



FALL 2009

ZACHOR | Remember

VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Jody Dales

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Ed Lewin

2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Philip Levinson

ACTING TREASURER

Robbie Waisman

SECRETARY

Marla Guralnick

PAST PRESIDENT

Rita Akselrod

DIRECTORS

Beth Bogner

Barbara Buchanan

Alex Buckman

Rob Crystal

Mariette Doduck

Rochelle Golumbia

Alissa Horii

Ethel Kofsky

Robert Krell

Lucien Lieberman

Jack Micner

Stan Taviss

Wendi Vaisler

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Lorne Cristall

Jill Diamond

Arthur Dodek

John Fraser

Kitty Heller

Art Hister

Mobina Jaffer

Hodie Kahn

Rick Kool

Grace McCarthy

Bernie Simpson

Judy Thau

Yosef Wosk

VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE

*proudly announces the opening of its
timely new exhibit*

MORE THAN JUST GAMES

Canada & the 1936 Olympics

7:30 PM | OCTOBER 15, 2009

SEE BACK COVER FOR DETAILS

SPECIAL SUNDAY OPENINGS
OCTOBER 18, NOVEMBER 15 &
DECEMBER 13 / 1 PM – 4 PM
NOVEMBER 22 / 3 PM – 5 PM

ADMISSION BY DONATION

Generously supported by: Diamond Family Endowment Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation, Faigen Charitable Foundation, Jewish Community Foundation, Lohn Foundation, Lutsky Family Foundation, Edward & Emily McWhinney Foundation, Oasis Foundation, Pekarsky Family Foundation, Al Roadburg Foundation, Vancouver Foundation, Wertman Development Corporation, Zacks Family Foundation, Chaim Zbar Foundation

vancouver
foundation

JEWISH COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
of GREATER VANCOUVER

Community Partners

Jewish Community Centre
OF GREATER VANCOUVER

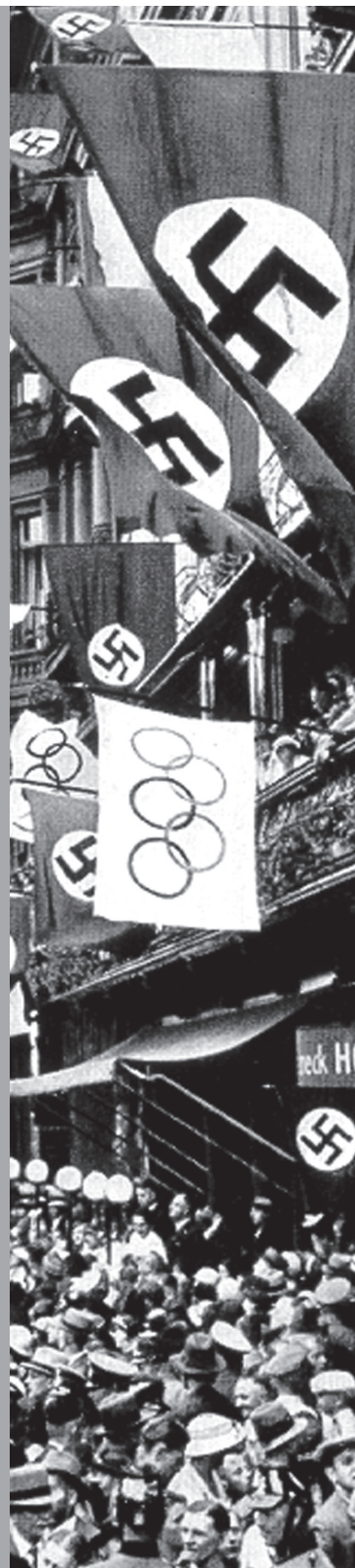
GREEN
COLLEGE/UBC Green Visiting Professorships
Program at UBC

Media Partners

7FM
7th Floor Media

THE VANCOUVER
courier

Right: A Berlin street during the 1936 Summer Olympics.
Carl and Liselott Diem Archive



ZACHOR | Remember

VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE

Editor: Frieda Miller

Design: Kazuko Kusumoto

Editor No Longer Alone: Lillian Boraks Nemetz

Copy Editing: Rome Fox & Andrea Tuele



Printed with the financial assistance
of the Province of British Columbia

COVER: The torch relay, an iconic ritual of the modern Olympics, was inaugurated at the 1936 Olympics. A lone runner arrived bearing a torch carried by relay from the site of the ancient Games in Olympia, Greece. Bundesarchiv, Bild 146 - 1976 - 116 - 08A

A FORGOTTEN CONTROVERSY

Canada at the 1936 German Olympics

BY RICHARD MENKIS & HAROLD TROPER



Adolf Hitler and Joseph Goebbels sign autographs for members of the Canadian figure skating team at the 1936 Winter Olympics. USHMM, courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration, College Park

The upcoming Vancouver Winter Olympics has given the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre a unique opportunity to engage the public in discussion of an earlier Olympics, the 1936 Olympics— the last time the winter and summer games were both held in a single country. But it was not this pairing of the games that caused one historian, in a masterstroke of understatement, to title the 1936 Games the ‘Controversial Olympics’. These Games were controversial because the International Olympic Committee and the international community stood by as the Nazis deliberately corrupted the Olympic ideal, excluding minorities from German sports, thereby turning the Games into a racist spectacle.

What of Canadian participation in the Games? It too was controversial but, until now, largely unknown. No surprise, there are many books written about the 1936 Olympics. Almost without exception most focus on either the German or American experience. Canada is rarely mentioned. To their credit, two Canadian scholars, Bruce Kidd and Danny Rosenberg, have written pioneering articles exploring important aspects of Canada’s 1936 Olympic

participation. But with the opening of *More Than Just Games: Canada and the 1936 Olympics* the larger story is finally told. The institutional, social and political priorities of the Canadian Olympic Committee and individual athletes, the role of government, the media, and larger Canadian civil society are all part of this story. So too are the events of the games themselves – and not just the athletic competitors but the story of Canada and Canadians as actors in a carefully-choreographed Nazi event.



