

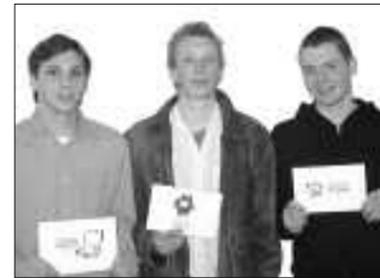


# Zachor | *Remember*

The Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre Newsletter | Number 3 | June 2004

## VHEC ANNOUNCES NEW LOGO

The VHEC will celebrate its 10th Anniversary starting in the fall of 2004. As part of our marking of a decade of producing and delivering quality Holocaust Education programs the VHEC in partnership with Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design, through their communication design program, worked on the developing of a new logo for the Centre.



Emily Carr Students from Left to Right; Jonathan Herman, Erik Olson, Sean Martindale

ECIAD students Jonathan Herman, Erik Olson, and Sean Martindale worked for four months on the concept and made several presentations to the staff. Several designs were created and the Board selected this design for use on our cards and letterheads. The VHEC wanted a logo that affirmed our mandate of education, especially aimed at youth. The students wanted to avoid imagery that reflected the perpetrators, such as the yellow star or the barbed wire, often found in other Holocaust organizations logos. Our goal of preserving the memories and experiences of survivors while protecting the future by reaching youth, is reflected in the new design.

## FOR THOSE HUNGARIANS WHOSE FAMILIES PERISHED IN THE HOLOCAUST

Hungarians who lost family members during the Holocaust may inscribe their loved ones names on a newly developed wall in the Holocaust Museum in Budapest. A separate form is filled out for each name you wish inscribed. These names can only be of those who perished in the Holocaust, not those who died before or after the Holocaust. The completed forms are sent directly to the address on the form in Budapest, Hungary. The forms are written in Hungarian and must be filled out in Hungarian. At this time there is no fee for these inscriptions, but forms should be sent in as soon as possible, since there may be a fee later. Forms are available at the VHEC. For more information contact Debbie Jacob at 604.224.1922 or by email: devoirar@shaw.ca

## PART-TIME ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR/ RECEPTION POSITION

The Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre is looking to fill a part-time temporary position by August, 2004. Responsibilities of the Administrative Assistant include processing tribute cards, booking school resources, and general office reception including phones and sorting mail. Candidates must have good English communication skills, be computer literate, be precise, organized and able to multi-task and work with a complex client base. The position is for a maximum of 16 hours per week, over three days. The position will begin in the fall of 2004 and run until May 2005. FOR more information please contact Roberta Kremer, Executive Director, Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre 604.264.0499.

## THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

**SYMPOSIUM OUTREACH SPEAKERS:**  
Lola Apfelbaum, Jack Benish, Agi Bergida, Alex Buckman, Marion Cassirer, Mariette Doduck, David Ehrlich, Serge Haber, Katy Hughes, Chaim Kornfeld, Rob Krell, Inge Manes, Jack Micner, Peter Parker, Rhodea Shandler, Bronia Sonnenschein, Louise Sorensen, Peter Suedfeld, Borge Stromgren, Bente Thomsen, Robbie Waisman

**SYMPOSIUM FACILITATORS:**  
Saul Apfelbaum, Wendy Barrett, Julia Bernhardt, Michele Dore, Graham Forst, S Fuller, Joseph Kahn- Tietz, Ethel Kofsky, Rob Krell, Lani Levine, Lucien Lieberman, Sean Matvenko, Craig McAdie, Sharon Meen, Jineane Payne Babish, Naomi Rozenberg, Ruth Stewart, Dan Sonnenschein, Stan Taviss, Terri Tomsky, Ingrid Yeung

**DOCENTS:**  
Sabina Bhate, Wendy Barrett, Julia Bernhardt, Beth Bogner, Liliias Cameron, Jody Dales, Fay Davis, Michele Dore, Debby Freiman, Phillipa Friedland, Jonathan Friedrichs, S Fuller, Joseph Kahn-Tietz, Lise Kirchner, Lani Levine, Annelaure Masson, Sharon Meen, Jineane Payne Babish, Naomi Rozenberg, Wendi Vaisler, Rina Vizer, Ingrid Yeung

**SPECIAL PROJECTS:**  
Graham Forst, Judith Forst, Phillipa Friedland, Cathy Golden, Gerri London, Jack Micner, Karen Micner, Yvonne Rosenberg, Louise Stein Sorensen, Vancouver Talmud Torah High School Students, Gloria Waisman, Danny Wollner

**RESTITUTION:**  
Neil Kornfeld, Mark Rozenberg, Dmitiri Stone, Stan Taviss

**DONATIONS IN KIND:**  
Eddie's Hang Ups, Dan-D-Pac Food, Starbucks, Stongs Market, Carole Lieberman; Dexter Realty, Harvey Sandler; L'Chaim Catering, Larry Garfinkel; Olive Press, Granville Island Florist

## The Post War Photographs of Henry Ries: The Rothschild Hospital & The Exodus

July 12 – September 15, 2004

*These tell the story of waiting, they speak of coming and going. But waiting is the true agony of the DP's.* – Henry Ries

## The Berliner Henry Ries

BY SHARON MEEN

Henry Ries's life history seems straightforward: he was born in 1917 in Berlin, the second of three children in a bourgeois, secular, Jewish family. As a young adult of 21 years, Henry emigrated to the United States. In 1943, he became an American citizen and then served in the Asian theatre of war. In 1945, he returned to Europe and Germany, first as a member of the American ODI (Office Director of Intelligence) and subsequently as *The New York Times* photojournalist for Western Europe. In 1952, he returned to the States and in 1955, established himself as a successful independent artist in Manhattan. His photographs are exhibited throughout the world, and he is author of eight books. He made New York his home, traveling frequently to Germany, particularly to Berlin.

"Straightforward," is, however, not the right word. His autobiography, *Ich war ein Berliner: Erinnerungen eines New Yorker Fotojournalisten* (I was a Berliner: Memories of a New York Photojournalist, 2001) describes a highly complex life, one shaped indelibly by the intricate interrelationship between the German world he had left behind and his new life in America.

