

VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE

# ZACHOR



**FALL 2015**

**REFLECTIONS  
ON SUGIHARA'S  
LEGACY**

LANZMANN'S SHOAH,  
30 YEARS LATER

NEW VHEC BLOG &  
DISCOVERY KIT

VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE

# Kristallnacht

## COMMEMORATION

***Sunday, November 8, 2015 | 7 PM***

Beth Israel Synagogue, 989 West 28th Avenue, Vancouver

*Everyone welcome*

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### KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**Dr. George Bluman**

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

***A Ray of Light in the Depths of Darkness: Chiune Sugihara and His Legacy***

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*Holocaust survivors are invited to light a memorial candle*



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## THE FACE OF THE GHETTO

Pictures Taken  
by Jewish Photographers  
in the Litzmannstadt Ghetto  
1940-1944

Presented in partnership with the Consulate General  
of the Federal Republic of Germany in Vancouver

An exhibition of the Topography of Terror Foundation,  
Berlin [www.topographie.de](http://www.topographie.de)

Supported by the Consulate General  
of the Federal Republic of Germany in Vancouver

EXHIBIT ON VIEW UNTIL DECEMBER 18, 2015

### VHEC HOURS

Monday to Thursday | 9 AM - 5 PM

Friday | 9 AM - 4 PM

### SPECIAL OPENINGS

Thursday, October 29 | 9 AM - 7:30 PM

Sunday, November 22 | 2 - 4 PM, guided tour at 3 PM

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**FALL 2015**

**ZACHOR**

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# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

Many of you that have visited the VHEC in recent months have expressed surprise that our Education Room, often used for rotating exhibitions and school programs, is currently a hive of a different kind of activity. The Centre has been engaged in two current multi-year initiatives, *Survivor Video Testimony Project* and *Collection Management in the Digital Age*, supported by Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the Estate of Paul and Edwina Heller respectively. As part of this work, the collections team has been viewing the Centre's Holocaust survivor video testimonies on multiple workstations in this space, creating time-coded summaries to facilitate research and use of these materials in support of the VHEC's education and remembrance mandate.

The collections projects underway will inform the VHEC's future exhibitions, school programs and educational resources. They will make a difference for students and teachers, but also to the community more broadly. After all, many of the photographs, documents, artefacts and testimonies in the Centre's collection speak to the Holocaust experiences of individuals and families in our midst.

Because this ambitious and important work is for the most part taking place away from public view, the Centre's professional staff is excited to offer a behind the scenes look at the activities in-progress via a new blog ([www.vhecblog.org](http://www.vhecblog.org)), the focus of Katie Powell's article in this issue. We hope that you will follow our work as it unfolds over the months ahead.

Articles on a new discovery kit classroom resource and on the experiences of teachers participating in an intensive seminar at Yad Vashem are among our educational features. Meanwhile, perspectives on the after-effects of the Shoah and how these shape families and generations over time and space are the focus of contributions by Perry Ehrlich, Dodie Katzenstein and Helen Waldstein Wilkes. George Bluman, the keynote speaker at the upcoming Kristallnacht Commemorative Lecture, will reflect on his family's connection to diplomat rescuer Chiune Sugihara and the legacy of Sugihara's actions.

November is a vibrant month for arts and culture – the Vancouver Jewish Film Festival and the Jewish Book Festival bring screenings and readings (see inside back cover for VHEC-sponsored offerings, and Toni-Lynn Frederick's article about filmmaker Claude Lanzmann, the subject of a new documentary). We look forward to hosting the Vancouver launch of outgoing Education Director Adara Goldberg's new book, *Holocaust Survivors in Canada*, and thank Adara for her important contributions to our educational mandate, wishing her all the best in her future endeavours.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the notice on our back cover. On May 26, 2016, the VHEC will celebrate with you — our valued supporters — 40 years of achievements, while looking forward to the future of Holocaust education and remembrance in the community. Please save the date, with an invitation to follow.

Sincerely,



Nina Krieger  
VHEC Executive Director

## A RAY OF LIGHT IN THE DEPTHS OF DARKNESS: CHIUNE SUGIHARA AND HIS LEGACY

BY DODIE KATZENSTEIN

At the upcoming Kristallnacht Commemorative Lecture, Dr. George Bluman will relate the fascinating story of Chiune Sugihara, a Japanese diplomat posted in Lithuania in the late 1930s. Dr. Bluman will also express his family's gratitude to this courageous man, who facilitated the rescue of thousands of eastern European Jews in the early days of the Holocaust. As opportunities to escape the Nazi menace grew scarce, Sugihara — acting primarily on his own initiative — issued transit visas that enabled Jewish refugees to escape to Japan. Most of these asylum seekers were from German-occupied Western Poland or Russian-occupied Eastern Poland. Sugihara issued travel visas that facilitated the escape of more than 2,000 Jewish refugees to Japanese territory, risking his career and the security of his family.

In August 1940, George Bluman's parents, Natek and Zosia (later called Nathan and Susan) Bluman, after fleeing from Warsaw to Lithuania, received life-saving visas from Sugihara for travel to Japan. They left Lithuania for Moscow in January 1941. After an eleven-day journey through Russia on the Trans-Siberian Railroad from Moscow to Vladivostok, the Blumans reached the port of Tsuruga, Japan on February 2, 1941. On June 26th, they left Kobe on the last Japanese ship sailing from Yokohama to Vancouver, arriving in Vancouver on July 9. (After this sailing, the ship was requisitioned by the Japanese government). George, his sister Barbara Bluman z"l, and his brother Bob, were born in Vancouver.



Nathan Bluman with a group of refugees in Kobe, Japan, May 25, 1941. Nathan Bluman is second from left.

Sugihara became a vice-consul in the Japanese Consulate in Kovno (present-day Kaunas) in south-central Lithuania in 1939. Many Polish Jews had fled to neutral Lithuania before the Soviet occupation of Lithuania in June 1940. Hundreds of Jewish refugees came to the Japanese consulate in Kovno, trying to get transit visas to Japan. In July, aware that the refugees were in grave danger, Sugihara began to grant visas without official permission. Given his relatively low-level post and the culture of the Japanese bureaucracy, this was a daring and risky act of disobedience.



Nathan Bluman's passport with a visa issued by Sugihara in Lithuania, 1940.

Now Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at the University of British Columbia, Dr. Bluman has spent hundreds of hours analyzing data on the refugees from Sugihara's master list, as well as lists prepared by the Jewish Distribution Committee in Vilna and Kovno, and another of Jewish refugees in Shanghai, then under Japanese occupation. While published estimates vary widely, his research indicates that the 2,100 transit visas issued by Sugihara included 2,700 Jewish refugees, plus their families. Based on these figures, up to 30,000 descendants of those who survived owe their existence to Sugihara.