Truth be told, the story of Canadian participation in the 1936 Olympics was unknown to the two of us when we first agreed to work with the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre in researching and writing a text for the proposed exhibit. We had a steep learning curve; but, in the end, we not only learned much about Canadian participation in the 1936 Olympics, we also learned much about Canada. Our research took us into numerous archival collections in Canada and abroad and introduced us to caring custodians of 1936 Olympics memorabilia and memory. A few stand out. We met former Chief Political Correspondent for the CBC, David Halton, in our pursuit of information on his father Matthew, who had a painfully clear view of what was happening behind the façade of Nazi hospitality before and during the Olympics. There was Warren Meretsky, whose father as a young man was a member of Canada's only Olympic medal-winning basketball team, and one of the few Canadian Jews on the 1936 Olympic team. In addition to photographs of his father, Warren Meretsky also graciously provided us with details of his father's clandestine meetings with several Jewish families in Berlin. We are equally grateful to the Ontario Jewish Archives for sharing with us the recently-acquired family album of a Jew who escaped Berlin just before the war. The album contains his photos of Berlin decked out for the Olympics. These never-before seen images are included in the Centre's exhibit.

All the photos, documents, film clips and memoirs we collected have helped us to reconstruct the story of Canada's participation in the 1936 Olympics and afford an intriguing glimpse of Canada and Canadians at a time the Nazis were solidifying their power, erecting an infrastructure of racial hate and plotting war. And what are the key elements of the Canadian story? We found Canadian Olympic officials, like Olympic officials around the world, gearing up for the 1936 games in Germany even as other Canadians protested that Germany hosting the Olympics was an abomination. Incensed at Nazi antisemitism, the organized Jewish community attempted to convince the Canadian Olympic Committee to boycott the Olympics. So too did the Canadian Left. Enraged by Nazi decimation of the German labor union movement, leftist political parties and the imprisonment and murder of prominent German leftists, the Left also decried Canadian participation in the 'Nazi Olympics'. There were also efforts to convince individual athletes to refuse to participate.

But, like Don Quixote tilting at windmills, the Canadian boycott campaign was doomed from the start. In retrospect, we conclude, the boycott campaign never had any hope of success. Why? Not because the Nazi's increasingly aggressiveness, militarism and racism were unknown to those who governed amateur sport in Canada. Coverage of Nazi racist policies in

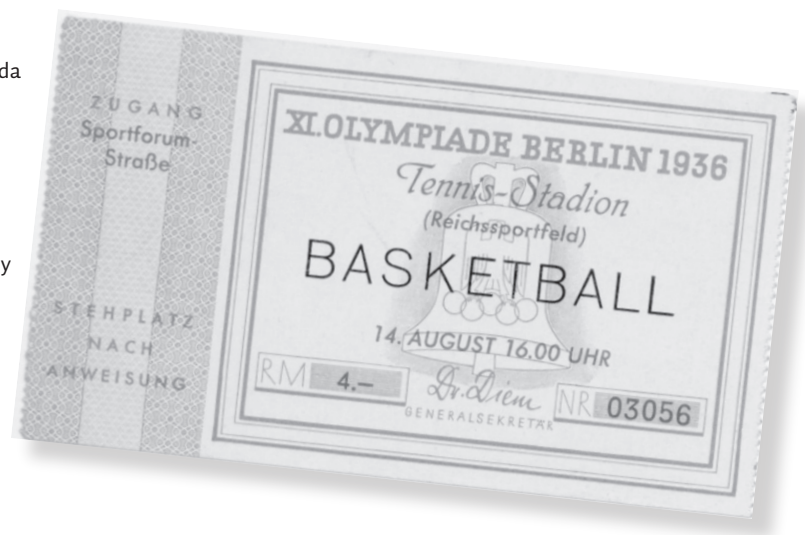
Canada's largest daily newspaper, the *Toronto Daily Star*, was particularly scathing. And not because there was widespread faith in Nazi pledges to keep the Olympics free of racism and antisemitism. An editorial cartoon in the *Montreal Gazette* showed Hitler watching diplomats signing an agreement. One is saying to Hitler, "Please wait to tear it up. We haven't all signed it yet." None of this seemed to matter to the Canadian Olympic Committee that gave assent to Canada's participation in the 1936 Olympics in November 1935, in the very shadow of the Nuremberg Laws.

So, why did the boycott campaign fail? To answer this question, we sought to fathom the mindset of the Canadian Olympic Committee and other supporters of Canada's participation in the 1936 Olympics. We especially consider the status differential between Olympic stalwarts (frequently called in the Sports pages "the Old Boys") and those who called for a boycott of the Nazi Olympics. We also compared Canadian boycott efforts with those in the United States, where a similar boycott campaign came within a hair's breadth of success. In the end, as *More Than Just Games: Canada and the 1936 Olympics* makes clear, there is no avoiding the conclusion that Canadian pro-Olympic interests were set on attending the Games and nothing, certainly not protestations from Canadian Jews or the Canadian political Left – often lumped together as one and the same – were going to keep Canadian athletes from competing in Germany. And they didn't.