Ries was 16 years of age when the Nazis formed the government of Germany in 1933. Two nasty early encounters affected him deeply: first, a newly appointed biology teacher singled Ries out to praise his perfect Aryanism — blond hair, blue-eyes, and particularly the "musical back of [his] head." Classmates' giggling prompted Ries to taunt the teacher: "I am 100% Jew." He was immediately expelled. Shortly thereafter, he was arrested at his grandmother's home and imprisoned for two weeks. Ries realized that he would have to get out, not just out of Berlin and Germany but — believing war to be inevitable and a Hitler victory probable — out of Europe all together. He set his sights on America, the "land of limitless possibilities." Believing that Berlin might well be on the edge of ruin, he decided to assemble a memorial collection of photographs; as his departure date approached, he quit his well-paying job, bought a camera and started "knipsen" (to take snap shots).

To get to the United States actually took Ries four years, the unstinting financial and moral support of his grandmother, three transatlantic voyages, amazing good luck, and nerves of steel. In October 1937, Ries obtained a one-year visitor's visa to the States. His hope was that he could quickly turn visitor into resident status, and indeed, shortly after his arrival in New York City, he obtained the required affidavit for immigration. One small hitch: American policy required that the affidavit be signed other than within the States. With relative optimism, Ries returned to Germany in November 1937; the American consul would, however, not sign. Ries therefore risked all and set sail again for the States in January 1938. His argument? That his one-year visitor's visa was valid for more than one entry within the designated year. Challenged by the ship's first officer and instructed to disembark in England, Ries made a bet directly with



After the pogrom in Kielce (Poland) hundreds arrived every day. Rothschild-Hospital, Vienna, November 1947. Photo: Henry Ries



In 1946 the UNRRA (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration) established workshops for tailors and shoe-makers in the Rothschild Hospital, Vienna, November 1947. Photo: Henry Ries



Food Distribution, done without a dining hall. Rothschild Hospital, Vienna, November 1947. Photo: Henry Ries

Zachor | Remember

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Editor: Roberta Kremer Design: Sarah Ruediger Copyediting: Rome Fox  
Cover: Red Cross nurse with refugee children on their way to the Pöppendorf Displaced Persons camp in Germany, September 9, 1947, Photo: Henry Ries

*Believing that Berlin might well be on the edge of ruin, he decided to assemble a memorial collection of photographs.*

the ship's captain — the captain should contact the American consul in London to settle the question of the visa's validity. When the Consul confirmed that Ries was right, the captain honored the bet (defying his Nazi first officer in the process) and Ries sailed on. By July 1938, having made a final trip to Cuba to get his affidavit signed, he had his American immigration visa.

With cessation of hostilities in Europe in May 1945, Ries returned to Europe (first London, then Berlin) to contribute his photographic and linguistic skills to sorting out the chaos. He first worked for OMGUS (Office Military Government United States), translating documents such as Hitler's will and reports about medical experimentation in the concentration camps, as well as photographing the doctors on trial at Nuremberg. In November 1946, he became *The New York Times* photojournalist for Western Europe. His photographs captured the essence of the "devastation and desperation" of the shattered continent — the 1947 photographs of the Rothschild-Spital in Vienna, on exhibit at the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre in summer 2004, illustrate this well. In 1948, Ries was again in Berlin — the centre of action in the first days of the Cold War — to photograph the Blockade and Airlift. His photograph of "Die Rosinenbomber" (the Raisin Bombers) is considered one of the definitive pictures of the twentieth century.

In 1951, Ries returned to New York City and in 1955 set up his own studio. His explorations of abstract photo techniques, particularly the development of Heliopix, took him into new fields of artistic endeavor. Yet, almost inevitably, his own history — "being Jewish German, born in Berlin, living in New York" — pulled him back to Berlin. In 1973, after an absence of 20 years, he participated in Berlin's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Berlin Airlift and the Raisin Bombers. This visit, particularly his first viewing of the Wall, prompted renewed exploration of themes related to identity, guilt and historical responsibility. Seven books (particularly *Abschied von meiner Generation*, 1992 [Farewell to my Generation]), exhibits, radio and television documentaries, and lectures reflect his thoughts and perceptions.



The sick-room was in the corridors, in the cellars and even in the courtyard. Rothschild Hospital, Vienna, September 1946. Photo: Henry Ries



Pöppendorf Displaced Persons Camp. November 1947. Photo: Henry Ries

Ries's autobiography honours his grandmother, Hilda Wiener, who saved his life. Sadly, she herself was not so lucky; in July 1942, she and her two remaining daughters were deported to Theresienstadt where she died 2 years later at age 80. In 1999, age 82, Ries visited Theresienstadt for the first time. He found evidence that his grandmother had created a small synagogue in a private space in the place where she and her daughter lived. When asked if he could imagine his grandmother and aunt using the synagogue for prayer, he replied that, although it contradicted everything he knew about his Oma, "[I] would exclude nothing now that [I have] been to Theresienstadt."

When Ries left Berlin in 1937 carrying his memorial photos with him, he vowed never to return. Ironically, photography not only took him back to Berlin but also made him world famous, where he remains more well known than in North America. He died in New York on May 24, 2004.

*The exhibition of photographs by Henry Ries was originally produced by Galerie Bilderwelt, Berlin, in 2002 and was shown in Graz and Modling, Austria.*

## The Rothschild Hospital in Vienna

BY JONATHAN FRIEDRICHS

Although the Holocaust ended in 1945 the struggle for the Jews of Europe was still far from over. Thousands of Jews were at the very end of their strength by the time they were liberated, and died from exhaustion and disease. Of those who survived, many made their way back to their countries of origin only to discover there were no traces of their homes and families. Many more Jews, however, refused to return to the lands where their families were massacred and where anti-Semitism was still rampant. Thus, beginning in 1945, the Allies began the enormous task of finding residence for the tens of thousands of Jewish displaced persons. The Allies set up Displaced Persons camps throughout Germany, Austria and Italy but these offered only a temporary solution to a calamitous situation. Furthermore, many of these DP camps were forged out of former concentration camps or German Army camps. In Vienna, however, one DP camp was established with an atmosphere and history vastly different from the rest — the Rothschild Hospital.