In 2012, Dr. Bluman assisted Aya Takahashi, a reporter for the Vancouver-based Japanese-language newspaper, *Shinpo*, in recording video testimonies of seven Vancouver families who survived as a result of Sugihara's efforts. The following May, he accompanied Ms. Takahashi to Japan — his first trip to the country — where she presented her videos to the museum honouring Chiune Sugihara in his birthplace, Yaotsu. In November 2013 — his second trip to Japan — Dr. Bluman delivered talks on the Sugihara legacy at the Tokyo University of Science and Keio University. He remains in regular contact with members of the Sugihara family.

After the war, the Japanese government reprimanded Sugihara for his disobedient conduct and dismissed him

from the foreign service. In 1985, however, the state of Israel honoured Chiune Sugihara as a Righteous Among the Nations for his actions, the only Japanese national to receive that distinction. Like Oskar Schindler, Carl Lutz, Raoul Wallenberg and other "Righteous Gentiles," Sugihara was in a position — and willing — to help innocent people escape persecution and, in many cases, certain death, during the Holocaust.

Dr. Bluman notes that Sugihara is one of many heroes in this story. Others include two Dutch students from the Telz Yeshiva in Lithuania, Dutch diplomats in Latvia and Lithuania,

Sugihara's wife Yukiko — who supported and aided in his efforts — and several other groups and individuals. Financial support also came from the New York-based American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. "It is important," he says, "that we recognize such people and organizations that acted when needed as exemplars for others to follow."

Without hesitation, Dr. Bluman acknowledges a personal debt to the Japanese diplomat: "My family exists today due to the actions of Chiune Sugihara."



Dr. Bluman's sister Barbara Bluman z'l wrote a book (completed after her death by her daughter Danielle Schroeder) tracing their parents' journey from Warsaw to Vancouver. *I Have My Mother's Eyes* was published in 2009 by Ronsdale Press and the Vancouver Holocaust Education

Centre. The book is available at the VHEC, the Vancouver Public Library, and through on-line book-sellers.



Dodie Katzenstein, a former journalist, is currently a VHEC docent and Kristallnacht Committee member. Her father fled Germany for the US in 1936; her paternal grandparents were unable to escape and were murdered in Nazi concentration camps.

## JOURNEY TO CANADA: THE WAR ORPHANS PROJECT, 1947-1949

BY ADARA GOLDBERG



Mariette Doduck with the new *Journey to Canada: The War Orphans Project, 1947-1949* discovery kit.

The youngest of ten children born into a traditional Jewish home in Brussels, Belgium, Mariette Rosen (later, Marie Doduck) experienced the Holocaust on the run and hidden by non-Jewish rescuers. In 1947, Mariette and three of her siblings arrived in Vancouver, four of 1,123 Jewish youth who immigrated to Canada under the auspice of the War Orphans Project. Today, Mariette is a community leader and dedicated Holocaust Survivor Outreach Speaker for the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre.

To mark the fiftieth anniversary of this immigration movement, the VHEC launched an original exhibit,

*Open Hearts – Closed Doors: The War Orphans Project*, in fall 1997. The exhibit chronicled the experiences of eight war orphans — including Mariette Doduck and other founding members of the Centre — as they journeyed from Displaced Persons camps and orphanages in Europe to new lives in Canada. It also explored the efforts of social workers, foster families, and members of the Canadian Jewish community who received the youth, and cared for them upon arrival.

To extend the reach of the exhibit into classrooms, the Centre developed the *Journey to Canada: The War Orphans Project, 1947-1949* discovery kit. Through



eyewitness testimonies, documents, and artefacts belonging to orphaned Holocaust survivors, the resource explores individual experiences of liberation and its aftermath, and the arrival of Holocaust survivor youth in Canada. It also addresses Canada's immigration history, and offers a lens through which to reflect on Canada's responses to refugee crises and attitudes towards minority populations. This includes timely conversations about Canadian refugee policy today, and parliamentary and public responses to the ongoing crisis in Syria, which has created some four million refugees.

A second discovery kit, *Outside the Attic Walls*, speaks to the experiences of children who survived the Holocaust in hiding in the Netherlands. This kit contains reproduced artefacts and eyewitness accounts from local child survivors, and complements the study of *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*. Accompanying both kits are teaching resources that facilitate student engagement with the historical context and artefacts.

On the occasion of Mariette Doduck's special birthday, her daughters Cathy Golden and Bernice Carmeli approached the VHEC looking for a meaningful opportunity to acknowledge their mother's dedication to the Centre's mandate. After careful consideration, the sisters chose to make a significant gift towards the reproduction of the *Journey to Canada* discovery kit:

*Mariette Doduck is not only our beloved mother, but also a devoted VHEC Outreach speaker who has shared her experiences as a child during the Holocaust with thousands of students in British Columbia, Alberta and beyond. We stand in admiration of what she, and other Holocaust survivors, have given to our community and our country. She shares her personal story of survival with students so that they can bear witness and so that we, her family, can continue her legacy of education and remembrance. By dedicating this discovery kit in her honour, we recognize her unparalleled contributions to Holocaust education.*

The VHEC is grateful for Cathy Golden and Bernice Carmeli's support of the VHEC's educational mission. Thanks to their generous donation, hundreds of BC students will have access to primary source-based Holocaust education through this popular teaching classroom resource.



The VHEC's discovery kits are resources for facilitating engagement with the Holocaust. Recommended for grades six to twelve, the kits place primary documents and artefacts — including letters, diaries, photographs, identification cards and government documents — into the hands of students.

Discovery kits are available to teachers for two-week loan periods free of charge, and are accompanied by companion teaching materials linking the primary source materials to intended learning outcomes in the provincial curriculum. During the 2014-2015 school year, more than 50 classes, representing some 1,500 students, engaged with these resources.

For more information on discovery kits and other teaching resources, go to [www.vhec.org/teaching.html](http://www.vhec.org/teaching.html).

If you are interested in discussing donor opportunities, please contact Assistant Director Rome Fox at 604.264.0499 or [romefox@vhec.org](mailto:romefox@vhec.org)



Dr. Adara Goldberg is the Education Director at the VHEC. She has a background in Social Work and holds a PhD in Holocaust History.

## CLAUDE LANZMANN'S *SHOAH*, 30 YEARS LATER

BY TONI-LYNN FREDERICK



Claude Lanzmann: *Spectres of the Shoah*. Courtesy of HBO.