The failure of the boycott campaign is a watershed moment in the Canadian Olympic story, but it is far from the end of the story. While this failure is revealing of Canadian attitudes of the day, so too is the story of Canada at the Olympics. In exploring Canadian preparations at the games, *More Than Just Games: Canada and the 1936 Olympics* highlights the experiences of individual Canadian athletes and officials who attended the Games as well as those few Olympic-quality athletes who supported the boycott and refused to attend. One of the athletes who boycotted the 1936 games was Canada's 1932 Olympic bronze medal high jump champion, Eva Dawes. We located Eva Dawes age 96 living in a nursing home in England. Sadly, as we made arrangements to interview her, Eva Dawes passed away. But Eva Dawes' story is included in *More Than Just Games: Canada and the 1936 Olympics*, and we are also proud that we alerted the *Globe and Mail* to her passing, and a full-page obituary appeared as a result. We also see the story of how Canadian athletes and officials were welcomed by and interacted with their Nazi hosts. And finally the exhibit considers how Canada's presence at the Olympics served not just Germany's propaganda interests but Canada's hope of cranking up bilateral trade between Canada and Germany in a period of severe economic crisis. And finally the exhibit asks about the impact of the 1936 Olympics. What does Canadian participation in the Nazi Olympics say about Canada of the day and about the Olympic tradition? Was the 1936 Olympics in Germany a triumph of Nazi propaganda or a triumph for American track and field athlete Jessie Owen in puncturing the Nazi racial myth? It is for those who view *More Than Just Games: Canada and the 1936 Olympics* to decide.

Right: A ticket to the Men's Final basketball game between Canada and the United States at the 1936 Olympics, 1936.
Naismith Museum and Hall of Fame

Left: The Canadian Olympic hockey team in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, 1936. Controversy followed the Canadian hockey team from beginning to end. The Port Arthur Bearcats became the Canadian representatives only because the team with the best amateur record, the Halifax Wolverines, was disbanded.
Olympia 1936, a collectible cigarette-card album



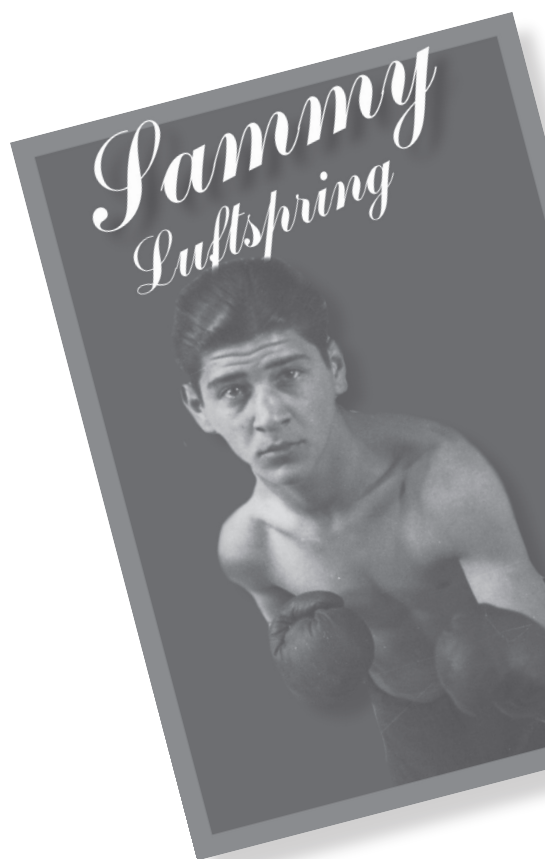
Richard Menkis and Harold Troper researched and wrote *MORE THAN JUST GAMES* and will be the featured speakers, along with David Halton, at the exhibit opening at 7:30pm, Thursday, October 15, 2009.

For reservations contact 604-264-0499 / info@vhcc.org

ENGAGING STUDENT VISITORS

For students and teachers, the 2010 Vancouver Olympic and Paralympic Games represent a significant 'teachable moment'. Thousands of students are expected to participate in the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre's interactive school program *More Than Just Games: Canada & the 1936 Olympics*.

The experiences and decisions of individual athletes as told in *More Than Just Games* offer compelling entry points for student visitors. The athletes -- some Canadian Jews, some German-Jewish, others African-Canadian -- navigated complex, often competing, concerns to decide whether or not to participate in the Olympic Games hosted by Nazi Germany.



NAME: SAMMY LUFTSPRING

DATE & PLACE OF BIRTH: MAY 14, 1916 | TORONTO, CANADA

SPORT: BOXING

Born into a working class family in the heart of Toronto's immigrant Jewish neighbourhood, Sammy Luftspring aspired to a boxing career after seeing a match at the age of 9.

Between 1932 and 1936, Luftspring fought 105 matches with only five losses. He won many tournaments, including the Ontario amateur lightweight boxing championship in 1933, at the age of 17.

For years, Luftspring dreamed of competing at the pinnacle of amateur boxing - the Olympics. Luftspring and fellow boxer Norman "Baby" Yack planned to compete in the 1936 Olympic trials in Montreal, and go to Berlin if they made the team.

However, Luftspring's parents and the Jewish community tried to convince him that participating in Hitler's Games would be an endorsement of Nazi racist policies.

Did Sammy Luftspring fulfil his lifelong ambition of boxing at the Olympics or heed the appeals of his family and community and boycott the Games?

TO FIND OUT VISIT

MORE THAN JUST GAMES: CANADA & THE 1936 OLYMPICS



VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE
www.vhec.org

Sammy Luftspring. *Canada's Sports Hall of Fame*



NAME: HELENE MAYER

DATE & PLACE OF BIRTH: DECEMBER 20, 1910 | OFFENBACH, GERMANY

SPORT: FENCING

Helene Mayer dedicated herself to fencing at a young age. By the age of 14, she placed second in foil fencing at the 1924 German championships. From 1925 to 1930 she was the German national champion. By 1936, Mayer had won competitions worldwide, including the gold medal in the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics.

Mayer placed a disappointing fifth in the 1932 Los Angeles Games and remained in California to attend university. After the Nazis' rise to power in 1933, Mayer was expelled from the Offenbach Fencing Club and from the German Fencing Association because her father was Jewish.