The Rothschild Hospital was founded in Vienna in 1872 by Anselm Rothschild. It was one of a multitude of charitable donations provided by the Rothschild family, one of the wealthiest and most powerful Jewish families in Europe. The Rothschilds established a banking empire with branches in London, Paris, Frankfurt, Naples and Vienna and had over the decades developed a reputation for philanthropy, especially towards Jewish communities. When the Rothschild Hospital was founded, it was intended primarily to serve the growing Jewish community in Vienna.

The hospital operated successfully in this capacity for 70 years. When Austria was annexed by Hitler in 1938, surprisingly the hospital was not shut down. Even after the War broke out and the Nazis rapidly began dismantling all Jewish institutions, the Rothschild Hospital was allowed to continue to treat Jewish patients. It is unclear exactly why this was permitted. One explanation might be that at this stage Adolf Eichmann was still pro-



Rothschild Hospital, Vienna, November 1947. Photo: ISB staff photo

tecting the status of the Vienna Jewish community in order to facilitate emigration out of Austria. In a time when almost all Jewish establishments were under attack everywhere else, the Hospital actually managed to attract prominent Jewish physicians. For example, Viktor E. Frankl, renowned psychiatrist and psychotherapist, became the director of the Hospital's neurological department from 1940-1942. (During these years, Frankl risked his life by sabotaging Nazi procedures; he issued false diagnoses to protect his mentally ill patients from the Nazis' euthanasia policy). The Rothschild Hospital was known as one of the most modern hospitals in Vienna, and was the only one of its kind that was permitted to treat Jewish patients during the war.

In 1942, however, with the Final Solution now systematically underway, the Jews of Vienna lost one of their last centres of refuge. The temporary haven that the Rothschild Hospital had for so long provided to Jews was brought to an abrupt end. Thousands of Viennese Jews, Viktor Frankl among them, were suddenly rounded up and deported to concentration camps. The Rothschild Hospital was stripped of its license to serve a Jewish clientele. It was taken over by the Nazis and for the rest of the war it functioned as an s.s. military hospital.

After the Nazis were defeated in 1945 and the world learned of the horrors of the Holocaust, few countries were willing to open their doors to large numbers of Jewish immigrants. The Allies therefore planned to gradually repatriate Jewish DPs back to Eastern Europe. They did not foresee, however, that Jews would be both unwilling and unwelcome. Widespread anti-Jewish violence, such as the vicious pogrom in July 1946 in Kielce, Poland in which 42 Jews were murdered while trying to return to their homes, convinced many survivors that they could not return to their prewar communities. The number of Jewish DPs fleeing Eastern Europe now drastically multiplied.



Rothschild Hospital, Vienna, November 1947. Photo: Henry Ries

In Austria, the U.S. Army was unable to handle the influx of Jews on its own and therefore assigned the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee the task of overseeing many aspects of the Jewish refugee situation. The JDC had been founded during WWI as a relief and rescue agency for European Jewish communities. Towards the end of WWII the JDC entered the liberated areas of Europe and began a massive relief effort. They created services to help Holocaust survivors trace their relatives, gather educational supplies, and get training in order to reenter the work force. As well, they played a key role in the administration of many of the DP camps.

*In a time when almost all Jewish establishments were under attack everywhere else, the Hospital actually managed to attract prominent Jewish physicians.*

In particular, the Joint Distribution Committee was influential in the revitalization of the Rothschild Hospital and its transformation into a makeshift Displaced Persons camp. The JDC carried out relief operations to collect Jews from Poland, Hungary and Romania and to organize their arrival in stages in the new Rothschild Hospital DP camp. Initially, the newfound DP camp was aimed at the rehabilitation of sick refugees. It had a capacity of 600, at any given time. However, as streams of Jewish migrants continued to enter Vienna, the Rothschild Hospital was reconfigured to accommodate the large influx of people. Between 1945 to 1951, when most western European DP camps were finally dismantled, more than 250,000 Jewish refugees had passed through them. During this time the Rothschild Hospital had become a major transient camp, receiving thousands of Jewish DPs arriving from the east and eventually transferring them to any one of Austria's eight larger DP camps further west. From there, the process of "illegal" immigration to Palestine would often be set in motion. The Rothschild Hospital served as a stepping-stone in the mass migration.

In 1960 the Israeli Ministry of Culture sold the Rothschild Hospital to the Viennese Chamber of Commerce which in turn built a research institute on the site. It was the final chapter in the Hospital's long and, at times, tumultuous history. Since its inception in 1872, the Rothschild Hospital was intended to do one thing—serve the Jewish community. And despite the challenges it faced at the hands of the Nazis, the Rothschild Hospital managed, almost without fail, to serve this purpose.

## UNLIKELY HEROES

A sincere thank you to all those who helped make the Patron Lunch and the film screening of *Unlikely Heroes*, on May 30, 2004, such a tremendous success.

Special kudos to the members of the *Unlikely Heroes* Event Planning Committee: co-chairs Leslie Diamond & Robbie Waisman, committee members: Jody Dales, Sheryl Davis-Kahn & VHEC Staff: Cedar Morton, Jonathan Friedrichs, Sarah Ruediger, Rome Fox & Roberta Kremer.

Special thanks to the following: The Kahn Family, Eddie's Hang-Ups, Stongs Market Ltd., Larry Garfinkel; Olive Press, Dan-D-Pac Foods Ltd., Granville Island Florist, Vancouver Talmud Torah High School, Harvey Sandler; L'Chaim Catering, The Vancouver Jewish Men's Choir: Arnold Selwyn, David Bogdanov, Ed Lewin, Steve Herman, Geoff Berkow, Jeff Fraeme, Malcolm Lefcort, Maurice Moses, Murray Fraeme, George Sommer, Chuck Herman & Afazal Barmania, manager, Cineplex Odeon Oakridge Theatre. Carole Lieberman; Dexter Realty

## NEW KORCZAK MONUMENT IN WARSAW

On September 19, 2003, in the plaza of Warsaw's Palace of Culture and Science an inaugural stone was laid, in advance of the building of a monument to Janusz Korczak. In this same spot on Sliska Street, the home for orphans run by Janusz Korczak once stood. Korczak and his orphan children were deported to Treblinka.

