through denial of the Holocaust, has become a growth industry.

But we are making progress. Joint programs with the Dutch, Danish, Italian and Japanese communities have opened the eyes of thousands of local school aged children to the potential outcome of unbridled hatred. The survivors' insistence to be faithful to memory through Holocaust education and scholarship, has made the world take notice of events that resemble those of the Shoah. These efforts sensitize individuals, perhaps even governments, to not repeat the

mistakes that can lead to the degradation of human life to the point where killing becomes the solution by those in power.

Through your continued support and involvement in our programs we can continue to fulfill our mandate of combating prejudice and racism.

**Robert Krell, MD, FRCP (C), President,
Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society**



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A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

Through the generous donations of individuals and families over the past five years, the VHCS has been able to build up an "Endowment Fund" of long-term investments which is now approaching \$1,000,000. The finance committee has been investing these funds in a mix of Canadian, Corporate and Provincial bonds with medium term maturities (10 years) which are earning an average 8% return. The portfolio includes \$75,000 in Israel Bonds. In addition the VHCS is investing \$25,000 a year for three years with the Vancouver Foundation, who are providing a matching grant. This means that by mid-1997 the VHCS will benefit from the income earned on \$150,000 invested with the Vancouver Foundation, in perpetuity.

Our investment now generates approximately \$80,000 per year which is 50% of the annual operating budget, those dollars needed to carry out the work of the Holocaust Education Centre. The generous donations of our members/benefactors has therefore established a solid basis for our on-going operations. The Planned Giving Committee of the VHCS, has as its long-term goal, the doubling of this "Endowment Fund." This growth will allow the Society to continue to grow and provide the quality programs we have come to expect.

Lucien Lieberman, Treasurer



VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST CENTRE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov. _____ Postal Code _____

1996 - 1997 Membership Dues

Family.....\$36.00
Individual.....\$25.00
Student.....\$18.00

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Expiration Date _____

If paying by credit card, please fill out information above. If paying by cheque, please make payable to Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society and mail with this application to #50 - 950 West 41st Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5Z 2N7

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