However, in 1935 Mayer received a formal invitation to return to Germany and fence on the 1936 German Olympic team. She won the silver medal in the women's foil and gave the Nazi salute on the awards podium. Since Helene Mayer was famous, "Aryan-looking," and only "half-Jewish," Hitler used her as a symbol of inclusiveness.

Did Helene Mayer compete for Nazi Germany because of her love of Germany or out of fear for her family?

TO FIND OUT VISIT

MORE THAN JUST GAMES: CANADA & THE 1936 OLYMPICS

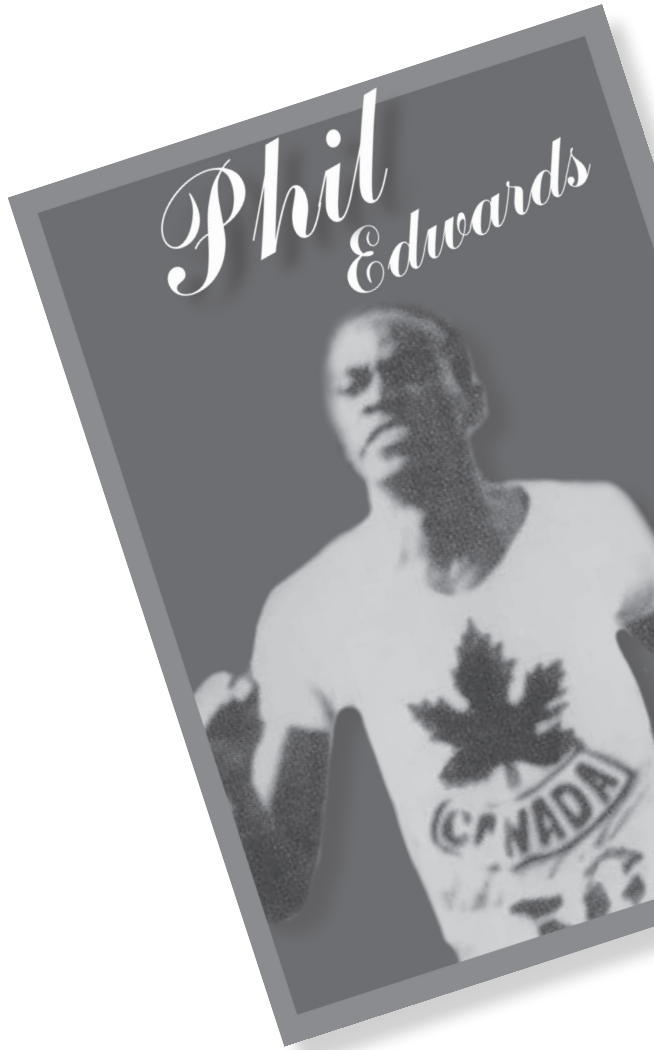


VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE
www.vhec.org

Helene Mayer. USHMM, courtesy of Dr. George Eisen

For VHEC Education Director Nina Krieger, the process of engaging student visitors begins even before classes arrive at the Centre. To pique student interest in the athletes' stories, collectible sports cards have been designed and will be available on the VHEC website (vhec.org) as part of the pre-visit teaching materials. Students will arrive at the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre with sports cards of 1936 Olympic athletes that they will learn more about during the the course of their visit. Capturing students' imaginations in this way will motivate them to consider the dilemmas faced by these athletes and their fates.

Page 8: Phil Edwards. *Canada's Sports Hall of Fame*, Irving "Toots" Meretsky. Collection of Warren Meretsky, Gretel Bergmann. USHMM, courtesy of Margaret (Gretel Bergman) Lambert, Rudi Ball. *Swedish Ice Hockey Historical and Statistical Society*, Eva Dawes. *Canada's Sports Hall of Fame*, Johann Trollmann. *Dokumentations- und Kulturzentrum Deutscher Sinti und Roma*



NAME: PHIL EDWARDS

DATE & PLACE OF BIRTH: SEPTEMBER 13, 1907
GEORGETOWN, BRITISH GUIANA

SPORT: RUNNING

Phil Edwards won five Olympic Bronze medals for Canada at three Olympiads, including the bronze medal in the 800-metre race at the Berlin Games, for which he earned the title “man of bronze.”

Born into an upper-class family in British Guiana, Edwards moved to the US in 1926 to attend New York University where he broke college records. Because he was not an American, Edwards could not race for the United States at the 1928 Olympics.

He was invited to compete for Canada and attended McGill University, where he graduated from the medical school just before competing in the 1936 Olympics.

There was controversy in the Black community about participation in the “Nazi Olympics,” but many saw the 1936 Games as an opportunity for athletes of African descent to disprove Nazi racist doctrines.

What did the Canadian Summer Olympic Team do when their hotel in London, England refused to accept Phil Edwards as a guest?

TO FIND OUT VISIT

MORE THAN JUST GAMES: CANADA & THE 1936 OLYMPICS



VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE
www.vhec.org



SPORTS & RECLAIMING IDENTITY

An interview with Leslie Spiro

BY TALIA MASTAI

In Bergen-Belsen, a Displaced Person's camp in the British-occupied zone of Germany, Holocaust survivors found an unlikely way to bond — soccer. Hungarian-born Leslie Spiro survived Auschwitz, but lost everything. At a time of uncertainty, something as simple as a friendly soccer game buoyed his spirits.

"Sport was a very important thing in people's lives. We gave up a lot of things to play. We were always very anxious to play soccer. It brought us together. We had nobody. We lost our families. The teams became very close and we became good friends. Playing soccer bound us together."