To commemorate Korczak's role in advancing universal human rights and his love of children, a park will be built, surrounding the monument where children will be able to express their thoughts and feelings on what is happening around them.

Through the Janusz Korczak Association of Canada, single bricks can be purchased, which will be installed at the monument. The bricks will bear the names of individual donors. These bricks will be used to create a mosaic of support around the monument. For more information, kindly contact Mrs. Gina Dimant, 604.733.6386.



Entrance to the central office of the Committee for Jewish survivors & refugees. Rothschild Hospital, Vienna, November 1947. Photo: ISB staff photo



Registration of the hundreds of daily new arrivals. Rothschild Hospital, Vienna, November 1947. Photo: Henry Ries

## Anne Frank: A History for Today

EXHIBITION WILL OPEN AT THE VHEC OCTOBER 14, 2004

*Anne Frank: A History for Today* begins in 1929 with the story of the Frank family in the context of the rise of the Nazi party and follows them as they seek refuge in the Netherlands during the persecution, and expulsion of Jews in Germany. Themes of exclusion, bullying and persecution as state-sanctioned instruments to marginalize Jews and others are depicted. The content is interspersed throughout with eyewitness accounts of individuals who recount their personal experiences. The exhibit includes material which allows viewers to reflect on issues in today's world, concluding with emphasis on the importance of human rights, individual responsibility and moral courage.

### CALL FOR DOCENTS

Volunteer Docents are needed for the upcoming exhibit *Anne Frank: A History for Today*. Docents will lead tours for students in grades 5 – 12 and provide interpretation of the exhibition. New and returning docents will participate in training sessions in late September and early October.

The VHEC is looking for enthusiastic, committed volunteers/docents/educators with strong communication skills. A background in European history is an asset, as is the ability to deal with complex or controversial issues. Also seeking French-speaking docents. Interested applicants should be available some mornings or afternoons, Monday through Friday, October – December 2004.

Interested volunteers may call the VHEC 604.264.0499, for more information.



*Give a gift of insight and inspiration,  
through the words of Anne Frank,  
to thousands of students.*

## A Book in Every Hand

You can place *The Diary of Anne Frank* in the hands of BC students

The Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre will provide thousands of copies of the diary to students visiting the *Anne Frank: A History for Today* exhibit as part of the Centre's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

A minimum donation of \$100 provides books to 20 students. Each book will be inscribed with the name of the donor or a personal dedication. Donations from individuals, families and organizations are welcome. For more information please contact the VHEC at 604.264.0499.





## The Girl in the Red Coat

By Roma Ligocka

REVIEWED BY OTTILIE SCHWEITZER

Roma Ligocka was born in Krakow in 1938. She tells her story with great insight into the agony of childhood in the face of terror, deprivation and death. Clearly, the ambience of the Krakow Ghetto in which she and her parents find themselves and the loss of her beloved grandmother, are beyond her understanding, at the time. She describes the escape with her mother from the ghetto as a dismal journey towards survival.

The agony of that survival is vividly portrayed in her sense of loss of childhood and the search for her identity. She seeks this identity in a child seated at a table, with her parents, in the Hotel Ceresco in Nice and more poignantly in the fleeting impression of a little girl in a red coat in Steven Spielberg's film, *Schindler's List*.

She describes with authenticity her search for self determination and artistic freedom amidst post war anti-Semitism and Communist oppression, a fate shared by her cousin, Roman Polansky. Her memoirs reflect a sense of yearning for peace and stability in adult life. To some extent, she finds this in her son, Jacob, and in her profession as a renowned stage designer. Roma Ligocka is a skilled storyteller. She has fulfilled her mission to give testimony to the horrors and injustice of wrongly conceived politics. We owe her a sense of urgency to remedy prevailing conditions worldwide. Every child has a right to grow up in a secure environment.

*The Girl in the Red Coat* was first published in German and has subsequently been translated into ten languages.



## Still Alive

By Ruth Kluger, with a forward by Lore Segal

REVIEWED BY OTTILIE SCHWEITZER

On March 12, 1938, Hitler's Germany annexed Austria. Ruth Kluger was seven, when events overtook her family, as well as the Jewish Community. She describes her experiences through the eyes of a child, puzzled at first by guarded items of conversation, which she soon learns to interpret as indescribable threats to her family. The arrest of her father and his subsequent forced departure to Italy, confirms her fears. After his departure she and

her mother are forced to live in over crowded accommodation. There are family fights precipitated by stresses, proximity and the inability to escape from Austria. She finds solace in reading books and the occasional visits to forbidden cinemas. The Hitler youth propaganda, convinces her of the approaching danger. She begins to question the decision-making process of her mother. The alienation between mother and daughter persists throughout their lives.

Their inability to leave Austria resulted in their deportation to Theresienstadt. Ruth Kluger becomes aware that Theresienstadt is not a ghetto as euphemistically called by the Germans, but a prison, a "stable for feeding the slaughter-house of the concentration camp". This was confirmed by the clouds of smoke, which enveloped the atmosphere of Auschwitz-Birkenau on their arrival. Ruth Kluger provides an honest account of her social bonds with fellow inmates. Since she was assigned to the Children's section, a certain amount of bonding was possible. She describes conditions of hunger, thirst, and extreme climactic conditions. The final escape from Auschwitz, was a fortuitous selection of her and her mother to a labour camp in Christianstadt. It was a sense of relative freedom that gave them some hope. Germany was being defeated and a courageous escape leads to ultimate freedom.