Even if Claude Lanzmann's *Shoah* were not nine and a half hours long, did not take twelve years to make, and was not culled from over 225 hours of 16mm film footage, it would remain an extraordinary motion picture. As a Holocaust "documentary" (a term the filmmaker rejects), it is especially remarkable: it has no voice-over, there is no musical score, and, apart from three occasions where still photographs are captured by the camera, there is no archive footage — no traditional sequences of pre-war Jewish life, antisemitic riots, roundups, ghettos, camps, liberation. It is not that kind of film. Its unusual start — two minutes of silent and slowly scrolling introductory text — foreshadows the slowness of the journey on which the audience is about to embark. There will be no racing through this film.

By capturing his subjects' speech as well as their silences, the filmmaker shows witnesses as they remember, and these often-difficult moments of silence and speechlessness convey something about the effects of

trauma over time. Lanzmann frequently uses extremely long, uncut, and challenging takes in the finished film. As a journalist, he is not troubled by silence or the tension of an interview gone cold. For better and worse, he is concerned with remembrance, a process of recalling traumatic events that can trigger "acting out," and this takes time — it takes patience.

Lanzmann's industrial resolve is no more apparent than in the barbershop sequence in which survivor Abraham Bomba recounts some of his experiences as a prisoner at the Treblinka death camp where he cut the hair of women and children entering the gas chamber. While trying to recount a particularly traumatic event for the camera, his mouth contorts in an effort seeming to both generate and suppress a rational and descriptive language. This is not the only time that Lanzmann's persistent questioning drives one of his subjects to break down, "I won't be able to do it.... Don't make me go on please." Bomba's tongue rolls and stretches against his mouth,



as if trying to dislodge itself, as if trying to escape from having to match words to memory. It is a difficult scene to watch, and, like many of the other re-enactments in *Shoah*, it is documentary cinema at its most powerful, while possibly its most problematic.

Although the use of re-enactment is neither explained nor justified within the film itself, it seems implicitly clear what the filmmaker is trying to do: just as feelings give rise to gestures, gestures give rise to feelings. What is not evident is the degree to which Lanzmann acknowledges that his methodology might be ethically questionable, that it might be exploitative to use Holocaust survivors in this way, and that, by putting his subjects through such a taxing interview process (regardless of their willingness to participate), his mode of inquiry might re-traumatize the witnesses.

Curiously, what Lanzmann does not show his audience — but what is clearly evident in the outtakes — is that his tenderness towards Bomba underpins a relational trust that effectively constructs a virtual sanctuary around the two men in this powerful scene. Lanzmann is not the antagonist that he presents himself to be. Instead, through the gentle support he shows to Bomba, the crowded public barbershop that was hired for the day becomes a private space in which the survivor is able to respond to the filmmaker's difficult questions.

In his documentary, *Claude Lanzmann: Spectres of the Shoah*, filmmaker Adam Benzine uses (almost exclusively) outtakes from *Shoah*, as well as a one-on-one video interview with the director, to tell a story about how *Shoah* was made, and how it, in turn, made Lanzmann. Much of *Spectres* examines Lanzmann's interactions with Bomba, reinforcing the idea that, while seemingly brusque, Lanzmann is never cruel towards the survivor. As an interviewer, he is respectful and kind, and his allegiance extends to an unwavering commitment to finish what seems like an unendurable undertaking—the completion of an impossible film that was always in the balance.

*Spectres* underscores the debt of gratitude we owe to Lanzmann, who risked his life to make *Shoah*. In a recent phone interview, Benzine explains it like this: “*Shoah* couldn't have been made by a shrinking violet. It needed to be made by someone who was tough and

determined—someone who could take a physical beating, who wouldn't give up.” Born in 1926, Lanzmann began making *Shoah* in 1973, when he was 47, and this commission came with a cost: “Having been close to so much evil for so long, the process of making *Shoah* seems to have left a dark mark on Lanzmann.”

To be sure, *Spectres* is not the documentary that Lanzmann would have made about himself. While he doesn't object to the finished film, the length bothers him. He suggested a four-part series for French television, but Benzine's film clocks in at just under 40-minutes long. The soundtrack, composed by Joel Goodman, underscores the film's pathos and adds a sense of place and time to various parts of the story. While Lanzmann takes no issue with the music, it is almost certainly not what he would have done. Finally, the documentary also uses archive footage. Employing these traditional documentary tropes stands in striking contrast to Lanzmann's approach in *Shoah*, but *Spectres* is not *Shoah*, and Benzine is quick to describe Lanzmann as a singular filmmaker.

As a radical, landmark film, *Shoah* is a contributor to and a repository of the historical record. As an archive of Holocaust testimony, its value extends far beyond the footage that was included in the final cut, and necessarily includes all of the material collected during its production. In 1996, Lanzmann sold the outtakes to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and Benzine shares some of this unused footage with his audience. As such, *Spectres* becomes a welcome, critical, and long-awaited piece to the Lanzmann/*Shoah* puzzle.

While it is not essential to have seen *Shoah* before seeing *Spectres*, after watching glimpses of Lanzmann's journey, and selections of the film's outtakes, audiences who have seen *Shoah* before will gain a new and valuable perspective. For the uninitiated, *Spectres* will serve as a prologue to what is surely a revolutionary cinematic masterpiece that generated the metric standard against which all other Holocaust films, both documentaries and narratives, are measured.



Toni-Lynn Frederick is the coordinator and camera operator for the VHEC's Video Testimony Project. She is currently on-leave from her practice-based PhD studies at the University of Reading, England, where her research examines the representation of Holocaust-related landscape and the use of witness re-enactment in Claude Lanzmann's *Shoah*.

## SAFELY IN, SAFELY OUT: ECHOES AND REFLECTIONS FROM THE EDUCATORS' SEMINAR AT YAD VASHEM

BY EYAL DANIEL, MARK FIGUERIA AND STEPHANIE HENDERSON

During the summer of 2015, Eyal Daniel, Mark Figueria and Stephanie Henderson, all teachers from the Vancouver area were given the once in a lifetime opportunity to attend the Educators' Seminar at the International School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem in Israel.

The International School was developed by Yad Vashem with the specific purpose of training and equipping educators from all over the world with a strong background and foundation to teach and build understanding of the Shoah. Our seminar specifically focused around the theme of "Safely in, safely out" as a pedagogical standard for attempting to explain anti-Semitism and the Holocaust.