Leslie grew up in Mates[z]alka, Hungary. His father, a banker, made a comfortable income that allowed them to attend and support sporting events, particularly soccer. "Soccer in Hungary was the most popular game," explains Leslie, "like hockey here in Canada." His father was so involved in Hungarian sports; he even attended the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin.

As a child attending an all-Jewish school, the world's problems seemed far away from the soccer pitch. "I was just a young kid, we didn't know about politics and what was going on at the time, and I was too young to know."

But, the outside world intruded. Playing against non-Jewish teams, the games often became aggressive and fights broke out. When referees made punitive calls against Leslie's team, he could not escape the feeling that antisemitism was at play.

"Discrimination happened in sports, just as it did in every other part of life. I remember one day in elementary school, we were playing soccer- it was not an official game, just kicking the ball around – when some Gentile boys came and threw bricks at us and called us names."

The Nazis occupied Hungary in the spring of 1944. Hungarian Jews were forced into ghettos and concentration camps. Leslie was transported to Auschwitz. After liberation, he remained in Bergen-Belsen a concentration camp that grew into a city of displaced people.

A soccer league was organized and soccer matches became important events for survivors from all over Europe. Soccer games were taken very seriously and teams were highly competitive. The best team would compete against other DP camps in the British and American zones. Many players dreamed of becoming famous sportsmen. Some went on to play professionally for the Israeli national team. Leslie recalls: "Soccer was easy. It did not involve a lot of equipment. All you needed was a ball and a pair of shorts. Our team name was *Maccabi*. Teams had meaningful Jewish names. We were trying to establish a Jewish identity for ourselves."

League players had identification cards for the Bergen-Belsen DP Camp Association of Sports Clubs. Playing the right-wing position as a member of the club, Leslie has treasured and preserved his DP sports card all these years as a tangible reminder of those times.

In 1948, the Canadian government announced that they would allow 1,000 Jewish orphans under the age of 18 into Canada but very few children of this age survived the war. Leslie was 21 at the time, working at the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's immigration department. He changed his birth-date and made it onto the last transport to Canada.



Above: Sports Membership. Belonging to Leslie Spiro. Bergen-Belsen DP Camp
Germany, 1946/47

Soccer was a new sport when Leslie arrived in Montreal. A number of young people who emigrated from Europe organized soccer teams. “I worked all week and on the weekends would go and watch the Jewish kids play in Fletcher’s field.” Around the world, beloved sports like soccer, have an uncommon power to bring people together, regardless of circumstance. Whether in the spotlight of the Olympic Games or the desperation of a post-war DP camp, something as simple as a ball passed across a field can create a lasting sense of identity and community.

ANTISEMITISM & THE HOLOCAUST

What remains to be learned?

BY JUDY OBERLANDER

During the night of November 9-10, 1938, 71 years ago, the Jewish world was irrevocably shaken by the events of Kristallnacht, the “Night of Broken Glass” when the Nazis targeted the destruction of Jewish shops and businesses in Germany and Austria. Each year we pause to reflect on this turning point in our history during our community’s annual Kristallnacht commemorative lecture to consider different aspects of how Kristallnacht impacted the world.

Our keynote speaker this year is Professor Doris Bergen, the Chancellor Rose and Ray Wolfe Chair in Holocaust Studies in the Department of History at the University of Toronto. She will address the topic, “Antisemitism and the Holocaust: What Remains to be Learned?”

This commemorative lecture will be held at Beth Israel Synagogue on November 8, 2009 beginning at 7:30 pm. It will be presented by the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre in partnership with Congregation Beth Israel.

In her own words, Professor Bergen’s talk will analyse, “the vicious cycle by which antisemitism fuelled persecution and

violence and in turn intensified and spread in the brutalization of the Holocaust. The simple equation -- extreme hatred produces extreme violence -- cannot explain the scale and intensity of the Shoah. In Nazi Germany after 1933, antisemitism was more than a set of evil ideas: it was official government policy."

Antisemitism was institutionalized, enshrined in law, and consequently it became part of society that went far beyond individual attitudes toward Jews and Judaism. The Second World War furthered antisemitism and brought Nazi hatred together with local dynamics around greed, desperation, and opportunism in German-occupied Europe.

As Professor Bergen has observed, "even after the war ended, antisemitism fed on the bad consciences of non-Jews who used it to rationalize past violence and justify retention of stolen property. Examining the complex role of antisemitism -- as both a cause and a result of violence -- indicates that much remains to be learned about the Holocaust and the "longest hatred."

Professor Bergen is a prolific author of books including *War & Genocide: A Concise History of the Holocaust*, (Rowman & Littlefield, 2003); *Twisted Cross: The German Christian Movement in the Third Reich*, (North Carolina, 1996); *The Sword of the Lord: Military Chaplains from the First to the Twenty-First Centuries* (edited, 2004); and *Lessons and Legacies VIII* (edited, 2008) and numerous articles on Christian antisemitism, military chaplains, and issues related to gender and ethnicity in the Second World War.

Currently, she is writing a book on German military chaplains in the Nazi era and a study of definitions of Germanness as revealed in the Volksdeutschen/ethnic Germans of Eastern Europe during the Second World War and the Holocaust.

She is a member of the Academic Advisory Board of the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

Professor Bergen received her Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill following her MA from the University of Alberta and her BA from the University of Saskatchewan. She has been a fellow of the Kroc Institute at University of Notre Dame since 1999 and in 2007 was named Full Professor at University of Toronto.

As a specialist in 20th century German history, especially the Nazi era and the Holocaust, it is most fitting that she will visit Vancouver to address the topic of, "Antisemitism and the Holocaust: What Remains to be Learned?" Indeed, there is an immense amount for our community to learn from this engaging scholar who will share her research with us as we mark Kristallnacht and remember the events of that fateful night 71 years ago.