Germany was overrun. The many displaced people on the move and the prevailing chaos brings many challenges. Ruth Kluger is determined not to pass judgment on the oppressor, but not to condone events which so grievously affected so many lives. She found her Jewish identity in the camps. While in Germany, she continues her formal education yet it is her own reading and poetry which allows her to attain her intellectual potential. In the final chapters, Ruth Kluger describes her life as a refugee in New York in the forties. She discusses with great candor and insight her ability to socialize and her deteriorating relationship with her mother. She did however, obtain a degree and is Professor emerita in German, at the University of California, Irvine. She has published five volumes of literary criticism and is the recipient of numerous literary awards. She told her story in her own words that she felt needed to be told. *Still Alive* was first published in German in 1992, and in English in 2001. It is an international bestseller and has won the Thomas Mann Prize and the Prix Memoire de la Shoah.

## Esfira (Esther) Golgheri Story



Esfira Golgheri

I was eight months old at the onset of the Second World War. I lived with my parents, brother and grandmother, in grandma's house in the town of Brichan, Moldova (Moldavia). The entire story of my suffering during that tragic time has left its mark on me through the stories told to me by my mother, my brother and the townsfolk.



Tuba & Feivel Guzman, Esfira's mother and brother

When the war began, and advanced rapidly on all front lines, the German and Romanian army occupied our town. From the first days of the invasion, the Nazi Romanian Gendarmes and local collaborators, tortured, beat, robbed, killed and forced all the Jews from their homes. One of the first victims of persecution was my uncle, my mother's brother, Gandelman Laizer. He was executed

by the Nazis in the presence my mother and grandmother. Many of the local collaborators with whom we lived in peace, turned against us. One of them was Shevardak Alexei, who, in 1945, after the war, was accused of collaborating with the Nazis. My mother was a witness at his criminal trial. She also confirmed at the trial, that all Jews of our town were deported to unspecified ghettos and slave labor camps.

From the many conversations with my mother, I know that the Jews of our town were gathered and forced to walk on foot guarded by the convoy of Romanian Gendarmes. They walked along the unpaved, dusty roads of Moldova and the Ukraine.

Our long, difficult walk was especially hard on the children, women and the elderly. They were falling to the ground due to pain, fatigue, hunger, and thirst. Many were left to die on the roads and sidewalks. After numerous weeks of enduring the hot sun, pouring rain, fear, illness, demoralizing treatment, exhaustion and malnutrition, we finally arrived in the town of Kopaigorod, in the Vinnitza Region of the Ukraine.

During that journey my parents and others took turns carrying me. On the way to the ghetto I became ill with scarlet fever, then measles, then rickets. These illnesses were made worse by the absence of medical care. They later contributed to the resulting complications of meningitis and recurrent headaches. On arrival to Kaipgorod Ghetto, we were placed in a dark barn with many other inmates. The ghetto was located in a part of town that was surrounded by barbed wire and guarded by Romanian Gendarmes. The police, made up of the local Ukrainian collaborators were infamous for their brutality. My

mother described how in the winter it was freezing cold in that barn, as we had no heating resources. In the summer it was so crowded that it was very hard to breathe the stuffy air that ensued. The inmates became sick with various kinds of infectious diseases and many died. Many died of loss of endurance in these terrible conditions.

When I grew up I asked my mother why we never visited my father's grave. She replied that he didn't have his own grave. When my father and my grandmother died in the ghetto from infectious diseases, their bodies were taken and buried in one pit together with other victims. Often on awakening, the inmates of the ghetto would wake up to find dead bodies lying beside them. The special service in the ghetto would carry their bodies out beyond the ghetto boundaries. Those who were still alive envied the dead.

It is painful for me to go back to the events of World War II. These recollections bring up the suffering of my family. Furthermore, these events deprived me of a normal life as a child and afterwards. I only survived in those days because my mother nursed me for a long period of time. We lived in these inhuman conditions until the liberation of the territory by the Red Army in March of 1944.

On return to Brichan, in the autumn of 1944, we found our house destroyed, all our belongings taken. We had no place to live. We continued to suffer the consequences of war for a long time afterwards. One morning, when a plane with smoke trailing behind it, passed above our head, I was crying for food, but my mother said that when they see her nurse me, they will drop a bomb on our heads. That's how I got weaned from her breast, at the age of three.

I can't give my mother enough thanks and enough praise, for she was a true heroine. Young, pretty and kind, this woman would sacrifice herself in order to bring us up well, and with dignity. And to the end of her life she was dedicated to us, her children, and lived only for our sake.

Five years ago I came to Canada. It was a hard life for an immigrant. I knew no English, had to get used to new people, new ways. But little by little I started to step into a new life, to learn English and meet good people whom I met through the Schara Tzedek Synagogue. And now, as the title of the child survivor page in Zachor, suggests, I am "No Longer Alone."

I am grateful to the Jewish Family Service Agency for their help. I am a member of the Holocaust Child Survivors of Vancouver, BC, with whom I gladly meet once a month, and feel their warmth and support.

The *No Longer Alone* page welcomes submissions from Child Survivors. Send submissions to the NLA editor: Lillian Boraks-Nemetz c/o VHEC, 50 - 950 W. 41<sup>st</sup> Ave, Vancouver, BC V5Z 2N7

## Minimum Card Donation Now \$15

During the past ten years our tribute cards have remained at a minimum donation of \$10 per card. As of July 1, 2004 this will be raised to a minimum tax-deductible donation of \$15 per card. This is in response to the increased costs of printing, postage, & staff time. To send a card, please call 604.264.0499. We make every effort to send cards out promptly, often within 48 hours of your call. VHEC Tribute cards are a personal & meaningful way to honour your friends & family.