Although we had different backgrounds and connections to the Holocaust, we shared similar beliefs in our role to teach students about the Holocaust in an approachable, empathetic, and safe manner. The reinforced objective in Holocaust education was to never scare or frighten our students with shocking images of piled bodies or emaciated survivors, but to rather create an atmosphere

of knowledge and understanding. We wanted to figure out a way to empower not only ourselves, but also other colleagues who might not have the background or interest in the subject to feel confident. Most importantly, we strongly felt that we did not want the Holocaust to become a footnote in our respective subject areas but rather a subject that sparked meaningful conversation and thoughtful reflection. We did not want to outsource our teaching and rely solely on a film to do the job for us. Our goal was to learn how to teach about the Holocaust more effectively, from a more real, tangible, and personalized manner.

The International School at Yad Vashem promotes the idea that teaching the Holocaust is an enormous privilege and

responsibility. If done effectively, it can leave students with a greater connection to understanding the reasons behind the Shoah and hopefully leave them thirsting for more information. Yad Vashem's pedagogical mission is to have students feel a connection with the Jewish people, culture, persecution, and survival.

In Israel we were exposed to some of the world's most foremost scholars and thinkers on the topic. On the surface some of the lectures were heavy with religious and historical content and had us wondering how we could incorporate all of this information



Box Car at Yad Vashem.

into our limited class time and in keeping with the curricular requirements of our subject areas. However, as we were able to debrief and discuss with our fellow attendees, much of the information became relevant and relatable. It was not a matter of the importance of the information but rather where would we find the time to teach this.

During our time at Yad Vashem, we discussed options that we had in terms of making an impact in home schools. How could we make this information relevant and applicable to our colleagues and students? With two of us teaching senior students, we knew we had limited time and had to work to carve out space for a meaningful look at the Holocaust. Our elementary school colleagues had more time, but struggled with age-appropriateness. Collaboratively, we developed a PowerPoint presentation that goes through key aspects of the Shoah and carefully explains the areas that are critical to be included. We start at the early roots of antisemitism, moving on to trying to understand the psyche of the perpetrators, focusing on the rise of fascism throughout Europe and finally culminating in the Holocaust and its aftermath. We worked slowly and made sure that we addressed each slide in a respectful manner, mindful of our students. Many of our slides correspond with exhibits that are or were featured at the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre. Our slides on the ghettos use many images that are currently on display in the *Face of the Ghetto* exhibit at the VHEC until December 18, 2015. We carefully considered our student's backgrounds, ages and ability to understand this situation, which even to us was difficult to understand.

Working together, as secondary and elementary teachers, challenged us to create a unit that would have impact but also allow us to flex in various directions. We intend our unit to be something that we share with a broader group, a jumping off point for our fellow teachers who may be less confident in their understanding of the Shoah. It is a goal that we are able to host any sort of professional development activity, either in our homeschools or on a larger scale to try and pass along the information we have gained from this experience.

Working with the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre will also allow us to share with our students that although they might not have a personal connection to

the Holocaust, they can connect because we are all people. Through the VHEC's testimony project, students are able to view eyewitness accounts of the Holocaust. Our unit can provide the start to a conversation about the Holocaust and the VHEC can play a supportive role in providing valuable information and additional classroom resources.

It would be remiss not to mention that the experience of spending practically every day for three weeks totally immersed in the subject could be overwhelming for some. While there were days like that, the overall experience left us with a renewed energy to be more resolved in teaching the Holocaust to our future students. Being at Yad Vashem, walking around the campus, seeing the visitors (on several occasions we ran into prime ministers, and numerous high level administrators for world governments) left us with the profound understanding that we have been given a great responsibility to help our students gain a deeper and more thoughtful understanding of the Shoah.

It is our belief, in teaching us more about the Holocaust, that Yad Vashem took us, "safely in, safely out."



Eyal Daniel, Mark Figueria and Stephanie Henderson in Israel with Hannah Pick (seated), a survivor of the Holocaust.

Eyal Daniel is an intermediate teacher at Buckingham Elementary School in Burnaby. He has taught and been an administrator in Israel, Winnipeg and the Jewish private system and public school system in Vancouver.

Mark Figueria is the department head of the Social Studies at Earl Marriot Secondary in Surrey. In 2015, Figueria received the VHEC's Kron Sigal Award for Excellence in Holocaust Education.

Stephanie Henderson is a Social Studies teacher at Seaquam Secondary in Delta. Previous to teaching in Canada she taught for several years in public and international schools in Korea.

## FULL CIRCLE: ADDRESSING NEW GENERATIONS IN GERMANY

BY HELEN WALDSTEIN WILKES

Deutschland. The very word sends shivers up many Jewish spines. Imagine then, how I trembled one evening last September as I passed the Reichstag steps, whence in the grainy newsreels of my early years Hitler spewed his hatred. Imagine too, my chaotic thoughts as I anticipated entering the stately German Historical Museum to address the children and grandchildren of those who had murdered my family.

That September evening, our family's panic-stricken flight in 1939 away from this very land and its people seemed both recent and real. We had fled, but now, I had returned. Now, I would tell them how it had been for me and for my family. Now, I would speak my truth as a Jew, here in this city whose very name still makes me tremble. Berlin.

I delivered my speech — *auf Deutsch*, my mother tongue. I barely remember my words, let alone the identity of people who so kindly toasted me at the subsequent reception co-hosted by the Canadian Consulate. Of the return trip to the hotel, I remember even less. Only a single obsessive thought remains: "You did it. You survived."

My pounding heart insisted that it was not a trivial speech that I had survived, but death itself. Extinction. Annihilation. Here, in this land, plans had been laid to exterminate me along with every living Jew. Six million had died, but I was not among them. Survival had been granted to me, and now, it was my task to give back.

From Berlin, I travelled to a blur of towns and cities across Germany and Austria. More vivid in my memory than adults who filled churches and halls are the students who filled entire auditoriums. Each day, a new school and a new collection of teachers and administrators reaching out with a welcoming handshake.

Each day, I became increasingly comfortable with my audience and awed by students' willingness to listen. Despite two-hour time slots and the autumn sunshine beaming through windows, the students listened. Their tummies may



Helen's first day of school, circa September, 1941. Courtesy Helen Waldstein Wilkes.



have rumbled in anticipation of lunch, their limbs may have longed to stretch and move freely through courtyards and playing fields, but instead they sat. They listened and they heard. Sometimes, I pictured a feather falling softly from the ceiling, and the entire audience giving a startled jerk as the feather landed. The silence was total.