Photo by David Epp

KRISTALLNACHT COMMEMORATIVE LECTURE

7:30 pm | Sunday, November 8, 2009

Beth Israel Synagogue, 4350 Oak Street

ANTISEMITISM AND THE HOLOCAUST: WHAT REMAINS TO BE LEARNED?

DR. DORIS BERGEN

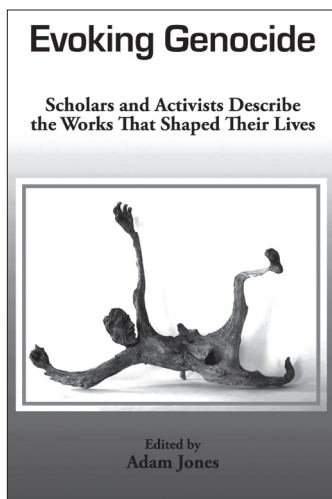
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Candle-lighting ceremony in memory of the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust.



JEWISH FEDERATION
GREATER VANCOUVER

Upcoming Events



Cherie Smith Jewish Book Festival
3:30 pm | Sunday, November 22, 2009
 Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre

EVOKING GENOCIDE:
 Scholars and Activists Describe the Works
 That Shaped Their Lives

**READINGS BY EDITOR ADAM JONES &
 CONTRIBUTING AUTHOR NINA KRIEGER**

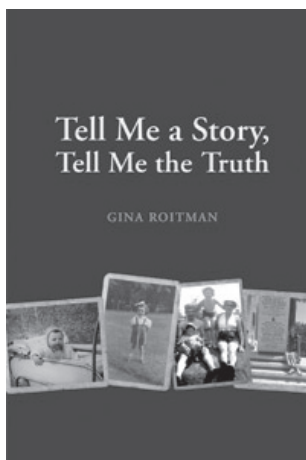
Evoking Genocide compiles more than sixty short essays written by leading scholars and activists in the field of genocide studies. Edited by Adam Jones, recently selected as one of fifty key thinkers in Holocaust and genocide studies, *Evoking Genocide* makes an important contribution to the study of the art and culture of mass atrocity.

Sponsored by the Lövi Memorial Endowment Fund of the VHEC



CHERIE SMITH JCCGV
**JEWISH
 BOOK FESTIVAL**
 שבוע הספר

Jewish
 Community Centre of
 Greater Vancouver
 550 West 41st Avenue
 Vancouver | T: 604.257.5111
 www.jccgv.com



Cherie Smith Jewish Book Festival
6:30 pm | Tuesday, November 24, 2009
 Dayson Board Room, JCC

TELL ME A STORY, TELL ME THE TRUTH
 AUTHOR READING BY GINA ROITMAN

In *Tell Me a Story, Tell Me the Truth*, author Gina Roitman has captured her own experience as the daughter of Holocaust survivors in the character of Leah Smilovitz, who lives in a world trapped between two solitudes. An outsider, she belongs neither to her parents' painful generation nor to her own, freshly minted in the freedoms and contradictions of Montréal in the 1950s and 60s.

Sponsored by the Lövi Memorial Endowment Fund of the VHEC



CHERIE SMITH JCCGV
**JEWISH
 BOOK FESTIVAL**
 שבוע הספר

Jewish
 Community Centre of
 Greater Vancouver
 550 West 41st Avenue
 Vancouver | T: 604.257.5111
 www.jccgv.com



Vancouver Jewish Film Festival
5:30 pm | Tuesday, November 10, 2009
 The Ridge Theatre, 3131 Arbutus Street

MENDELSSOHN, THE NAZIS AND ME

Uncovering the story of Felix Mendelssohn's complex religious identity made sense of her own childhood, says Sheila Hayman, the composer's great, great, great, great-niece. Mendelssohn struggled to reconcile his religious loyalties – born a Jew, he held strong Christian beliefs. Hayman found a way of telling the story through the music itself.

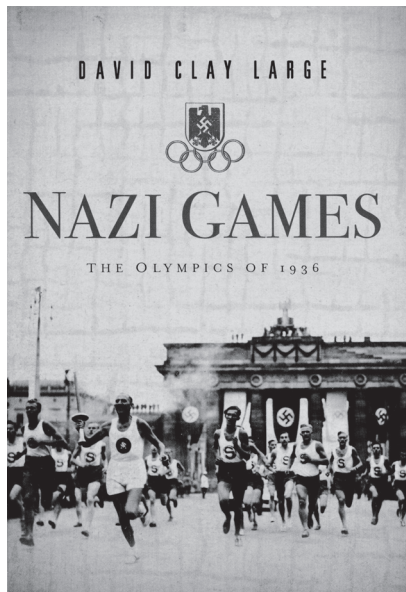
FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TICKETS:
 WWW.VJFF.ORG / 604.266.0245



NAZI GAMES THE OLYMPICS OF 1936

By David Clay Large

REVIEW BY LUCIEN LIEBERMAN



David Clay Large, has combed the archives of the International Olympic Committee, the American and the German Olympic Committees and written a comprehensive history of the 1936 Nazi Olympics. The book focuses on the American participation and reaction to the events leading up to and including the Games, pointing out that the 1936 Nazi games were about politics, racism and sports competition in equal measure.

Germany was awarded both the Winter and Summer Olympics in 1932. Initially, Hitler stated the Olympic movement smacked of the League of Nations, the Versailles Treaty and democratic notions. The Nazis felt that sports activities for German youth should be allied with military training and the promotion of aggressive behavior. Propaganda minister, Joseph Goebbels, persuaded the Nazis that the 1936 Games could be used to portray Germany in a heroic light.