### March 5<sup>th</sup> – June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2004

#### DONATIONS

Sheila Barkusky, In honour of her role in the translation of the stories of my father. Micha Menczer

Naomi Fenson, In memory of the late Shia Mozer for his role in the translation of my father's stories. Micha Menczer

Larry & Miri Garaway, With best wishes. Sadie Sherman

Cavell Garden, In the name of the Jews of Cavell Garden. Frances Hoyd

Janos Mate, In your honour. Jennifer Capraru

David Schaffer, for his role in the translation of my father's stories. Micha Menczer

Gordon Slobin, In celebration of your 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday to the Book In Every Hand Project. Jody, Harvey, Rebecca, Arieh & Eli Dales

In honour of Kathy Somer & George Somer, to the Book In Every Hand Project. Marianne Rev & Tom Ross

Dr. Bluma Tischler & Family, In Honour of Dr. Isaac Tischler, to the Book In Every Hand Project. Nomi Kaplan & Gerry Growe

#### GET WELL

Rita Akselrod, Best wishes for a speedy recovery. Ruth & Cecil Sigal, Sally Zimmerman, Sheryl Davis-Kahn & Saul Kahn, David & Grace Ehrlich

Yolanda & Mark Babins, Wishing a speedy recovery for your parents. Jack & Karen Micner

Claire Buller, Wishing you a very speedy recovery. Gloria & Robbie Waisman

David Feldman, Wishing you a speedy & healthy recovery. Art, Sam & Al Szajman

Rose Folk, Wishing you a speedy recovery. Odie & Sherie Kaplan, Pola Nutkiewicz, Danny & Vera Wollner, Harry & Resia Nortman & Family, Mark, Debby, Barbara & Rachel Choit, Regina Wertman, Harold & Bella Silverman, Gloria & Harry Harris, Sanford Cohen, Abe & Goldie Miedzygorski, Art, Sam & Al Szajman, Chaim & Susy Micner, David & Cathy Golden & Family, Lola Apfelbaum

Lee Freiman, Best wishes for a speedy recovery. Frieda Miller & Danny Shapiro

Edna Kane, Wishing you a full & speedy recovery. The VHEC Board & Staff

Ida Kaplan, Best wishes for a speedy recovery. Gerri & Mark London, Ed & Debbie Lewin, Karen & Les Cohen & Family, Lola Apfelbaum

Emmy Krell, Wishing you a speedy recovery. Gerri & Mark London

William Mendelson, All the best to you and your family. Izak & Lili Folk

Abe Miedzygorski, Wishing you a speedy recovery. Margaret & Jack Fraeme

June Mielnicki, Our love & best wishes for a speedy recovery. Gerri, Gloria & the Survivor Drop-In Group, Gloria & Robbie Waisman

Aubrey Schwartz & Family, Get well soon. Abe & Goldie Miedzygorski, Sally & Sid Coleman

Blossom Wine, Wishing you a very speedy recovery. Izak & Lili Folk

Carol Young, I wish you a speedy recovery. Ida Kaplan

#### MAZEL TOV

Coral Abraham, Best wishes on your very special birthday. Evelyn Kahn

Dr. Reva Adler, In honour of your special birthday. Ruth & Cecil Sigal

Ben Akselrod, Mazel Tov on your 83<sup>rd</sup> Birthday. Gerri & Mark London

Rita Akselrod, Glad to hear you are well. Ethel Kofsky, Jody & Harvey Dales

Sonia Bellas, Best wishes for your 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Jocy Lowy

Tibor Bergida, Mazel Tov & best wishes for much health & happiness on your special birthday. The Archek Family, Judith Nagy

Lillian Boraks-Nemetz, In honour of the nomination of your book. Jody & Harvey Dales

Lillian Boraks-Nemetz, Congratulations on your honour from Jewish Women International of Canada. The VHEC Board & Staff

Marion Cassirer, Congratulations on being awarded Life Fellowship. Vancouver Child Survivors Group

Jody Dales, Mazel Tov on being awarded the Young Leadership Award. Barry Dunner & Su T. Fitterman, Sheryl Davis-Kahn & Saul Kahn, Joanna & Allen Wasel

Andrew Davidson, Mazel Tov on your B'nai Mitzvah. Myra Michaelson & Mary MacDonald

Sara Davidson, Mazel Tov on your B'nai Mitzvah. Myra Michaelson & Mary MacDonald

Hymie Davis, With warmest good wishes on your special birthday. Rosa & Elie Ferera

Sheryl Davis-Kahn, Happy Special Birthday. The VHEC Board & Staff, Barry Dunner & Su T. Fitterman, Pam Wolfman & Deborah Youngson

Ben Dayson, On the occasion of your Birthday. Reva Puterman & Izzy Tischler

Mariette Doduck, Congratulations on your honour. The Board & Staff of the VHEC, The Vancouver Child Survivors

Arieh Engelberg, Mazel Tov on your special birthday. Shoshana & Moshe Fidelman, Rachel & Joseph Skolnik

Jackie Ferera, With fondest good wishes for a joyous 80th birthday. Rosa & Elie Ferera, Nora, Lew, David & Rachele Ferera-Pullmer

Leonore Freeman, Happy Anniversary to you & Milt. Sol & Shirley Kort

S Fuller, Congratulations on receiving the Thomas Leonard Coaching Award. Frieda Miller & Rome Fox

Sadie Garaway Sherman, Mazel Tov on the wonderful milestone of your 90th Birthday. Miri, Larry, Oren & Kayla Garaway

Leila Getz, Congratulation on your well deserved award. Lillian Boraks-Nemetz

Dorothy Goldenberg, Happy Special Birthday. Dr. Jimmy & Miriam White, Rose Brook, Joyce & Barry Silverman, Arnold & Claire Golumbia, Arlene & Hamish Gladstone, Norman Gladstone & Birgit Westergaard

Mr. & Mrs. Serge Haber, Belated warm wishes for a Happy Anniversary! Shoshana & Moshe Fidelman

Edwina Heller, Mazel Tov on your 90<sup>th</sup>. Carol & Terry Kline

Mia Hyman, Mazel Tov on your Graduation. Miri, Larry, Oren & Kayla Garaway

Ida Kaplan, We are so happy you are feeling better. Rita & Ben Akselrod

Gisi Levitt, Congratulations on your Honour from Jewish Women International of Canada! The VHEC Board & Staff

Gerri London, Mazel Tov on a successful Survivor Seder. The VHEC Board & Staff

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Lynn Lutterman, Belated Birthday wish. Lillian Boraks-Nemetz