In most schools, students asked questions only after I had spoken and after a teacher had read aloud from my book. Here is one excerpt from a letter from my Uncle Arnold, describing the prewar steps toward dehumanizing the Jews:

*For our first horrendous surprise, the Germans picked Yom Kippur, the holiest of days, to make us turn in all radios and report in a single figure the sum total of our financial wealth.*

*Blow upon blow followed, usually at two week intervals. Always something else that was forbidden, a new limitation that made our life difficult, until bit by bit, life became impossible. After the radios, it was musical instruments, tools, trunks and suitcases, ski equipment, even woolen clothing and underwear if you had more than two sets. Even the poor animals weren't exempt. All dogs and cats and canaries had to be taken to the collection depot.*

Among the questions that stuck in my mind was that of a boy who asked, “*Was wollte die Wehrmacht mit den Kanarienvögel?*” (“Why did the military need canaries?”) I scarcely needed to answer, for no sooner had he voiced his question than the penny dropped for him and for everyone in that auditorium. The army didn’t need aging dogs, cats, or canaries. Asking people to give up a beloved pet was simply a ruse. The goal was to strip away everything that mattered to Jews as individuals and to render them less than human. A process that culminated in Jews being disposable nameless entities, known only by the numbers tattooed upon their arms.

Another student I recall was a young woman wearing a pretty cloth that framed her face even as it singled her out as Muslim. “How did she feel?” I wondered, my eyes swiveling repeatedly in her direction. Does she identify with the Jews because she too is singled out as “other”? Had her parents also fled from a dictatorial regime that threatened their very existence? Had they too found themselves grudgingly accepted — rather than genuinely welcomed — in their new land?

Has the world changed, or are today’s barbarisms merely history repeating itself? In almost every school, students asked variations on the same question, plus one more: What would your parents think if they could see you now?

Always, the latter question left me floundering. My parents could not have imagined that one day, I would not only go to Germany, but that I would be invited as a respected guest. Nor could they envisage that my story and theirs would lead grown men to blink back their tears and buy my book by the armload. They could not have imagined that youngsters, whose grandparents at their age had joined the *Hitlerjugend*, would listen attentively and understand when I said that creating a better world lay in their hands, for they are the future.

“If you can imagine it, you can build it,” I told them. “Someone imagined the great cathedrals of Europe, and although it took a couple of centuries, brick by brick and stone by stone, foundations were laid and the structures rose. A thousand years later, such cathedrals still inspire awe and wonder. Which leads me to hope that if we can imagine a world of harmony, compassion and peace, then we can build it. It may take generations, but brick by brick and stone by stone, it can be done. Whether we do so is up to us. All of us.



The Waldstein family. All perished during the Holocaust.  
Courtesy Helen Waldstein Wilkes.



Helen Waldstein Wilkes is the author of *Letters From The Lost* (Athabasca University Press, 2009), an award-winning memoir based on letters from family members trapped in Nazi-occupied Europe.

## MOVING FORWARD

BY PERRY EHRLICH

Adapted from remarks delivered at the High Holidays Cemetery Service in September 2015.

My younger brother Howard passed away in May of this year after a courageous four-year battle with lung cancer.

When I spoke at his funeral, I remarked: They say that parents shouldn't have to bury their children. They say that an older brother shouldn't have to eulogize his younger brother. They say that a man who is so deeply loved and respected and who so deeply loved life shouldn't be deprived of it. That's what they say ... but when your father is a Holocaust survivor, you know that there are no rules for what we call 'life.'

I was so lucky to have had great visits with my brother at St. Paul's Hospital before he passed. We laughed and shared serious moments. I had the opportunity to tell Howard how much I loved him and how important he was to me. I was able to say good-bye. I was also lucky to be surrounded by family, friends, and our community at his funeral, shivas, and services. My entire family was comforted by the overwhelming outpouring of kindness and support for us.

I then thought about all those who perished during the Holocaust. Their families and friends did not get the chance to say good-bye to their loved ones. There were no funerals, shivas, and opportunities to support and comfort each other.

This summer, my wife and I travelled to St. Petersburg, Russia. We visited the Holocaust memorial there. The translation of the Hebrew and Russian words on the memorial is "To the Jews of the Pushkin District of St. Petersburg who fell as victims to the Fascist genocide in 1941 ... THEY SPILLED THEIR BLOOD LIKE WATER, AND NO ONE WAS THERE TO BURY THEM."

The words of that memorial haunted me. NO ONE WAS THERE TO BURY THEM.

I remember how emotional I was when the Holocaust memorial at New Westminster's Schara Tzedek Cemetery

was dedicated. I read the names of my father's family who died in Auschwitz: Pinchus Ehrlich (my father's father); his wife, Tilla Mindel; their three sons, Labish, Chaim Moshe and Mordechai; and their loving grandmother, Rivka Simon, a widow who lived with the family. I hugged my father and was very emotional because the reality of their untimely deaths touched me in a way that I had never been touched before. And, thankfully, I now had a place that I could visit, read their names, place a stone or two, and pay my respects whenever I came to the cemetery.



VHEC Holocaust Memorial at Schara Tzedek Cemetery, New Westminster.

My father was not able to bury those members of his family who perished. On the occasion of the High Holidays Cemetery Service, I would like to do what could not be done sixty years ago. I would like to tell you about my lost family, to eulogize them, and to bring significance to the names that appear on the memorial at Schara Tzedek.

The Ehrlich's of Gherla, Rumania were a happy, loving family. They were simple and hard-working. They were rich — not in the monetary sense — but very rich in what counts most in life: love, sharing, caring, values, and tradition.

Pinchus, a travelling salesman, was a tall and very good-looking man. He was born into a very religious family; his father was a Hebrew teacher. He married Tilla Mindel when he was only 17 years-old and had four children before the age of 30. As a disciplinarian, he was feared; as a father, he was adored.

Tilla Mindel came from a farming family and was two years older than Pinchus; they met when Pinchus stopped by her home to sell something. She was an accomplished seamstress and a strong, brave woman. When a German merchant beat two of her sons, it was Tilla Mindel who took the boys and stormed into his home. She asked the merchant: "Are you raising your children or is Hitler raising your children?" It was Tilla Mindel who flushed her jewellery down the toilet so that the Nazis wouldn't steal what few valuables she had. Tilla Mindel also had the reputation of being a brilliant cook, a trait that she passed on to her daughter, Rose.

Pinchus and Tilla Mindel had five children, two of which survived the Holocaust (my father David and his sister Rose) and three who did not.