The Nazi's disenfranchised German Jews from all facets of German life including sport. Reaction from abroad was swift, especially from

the United States, which applied trade sanctions against Germany. A proposed boycott of the German Games was spearheaded by American trade unions, Jewish political figures centred in New York and several members of the AOC. The fight against the boycott was led by Avery Brundage, president of the AOC, who used harsh tactics to intimidate the opposition and suggested that Jews who represented 5% of the American public would be held responsible for the boycott. The boycott was defeated by a very narrow margin.

Much has been written about Hitler's influence on the Games. The German propaganda machine focused on his attendance at events and the influence his attendance had on German performance. All personal German victories were attributed to Hitler and his visionary programs.

The Berlin Games were considered the largest and most successful Olympics to date. Advances in live radio presentation enabled 300 million listeners to follow the competitions. Live television of the Games, although very primitive, was the first demonstration of its kind. However, the press was closely watched for negative reporting and foreign journalists who were critical of the regime were not accredited to the Games.

The 1936 Games were also remembered as the games in which Jesse Owens triumphed, yet Owens returned to an indifferent American public. It would be decades before African-American athletes could promote their amateur successes into professional sport careers as their fellow white athletes could.

In his epilogue, Large, discusses the legacy of the 1936 Olympics, the proposed boycott and boycotts of later Games. He concludes that history could have been altered somewhat by an effective boycott but that politics always trumps sports.

Upcoming Event



Korczak Association of Canada

7 pm | Sunday, October 18, 2009

Dayson Board Room, JCC

LOST & FOUND: An Evening With Lillian Boraks-Nemetz

Discussion & refreshments to follow. Everyone welcome.

TRIBUTE CARDS

JULY 1, 2009 – SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

SHANA TOVA

Jody Dales & VHEC Board & Staff,
Happy New Year. Izzy Fraeme &
Leonor Etkin

Shirarose Wilensky, Shana Tova!
Patricia Wilensky

Dr. Marshall Wilensky, Shana Tova!
Patricia Wilensky

Marv & Dianne Westwood, Shana
Tova! Patricia Wilensky

Lorne Prupas, Shana Tova! Patricia
Wilensky

Mel Kaushansky & Carol Heaney,
Shana Tova! Patricia Wilensky

Hinde Avery, Shana Tova! Patricia
Wilensky

Beryl & Noam Chernick, Shana Tova!
Patricia Wilensky

Dr. Karen Gelmon & Peter Busby,
Shana Tova! Patricia Wilensky

Alan & Judi Wilensky, Shana Tova!
Patricia Wilensky

Marcia Jacobs, Shana Tova! Patricia
Wilensky

Michael Levy, Shana Tova! Patricia
Wilensky

Jeremy & Sherry Rappoport, Shana
Tova! Patricia Wilensky

GET WELL

Irving Goldenberg, Speedy recovery.
Irene & Morton Dodek

Leslie Spiro, Good health from now
on. Stanley & Joycelaine Sunshine

Ida Kaplan, Wishing you an easy
and speedy recovery, Gerri & Mark
London

Peter Lutsky, Speedy recovery. Anita
Shafran & Family

Michelle Sandler, Speedy recovery.
Anita Shafran & Family

MAZEL TOV

Amalia Boe-Fishman, Happy special
birthday! Ronald & Roni Wosk,
Gloria Waisman & Gerri London, Izzy
Fraeme & Leonor Etkin

David Zacks, Happy 60th Birthday!
Beth & Leon Bogner

Hodie Kahn, In honour of you on
your special birthday! Cathy & David
Golden, Uncle Ben & Auntie Rita
Akselrod, Anita Shafran

Hymie & Rome Fox, On your special
anniversary! Sandy Shuler, Doug &
the Kids

Miryam Filosof, Happy 65th
Birthday. Katie Freilich, Stan &
Reena Taviss.

Stan & Reena Taviss, Mazel tov
on Stan's birthday and a Happy &
healthy New Year 5770! Elaine &
Emil Campbell

SYMPATHY

Andrei Brucar, Ruth & Family,
On the passing of your Mother &
Grandmother. Les Karen Cohen &
Family

Anneke Rees & Family, In memory
of your mother, Helene Julia Mair.
Sharon Harowitz

Bea Goldberg, In memory of David
Panar. Lana & Mendy Landa, Birgit
Westergaard & Norman Gladstone,
Jocy Lowy

Benny & Patsy Landa & Family,
In memory of your brother, Saul.
Mendy & Lana, Nadine, Allan, Sam
& Eli Landa

Cecil Sigal, In memory of Ruth Sigal.
Stanley & Joycelaine Sunshine

Izak Folk, In memory of Lili Folk.
Stanley & Joycelaine Sunshine

Dr Bluma Tischler, Aron, Fred
& Families, On the loss of your
sister & aunt, Yochevet. Mark,
Jacob, Talya & Nirit Rozenberg,
Rosa Ferera, Nora Ferera, Lew
Pullmer & Family

Michael & Kristina Berman, In
memory of Bertha. Evelyn Kahn
& Family, Hymie & Rome Fox &
Family

Garry Feinstadt, On the loss
of your father, Chaim. Ruth &
Bud Wolochow, Hymie & Rome
Fox & Family, Robert & Marilyn
Krell & Family, Debbie & Eddie
Rozenberg & Family, Helen
Nadel, Tevy, Frani & Daniella
Goodman

Eve Sonner, On the passing
of your father, Eric. The
Oberlanders, The Guttman
Family, Bronia Sonnenschein,
Dan Sonnenschein, Ruth Stewart
& David Hsu, Robert & Marilyn
Krell

Debby Sonner, On the passing
of your father, Eric. The
Oberlanders, The Guttman
Family, Bronia Sonnenschein,
Ruth Stewart & David Hsu, Dan
Sonnenschein, Robert & Marilyn
Krell