Sam Mandelbaum, Best wishes on your Special Birthday. Emery Klein

Janos Mate, Happy Birthday. Sharyn & Sol Pavony

Volvik Mendelson, Glad you are home. Izak & Lili Folk

Chaim Micner, Best wishes for your 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday. David Feldman & Family, Jack, Karen, Tamara & Mimi Micner, Izak & Lili Folk, Emery Klein, Rosely & Norman Gordon, Sally, Sid & Alex Coleman

Chaim & Susie Micner, Congratulations on your anniversary. Izak & Lili Folk

Jack Rootman, Congratulations on your 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Frances & Gustav Grunberg & Family

Moira Stillwell, A very happy 50th Birthday. Neil & Judy Kornfeld

Barry & Ronnie Tessler, Happy 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Bert & Elaine Schaffer & Family, The VHEC Board & Staff, Michael & Phyllis Moscovitch

Gloria Waisman, Mazel Tov on a successful Survivor Seder. The VHEC Board & Staff

Mrs. Stepheni Watt, Wishing you a nifty fifty. Jocy Lowy

Tatyana Wolfman, Mazel Tov on your Bat Mitzvah. Myra Michaelson

#### SYMPATHY

Agi Reijto & Kathy Bilinsky, Sorry to hear about the passing of your Dad. The Second Generation Group

Lynn Altman, In memory of your Mother. Alvin & Gayle Rossman

Gary Averbach, Our deepest sympathy on the passing of your Father, Lou. Robert & Marilyn Krell & Family

Pearl Bader & Family, In memory of your Mother, Chana Grunfeld. Evelyn Toban, Jack & Margaret Fraeme

Wendy Barrett, With our deepest sympathies. The VHEC Board & Staff

David Berry & Family, In memory of your mother. Anita Shafran & Family

Danny Bachman & Debbie Berlyne, In memory of Hilde. The Margolis, Mina & Simeone Families

Mrs. Gert Gimsburg & Family, Our deepest sympathy on the loss of your beloved husband & father. Rachel Wosk & Family, Moira Gort, Deepest sympathy on the loss of your beloved husband, John. The VHEC Board & Staff, Sally Rogow, Fran Ritch Pearl Grunfeld, Izzy Fraeme

Ruth Herman & Family, deepest sympathy on the loss of your Father & Grandfather. Judy, Neil, Dory, & Megan Kornfeld

Evelyn Kahn & Family, In honour & memory of our beloved Leon. Devra Epstein & Mark Slobin & Family

Nomi Kaplan, Our condolences on the passing of your Mother. Robert & Marilyn Krell & Family

Irv & Sharon Kates, In memory of Bill & Ruth Weinstein. Anita Shafran & Family

George Kleine, Condolences on the passing of your Father. Izzy Fraeme

Emmy Krell, Our thoughts & prayers are with you. The VHEC Board & Staff

Ron & Barb Krell & Family, Condolences on the loss of Emmy Krell. Lola Apfelbaum, Gerri, Mark & David London, Isaak & Bluma Tischler, Mel & Elaine Charkow, The Weksbergs, Norman & Sandra Miller, Joseph & Rosalie Segal,

Robert & Marilyn Krell & Family, Condolences on the loss of Emmy Krell. Lola Apfelbaum, The Gutovich Family, Judy & Phil Singer, Art, Sam & Al Szajman, Gloria & Robbie Waisman, Shoshana & Moshe Fidelman, Barry Dunner & Su T Fitterman, Ronnie & Barry Tessler, Audrey Mehlner & David Paperny, Gerri, Mark & David London, Ethel Kofsky, Ethel & Reggie Lewis, Helen & David Mars, Beatrice & Lew Lewis, Jennie Fouks, Golda Ostroff, Selma & Basil Kallner, Derek & Marilyn Glazer, Paul & Edwina Heller, Hymie & Rome Fox, Alex & Colette Buckman, The Vancouver Child Survivor Group, Rita & Ben Akselrod, Sharon & Irving Kates, Janet & Stanley Levy, Gary & Sheila Romalis, Mel & Elaine Charkow, Yvette & Hershey Porte, Ivan & Laurie Gasoi, Aron & Neri Tischler, Herb & Barbara Silber, Michael & Phyllis Moscovich, Susan Quastel, Fran Ritch, Bernie & Lisa Conn, Ida Weiner & Randy & Amie Weinstein, Vladimir & Anita Hopner, Morley & Fay Shafran, Art Hister & Phyllis Simon, Isaak & Bluma Tischler, Norman & Sandra Miller, Joseph & Rosalie Segal, Ken & Linda Glasner, Cathy & David Golden, Brian & Sheryl Ross, Louise & Ike Stein-Sorensen, Norman & Marlene Franks, Diane & Jack Altman, Odie & Sherie Kaplan, David & Grace Ehrlich, Sally & Sid Coleman, Arthur & Arlene Hayes, Babs & Ted Cohen, Sharon Harowitz & Bob Willmot, Rita & Marvin Weintraub, Susan Bluman, Sally Rogow, Ida Kaplan, Nicky & Les Raphael, Margaret Wellington, Tamara Frankel, Howard & Elayne Shapray, Birdie & Joe Wall, Johanna & Sid Levitt, Leonard, Brenda, Jonathan & Michael Wall, Karl & Sabina Choit, Jody & Harvey Dales, George & Frieda Wertman, Hymie & Fay Davis, Sheryl Davis-Kahn, Saul, Joshua & Rachel Kahn, Olga Schwartz, David & Gwen Tessler, Barrie, Ellen, David & Cathy Yackness, Marla & Peter Gropper, Jimmy & Miriam White, Norman Gladstone & Birgit Westergaard, Ruth & Cecil Sigal, Corinne, Phil & Stacey Yacht, Roberta Beiser & Allen Black, Arnold & Anita Silber, Michel & Fredericka Mielnicki, Arthur & Judy Dodek, Shirley &

Stanley Schwartz, Andre & Sheila Anzarut, Helene & Herb Rosen, Amalia Boe-Fishman, Beth, Leon, Jonathon & Darren Bogner, Bronia Sonnenschein & Dan Sonnenschein, Izzy Fraeme, Sylvia Eibschutz, Abe & Leyla Sacks, Felicia Folk & Alan Farber, Bob & Helen Coleman, Arnold Davis, Lucien & Carole Lieberman, Geri, Mel, Lisa, Ryan & Gabriel Davis, Howard & Sunni Stein, Mark & Jessica Steinberg, Lillian Boraks-Nemetz, Alvin & Gayle Rossman, Brett Diamond