The three sons who did not survive were different as night and day. Chaim Moshe was the athletic brother, who loved to play soccer. Labish was a neatness fanatic and ultra religious; he went to shul every day. When I asked my father what Labish was interested in, he said "Only one thing: Torah!" The youngest (and apple of everyone's eye), Mordechai, was adorable, sweet, smart, and lovable.

When word of the Nazi occupation came, a local farmer offered to hide the entire Ehrlich family in his grain silo; however, he was not prepared to take in the oldest — grandmother Rivka — or the youngest — son, Mordechai.

The family was not prepared to be split apart and were later taken to Auschwitz. It was there that the Nazis split the family apart. Pinchus, Tilla Mindel, Mordechai, and Rivka did not make the selection process.

You may wonder why Pinchus — my tall, able-bodied Zaida — didn't make the selection process. Regrettably, a few years earlier, Pinchus had a doctor artificially break his leg as he didn't want to leave his family to go to a work camp in the Ukraine; he was on crutches when he entered Auschwitz and the Nazis had no use for him. All four were put to death.

Labish and Chaim Moshe made the selection process, but were sent to work in the coalmines, where they died just two months before liberation.

I am named for my father's father Pinchus. My late brother Howard was named for Labish. My brother Brent was named for Chaim Moshe. My cousin Marilyn was named for Tilla Mindel. And my father took the middle name "Martin" when he came to Canada to honour the memory of his sweet young brother, Mordechai.

I was recently watching an episode of Oprah Winfrey's "Super Soul Sunday." Her guest mentioned that when one suffers loss, family and friends often encourage the person who mourns to "move on". But the truth is that no one can ever "move on" from loss. That loss lasts forever.

The proper words that should be used are not "move on"; they are "move forward."

And that's what those who survived the Holocaust did. They "moved forward" to create new lives for themselves. They "moved forward" to create new families and to make a difference in their communities. We have shining examples of that in our community.

I will carry the memory of my brother Howard in my heart forever. I will also always remember my father's family who perished in the Holocaust — family that I never met, but family from whom I inherited traits that make me the person I am today. I honour and celebrate them, together with all Holocaust survivors and their lost families.



Perry Ehrlich, son of Holocaust survivor David Ehrlich and Grace Ehrlich, is a business lawyer and partner of Kahn Zack Ehrlich Lithwick LLP. He is also director of the Gotta Sing! Gotta Dance! musical theatre summer program, and the ShowStoppers GLEE troupe.

## VHEC LAUNCHES NEW BLOG

BY KATIE POWELL



The past two years have been an incredible period of growth and change for the VHEC's Collections. We are very pleased to announce that the Centre will be launching a blog at the end of October to share these projects and their progress with the broader community.

Upcoming posts will highlight the work that is currently being undertaken in the Centre's four main collection spaces: Archives, Library, Museum and Audio-Visual Testimonies. Rather than simply unveiling the results of these endeavors, we are excited to share a behind the scenes look at the projects and the people involved in this work as it unfolds.

Readers will be able to learn about the process of digitizing over 200 survivor testimonies and the important work needed to ensure these recordings are preserved for future generations. We look forward to highlighting items and stories from the Museum and Archives and sharing images as they are digitized. For those interested in education and research, we will be sharing online resources related to Holocaust history

and as well as details about the ins and outs of a working archives, museum, and library.

We are hard at work developing the Centre's new Collections Management System, which will transform how students and researchers can access the VHEC's Collections. We look forward to launching a system that will allow members of the public to remotely browse through the Centre's holdings and view images and descriptions of our many objects, documents and publications. We cannot wait to launch the system and will be sharing previews on the blog as well as posts about the planning and thinking involved in creating a system that reflects the needs and uniqueness of the Centre's collections and the audiences we serve.

To keep up to date on all of this behind the scenes work at the VHEC, make sure to check out [www.vhecblog.org](http://www.vhecblog.org) when the blog launches in mid-October.



Katie Powell is a Collection Assistant at the VHEC and a graduate of the UBC Honours History Program.



MAY 5, 2015 – SEPTEMBER 17, 2015

**GET WELL**

Mark Babins, Speedy recovery.  
Mark & Debby Choit, David,  
Cathy, Tyler & Shane Golden

David Ehrlich & Family, Thinking  
of you. Louise Sorensen, Child  
Survivor Group

Moshe Fidelman, Get Well.  
Nancy Benyaer

Ben Folk, Get well. Debby &  
Mark Choit, The Szajman Family

Richard Lowy, Speedy  
recovery. Aron, Sam &  
Al Szajman, Sheila Gendis

Sandy Penn, Speedy recover.  
Aron & Neri Tischler

**MAZEL TOV**

Rita Akselrod, Happy Birthday.  
Denise Pinto Cohen

Vera Bakonyi, Happy 80th  
Birthday. The Wollner Family

Esther Blumes, Happy Birthday.  
Debby & Mark Choit

Norman Gladstone, Happy 70th  
Birthday. Peter & Marla Gropper

Linda Bogdonov, Happy 75th  
Birthday. Gloria & Robbie  
Waisman

Beth & Leon Bogner, Happy  
45th Anniversary. Linda &  
Joel Wener

Marcus Brandt, Happy Birthday.  
Roxy Lewin

Robert Krell, Happy Special  
Birthday. Barb & Ron Krell,  
Selma & Basil Kallner, Robbie  
& Gloria Waisman, Richard &  
Darlene Ames, Harold & Marla  
Groberman & Brian & Sheryl  
Ross, Shosh, Shawn, Mattie,  
Julian and Charlie Lewis

Joseph Segal, On your Laureate  
Award. Lillian Boraks Nemetz

Robbie Waisman, On receiving  
the Philip Weise Award. Gerri  
& Mark London, Lillian Boraks  
Nemetz

Odie Kaplan, Happy Birthday.  
Ruth Wolochow & Eve

Alex & Charlene Zabar, Happy  
65th Birthdays. Hymie &  
Rome Fox

Harvey Dales, On receiving the  
JFGV Award. Rita Akselrod, Rob  
& Marilyn Krell

Karen James, On receiving  
the JFGV Award. Helen &  
Jason Rivers

Mariette Doduck, On your  
Special Birthday. Barrie & Ellen  
Yackness, Tracy & Les Ames,  
Norman & Sandra Miller, The  
Szajman Family

Mariette Doduck, On the  
occasion of your special  
birthday, a new VHEC Discovery  
Kit: The Journey to Canada: The  
War Orphans Project, 1947-  
1949. Cathy Golden & Bernice  
Carmeli

Sylvie & Mark Epstein, On your  
40th Wedding Anniversary.  
Marilyn & Bernie Hooper