Nora Stevenson, On the passing of your father & grandfather, Eric. The Oberlanders, Bronia Sonnenschein, Ruth Stewart & David Hsu, Dan Sonnenschein, Robert & Marilyn Krell, Dan & Trudy Pekarsky, Raymond Schachter

Harriet Simon, In memory of your husband, Herbert. Ruth Stewart & David Hsu

Harold Silverman & Family, On the loss of your wife, mother & grandmother, Bella. Robert & Marilyn Krell & Family, Jack, & Henia Perel & Families, The Szajman Family, Goldie & Abe Miedzygorski & Family & Sally & Sid Coleman

Richard & Gail Wenner & Family, In memory of your parents, Bob & Lil. Debbie, Eddie, Mira, Naomi & Aliya Rozenberg, Hymie & Rome Fox & Family, Mark, Jacob, Talya & Nirit Rozenberg

Ted Wenner & Zoe Wise, In memory of your parents, Bob & Lil. Debbie, Eddie, Mira, Naomi & Aliya Rozenberg, Mark, Jacob, Talya & Nirit Rozenberg

Goldberg, Wortsman & Tischler Families, On your recent loss. Helen Nadel, Tevy, Frani & Daniella Goodman

Henry Mink & Family, In memory of Julius Mink. Micha Menczer

Howard Leonard, Condolences on your Mother's passing. Mark Rozenberg

Jay Lerer & Family, In memory of your Father. Vera & Bernard Rozen

Margie Pearlman & Families, Sorry for the loss of your sister, Dorothy. Jocy Lowy & Bunny

Susan Hector, In memory of David. Lana & Mendy Landa, Auntie Jocy Lowy, Gloria & Robbie Waisman, Les & Karen Cohen, Anita Shafran & Family

Marie Doduck & Families, In memory of Sheryl. Jocy Lowy, Anita Shafran & Family

Mark & Sylvie Epstein, In honour of Mary Epstein. Susie & Chaim Micner

Philip & Gladys Adilman, On the loss of your mother, Pearl. Birgit Westergaard & Norman Gladstone

Rabbi & Mrs. Friedman, In memory of Rabbi Friedman's Grandmother. Debbie & Ed Rozenberg & Family

Irene & Bernard Glanz, In memory of Irene's mother, Asme Silver. Debbie & Ed Rozenberg & Family

Ray & Grace McCarthy, In memory of your son, Calvin. Ben & Rita Akselrod

Roland Bishop, In memory of your sister, Cynthia. Judy, Neil, Dory, and Megan Kornfeld

Candace & Stan Wilder & Family, In memory of your Mother & Grandmother. Judy, Neil, Dory, and Megan Kornfeld

Ron & Bev Imerman, In memory of Bev's father, Sam. Debbie & Eddie Rozenberg & Family

Ruth Melamed, In memory of Sam. Debbie & Eddie Rozenberg & Family

Sonya Grunberg, Condolences on the passing of Herman. David Feldman & Family

Paul Daltrop, Kathy Jones & Family, On the passing of your Mother & Grandmother. Mark, Jacob, Talya & Nirit Rozenberg

THANK YOU

Mariane Tatar, Thank you. Naomi Adler

Mike Mackenzie, Stanley Theatre, For your kindness with our Survivor Group. Gloria, Gerri & Survivor Drop-in & The VHEC Staff

The VHEC Board & Staff, For making me feel so welcome. Amalia Boe-Fishman

A SINCERE THANK YOU

TO VHEC VOLUNTEERS

OUTREACH SURVIVOR SPEAKERS:

Janos Benisz, Lillian Boraks Nemetz, Alex Buckman, Marion Cassirer, Mariette Doduck, David Ehrlich, Serge Haber, Katy Hughes, Chaim Kornfeld, Robert Krell, Inge Manes, Bente Nathan Thomsen, Peter Parker, Claude Romney, Louise Sorensen, Peter Suedfeld, Robbie Waisman; Coordinator: Rita Akselrod

SPECIAL PROJECTS & MAILING:

David Andrews, Amalia Boe Fishman, Esther Brandt, Alex Buckman, Rebecca Dales, Aaron Friedland, Eli Friedland, Phillipa Friedland, Shirley Kushner, Gerri London, Talia Mastai, Sharon Meen, Debbie Rozenberg, Bryn Shaffer, Stan Taviss, Gloria Waisman

OUR APOLOGIES FOR ANY OMISSIONS OR ERRORS

TO VOLUNTEER CALL
ROME FOX 604.264.0499



*Celebrating
15 Years*
VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE

SAVE THE DATE



7:30pm | Thursday, October 15, 2009

Norman Rothstein Theatre

EXHIBIT OPENING & RECEPTION MORE THAN JUST GAMES: CANADA & THE 1936 OLYMPICS

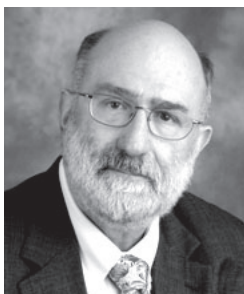
FEATURED SPEAKERS

DAVID HALTON, FORMER JOURNALIST, CBC

PROF. RICHARD MENKIS, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

PROF. HAROLD TROPER, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

TO RESERVE PLEASE CONTACT | INFO@VHEC.ORG | 604 264 0499



7:30 pm | Thursday, October 22, 2009

Norman Rothstein Theatre, JCC

PUBLIC LECTURE JEWS & SPORT: BODIES THAT MATTER

PROF. SANDER GILMAN, EMORY UNIVERSITY

TO RESERVE PLEASE CONTACT | INFO@VHEC.ORG | 604 264 0499

FOR OTHER EVENTS SEE PAGES 11, 12 & 14



VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE

50 - 950 WEST 41ST AVENUE, VANCOUVER, BC V5Z 2N7

604 264 0499 | WWW.VHEC.ORG | INFO@VHEC.ORG