Sandy, Mickie & Shawn Magid, Sympathy to all of you on the loss of your Mother & Grandmother. Ida Kaplan

Mrs. L. Moscovitz & Family, Deepest sympathy on the loss of your Mother. David & Grace Ehrlich

Ronald Nacht. Sincere condolences. Izzy Fraeme

Sharyn & Sol Pavony, In memory of your Father, Hirschel Hoenig. Janos & Noni Mate, Judith & Solaye Snider

Linda Rennert & Family, In memory of your Mother, Chana Grunfeld. Evelyn Toban, Jack & Margaret Fraeme & Family

Mrs. Henry Riese, Condolences on the loss of your husband. The VHEC Board & Staff

June Roberts, Condolences on the loss of your beloved Husband. Shoshana & Moshe Fidelman,

Helene Rosen & Family, Deepest sympathy on the passing of Herb Rosen. Susan Bluman, Ida Kaplan

Walter Schillinger, Condolences on the passing of your wife, Jean. Izzy Fraeme

Burt Smollan & Family, In memory of your wife, Judith. Gloria & Robbie Waisman, Izzy Fraeme, Abe & Goldie Miedzygorski, David & Grace Ehrlich, The Szajman Family

Mort Sonerga, In loving memory of Hilde. The Margolis, Mina & Simeone Family

Dr. Stanley & Joycelaine Sunshine, In memory of your beloved mother. Ben & Rita Akselrod, Izzy Fraeme & the Boys

Sam & Anna Tischler, Condolences on the passing of Clara Tischler. Sam & Sarah Mandelbaum, Harold & Bella Silverman, Leah Wiseman & Family, Jack & Henia Perel & Family

Mark & Eleanor Tischler, Condolences on the passing of Clara Tischler. Sam & Sarah Mandelbaum, Leah Wiseman & Family, Jack & Henia Perel & Family

Izzy Tischler, Our deepest sympathy on the passing of Clara Tischler. Robert & Marilyn Krell

Aron & Neri Tischler, In memory of Isaac Tischler. Dr. Perry & Emmy Maerov, Robert & Marilyn Krell, Ron & Barb Krell, Jack & Karen Micner, Hymie & Rome Fox & Family, Rosa & Elie Ferera, The Weintraubs, Jack & Karen Micner, Marilee Sigal & Avihu Nachmani

Fred Tischler & Family. We are sorry for your loss. Jessica, Brian, Josh & Elana Kimmel, Judy, Eric, Sarah & Holly Promislow

Dr. Bluma Tischler & Family, Deepest sympathy on the passing of Isaac Tischler. Norman & Marlene Franks, Ida Kaplan, Marilyn & Ed Gaerber, Evelyn Kahn, Michel & June Mielnicki, Susan Bluman, June Winfield, Ted & Babs Cohen, Robert & Marilyn Krell, Evelyn Jackson, Inge Manes, Sylvia Eibschutz, Maelor & Muriel Vallance, Sanford Cohen, Amy Borenstein, Jim Mortimer & Rebecca Graves, Bronia Sonnenschein & Dan Sonnenschein, Izzy Fraeme, Judith Growe, Nora, Lew, David & Rachelle Ferera-Pullmer, Ron & Barb Krell, Carole Narod, Mimi, Stephen, Thalia, Leah & Daniel Field, Sally Rogow, Gordon Slobin, Barbara Berger, Hymie & Fay Davis, Rosa & Elie Ferera, Gloria Levi, Harold & Patricia Laimon, Sarah Rozenberg-Warm, Susan & Joe Stein, Irvine Wolak

Annette Wasel & Family, Deepest sympathy on the passing of your beloved Mother & Grandmother. The Szajman Family

Sandie Yasin, In memory of Lucy Lacterman. Susan & Joe Stein

### THANK YOU

Lillian Boraks-Nemetz, In gratitude for your inspiring presentation. Thank you from Burnaby Mountain Secondary School

Alex Buckman, Thank you for your help at our Seniors Holocaust Survivor Seder. The VHEC Staff, Gerri London & Gloria Waisman

Alex Buckman, Thank you from Heritage Park Secondary School

Mariette Doduck, In appreciation for all the work you've done for the community. Lillian Boraks -Nemetz

Rabbi Charles Feinberg, Thank you for leading our Survivor Seder this year. The VHEC Staff, Gerri London, Gloria Waisman & the Survivor Drop-In Group

Katy Hughes, Thank you from Cambie Secondary School

Odie & Sherie Kaplan, Thank you for thinking of me. Ben & Rose Folk

Robert Krell, Thank you for the most incredible Master of Ceremonies ever heard in this town! Mariette & Sid Doduck & Family

Janos Maté, In appreciation for your work with our project for the Chutzpah 2004 Festival. Melissa Frakman & The Blue Riff Project

Janos Maté, In appreciation for your kindness of heart & generosity of time & spirit. Miri, Larry, Oren & Kayla Garaway

Janos Maté, Thank you for the beautiful video of mother's party. Edwin & Betsy Menkes

Karen Micner, Thank you so much for all your help at our Seniors Holocaust Survivor Seder. The VHEC Staff, Gerri London, Gloria Waisman & The Survivor Drop-in Group

Peter Parker, Thank you from John Errington Elementary School, Keith Lynn Alternate School, Rockridge Secondary School

Andy Rosengarten, Thank for all your help at our Seniors Holocaust Survivor Seder. The VHEC Staff, Gerri London, Gloria Waisman & The Survivor Drop-In Group

Andy Rosengarten, Thank you for all your help at the *Unlikely Heroes* Film Screening. The VHEC Board & Staff

Rayne Todd, With appreciation. Melenie, Eric & Lenny Fliescher-Wilson

Robbie Waisman, Thank you from Aldergrove Community Secondary School



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