Rome & Hymie Fox, Mazel  
tov on both your daughters'  
marriages. Rita Akselrod, Evelyn  
Kahn & Family

Dr. Hal Gunn, Gift of a VHEC  
Membership. Robert Krell

Robert Krell, On the BC  
Community Achievement  
Award. Linda & Ted Zacks, Lillian  
Boraks Nemetz

Edgar Krieger, Happy Birthday.  
Yosef Wosk

Mark London, Happy Birthday.  
David & Cathy Golden

Bob Markin, Happy Birthday.  
Art Toft

Richard Menkis, On the launch  
of your book. Frieda Miller, The  
Kroft Family

Harold Troper, On the launch  
of your book. Frieda Miller, The  
Kroft Family

Michael & Phyllis Moscovitch,  
Happy Anniversary. Peter and  
Marla Gropper

Arnold Nemetz, Happy  
Birthday. Lillian Boraks Nemetz,  
Mendy & Lana Landa

Neal & Anna Nep, Happy 40th  
Wedding Anniversary. David &  
Cathy Golden

Matthew Ross, Happy Birthday.  
Ricki Thal

Allan Schneiderman, Happy  
80th Birthday. Jill & Ralph Levy,  
Ivan & Merle Linde

Rowena Schwartzberg, Happy  
60th Birthday. Eddie & Debbie  
Rozenberg

Yossi & Bella Sharabi, Happy  
50th Anniversary. Vera &  
Bernard Rozen

Stan & Jean Silverman, On  
your anniversary. Peter and  
Marla Gropper

David Stuart, Happy Birthday.  
Ivan & Merle Linde

Philip & Shirley Swartz, On  
becoming Great Grandparents.  
David & Cathy Golden

Reena Taviss, Happy Birthday.  
Elaine & Emil Campbell

Aron & Neri Tischler, Happy  
60th Birthdays & Happy  
Wedding Anniversary. Rosa  
Ferera, Lisette & Michael Ferera

Jacquie Watson, Happy  
Birthday. David & Cathy Golden

Malcolm & Judy Weinstein,  
Happy Wedding Anniversary.  
Peter and Marla Gropper,  
Joanne & Steve Emerman

Earl Weinstock, Happy Birthday.  
Ivan & Merle Linde

Faye Weiss, Happy 60th  
Birthday. Shelley Civkin &  
Harvey Sotolov, Sally, Sid & Alex  
Coleman

Leonard Wise, On your  
milestone Birthday. Marilyn &  
Perry Ehrlich

Danny Wollner, Happy Birthday.  
The Bakonyi Family, Judy Kalla

Barend Zack, Happy Birthday.  
Ricki Thal

Paul Zysman, Happy Birthday.  
Reva & Al Dexter

**SYMPATHY**

Mariette Doduck, Two books  
have been donated to the  
VHEC library in your sister, Sarah  
Hauptman's memory. Stuart  
Michelson

in memory of Dr. John Herbert.  
Anne Noonan

Brian Mickelson, In memory of  
Roberta Mickelson. Kit & Helena  
Krieger

Ada Parker & Family, In memory  
of your husband, father and  
grandfather, Peter Parker. Lillian  
Boraks Nemetz

David & Grace Ehrlich & Family,  
On the loss of your son, brother  
and partner, Howard Ehrlich.  
Lionel Fishman & Shirley  
Morris, Evelyn Kahn & Family,  
Danny, Paula, Emily & Robb  
Phillips, Pamela Stabler, Bull,  
Housser & Tupper LLP, Gerri &  
Mark London, David Feldman  
& Family, The Micner Family,  
Adara Goldberg, Harvey & Jody  
Dales, Agi Bergida, Lise Kirchner  
& Zachary Mullin, Sam & Janine  
Krikler, Faye & Richie Elias,  
Jason & Helen Rivers, Janice &  
Simon Margolis, Ronnie Tessler,  
Anna & Neal Nep & Family,  
Sheila & Norman Archek, Gloria  
& Robbie Waisman, Arlene  
Gladstone & Hamish Cameron,  
Sylvia Polsky, Child Survivor  
Group Vancouver, Anna & Neal  
Nep & Family, David & Cathy  
Golden & Family, Marilyn &  
Derek Glazer, Ethel Kofsky,  
Audrey Ho, Carole & Lucien  
Lieberman, Rob & Marilyn Krell,  
Frieda & David Ross, Debbie  
& Alan Jeroff, Cathie Mutala,  
Hymie & Rome Fox, Art, Sam  
& Al Szajman, Sheila Glendis,  
Evelyn & Irving Goldenberg,  
Jocy Lowy, Maxine Woogman,  
Judy Zaitzow, Edwin & Eva  
Oliveros, Elizabeth & Renee  
David, Oscar & Susan Herrera,  
Rico & Veronica Herrera, Cora  
& Roland David, Leonardo &  
Ligia Herrera, Molly Ross, Rita  
Akselrod

## TRIBUTE CARDS

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Perry Ehrlich, On the loss of your brother, Howard. Gloria Keil, Ben Joachim & Family, Janice Golden, Marilyn & Ezra Rabie, Sam & Janine Krikler, Julie & Sheldon Kuchinsky, Patti & Ralph Akin, Michael and Tami Lipton & Family, Anna & Neal Nep & Family, David & Cathy Golden & Family, Ethel Kofsky, Barbara Buchanan, Michael, Lori & Johnathon Yelizarov, Evelyn & Irving Goldenberg, Phillip & Shirley Swartz, Merle & Manuel Rootman, Faye & Richie Elias, Arne & Deborah Silverman, Rob & Marilyn Krell

Neri & Aron Tischler & Family, On the loss of Neri's Father. Gail Wynston & Michael Green

In memory of Dr. Samuel Unger. The Silverbrand Family

Veronica Winkler, On the loss of your Sister. Agi Bergida

Jonathan Katz, In memory of your brother. Phil & Sherry Levinson

Hyman Gutman & Family, On the loss of your wife, mother & grandmother. Joe & Susan Stein

Jordan Lithwick & Family, On the loss of your cousin and nephew, Howard Ehrlich. Sheila Gendis

Aron & Neri Tischler & Family, On the loss of your mother and grandmother, Bluma Tischler. Mark, Jacob, Talya & Nirit Rozenberg

Fred & Aimee Tischler & Family, On the loss of your mother and grandmother, Bluma Tischler. Mark, Jacob, Talya & Nirit Rozenberg

Ohad Arazi, On the loss of your Mother. Karen & Mark Bichin

Dani Blackstone, On the loss of your Grandfather. Ken & Jana Abramson

Sally & Sid Coleman, On the loss of your brother, Bob. Esther, Jacob & Jedidiah Blumes

Helen Coleman, On the loss of your husband, Bob. Marilyn & Derek Glazer

Victor & Barb Dirnfeld. On the loss of your son, Sam. Hymie & Rome Fox & Family

Murray Fraeme, On the loss of your brother, Jeff. Aron, Al & Sam Szajman, Harvey & Jody Dales, The Micner Family

Karen Gold, On the loss of your Father. Linda & Joel Wener

Selina Waxman & Family, On the loss of your Father & Grandfather. Stacy & Mark Cohen

Ruth Wolochow, Thinking of you. Odie Kaplan

### THANK YOU

Dr. Marty Braverman, Thank you. Sarah & Joel Marcoe

Stan Taviss, Thank you. Robbie & Gloria Waisman

Jack Fugman & Pam Nolan, Thank you. Danya Fox & David Fugman, Hymie & Rome Fox

Anita Shafran, Thank you. Sharon Kates

Shlomo Yekutieli, Thank you. Rome & Hymie Fox

Alex Buckman, Thank you. Amalia Boe Fishman, Survivor Drop-In Group

Gary Cohen, Thank you. Rose Slutsky

Anita Perel-Panar, Thank you. Julie Gutovich

Marie Doduck, Thank you. The Bilum Poland/Israel Group 2015

Eddie & Debbie Rozenberg & Family, Thank you. Danya & David Fugman

Annette & Paul Small & Family, Thank you. Danya & David Fugman

Hinda Avery, Thank you. Shirley & Ted Cohn

## THANK YOU VHEC VOLUNTEERS!

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### OUTREACH SPEAKERS

Janos Benisz, Lillian Boraks Nemetz, Alex Buckman, Mariette Doduck, David Ehrlich, Serge Haber, Jannushka Jakoubovitch, Chaim Kornfeld, Robert Krell, Inge Manes, Bente Nathan Thomsen, Peter Parker, Claude Romney, Martha Salcudean, Louise Sorensen, Peter Suedfeld, Tom Szekely, Robbie Waisman; Coordinator: Rita Akselrod

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

Bonnie Elster, Lise Kirchner, Kit Krieger, Ella Levitt, Gerri London, Jack Micner, Meredith Shaw, Jennifer Sin, Stan Taviss, Gloria Waisman

### DOCENTS

Julia Bernhardt, Stephen Cook, Reva Dexter, Myriam Dinim, Sylvie Epstein, Frances Grunberg, Belinda Gutman, Helen Heacock Rivers, James Highet, Dodie Katzenstein, Dina Kaufman, Lise Kirchner, Uma Kumar, Lucien Lieberman, Ivan Linde, Ellen Millman, Herb Mills, Cathy Paperny, Evelyn Ray, Meredith Shaw, Gita Silver, Rina Vizer, Anita Willson

### TEACHER ADVISORY

Jonathan Friedrichs, Kit Krieger, Tom Morton, Peter Seixas, Jinny St. Hilaire, Andrea Webb, Anna-Mae Wiesenthal

*Our apologies for any errors or omissions*



VANCOUVER  
JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

VANCOUVER JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

TICKETS: WWW.VJFF.ORG

## DOUBLE BILL: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11 • 3:30PM

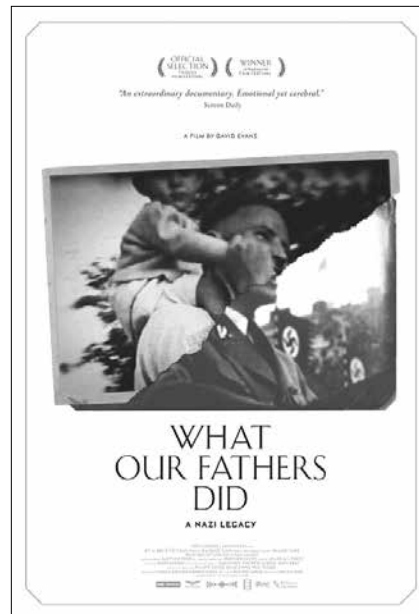
FIFTH AVENUE CINEMAS, 2110 BURRARD STREET



### CLAUDE LANZMANN: SPECTRES OF THE SHOAH

*Director in attendance*

Marking the 30th anniversary of *Shoah*'s 1985 release, as well as the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, Adam Benzine's documentary tells the story of the French auteur's 12-year battle to create his epic masterpiece, which today ranks among the most important Holocaust films. Benzine's documentary also features outtakes shot by the director and his crew in the 1970s and 80s.



### WHAT OUR FATHERS DID: A NAZI LEGACY

Human rights lawyer Philippe Sands investigates the connection between two men, both sons of high-ranking Nazi officials, who possess starkly contrasting attitudes toward their fathers. Sands delves into the story of his own grandfather, who escaped the same town where their fathers carried out mass killings. The three embark on an emotional journey together.

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12 • 7:00 PM

FIFTH AVENUE CINEMAS, 2110 BURRARD STREET



### ONCE IN A LIFETIME

Based upon a true story, a teacher of underprivileged inner-city pupils tasks her multicultural classroom with a unique assignment: a national competition on the theme of child victims of the Nazi concentration camps. The project is initially met with resistance, until an encounter with a Holocaust survivor changes the class's attitude. *Once in a Lifetime* demonstrates the impact of the Holocaust in transforming future generations. *In loving memory of Ben Akselrod z"l, by Rita Askelrod and Family.*



CHERIE SMITH JCCGV  
JEWISH  
BOOK FESTIVAL

JEWISH BOOK FESTIVAL

TICKETS: WWW.JCCGV.COM



## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 7:00 PM

VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE, 50 - 950 WEST 41ST AVENUE

### HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS IN CANADA: EXCLUSION, INCLUSION, TRANSFORMATION, 1947-1955

ADARA GOLDBERG

*Author in attendance*

At the Vancouver launch of *Holocaust Survivors in Canada*, Goldberg will explore the relationships between survivors, Jewish social service agencies, and local Jewish communities that emerged during the early years of post-war resettlement. The talk will address local and national organizational efforts to aid the new immigrants. Strained by mammoth disconnects in experience, language, and culture, these fragile connections greatly affected the resettlement process and shaped Canadian Jews' understanding of the Holocaust more than a decade before the term entered popular lexicon.

VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE

# *Save the Date*

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2016

*An Evening to Remember*

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

*Invitation to follow*