

VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE

ZACHOR

FALL 2016

**CANADA
RESPONDS
TO THE
HOLOCAUST:
1944-45**

VHEC COLLECTIONS
GO GLOBAL

HOLDING ON THROUGH
LETTERS: JEWISH
FAMILIES DURING
THE HOLOCAUST

*The Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre
wishes you and your family a Happy & Healthy New Year!*

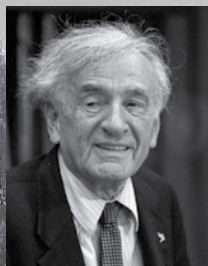
HIGH HOLIDAYS

CEMETERY SERVICE

Sunday, October 9, 2016 • 11 AM

Schara Tzedek Cemetery

2345 MARINE DRIVE, NEW WESTMINSTER



*This year's service will include a memorial
to Dr. Elie Wiesel z'l, who passed away July 2, 2016.*

EVERYONE WELCOME

PRESENTED BY THE VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE,
SCHARA TZEDECK CONGREGATION, AND JEWISH WAR VETERANS.

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COMMEMORATION

Tuesday, November 1, 2016 • 7 PM

Beth Israel Congregation

989 WEST 28TH AVENUE, VANCOUVER

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Debórah Dwork

ROSE PROFESSOR OF HOLOCAUST HISTORY AT CLARK UNIVERSITY
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Holding on Through Letters: Jewish Families During the Holocaust

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FALL 2016

ZACHOR

Remember

EDITOR

Nina Krieger

EDITOR,

"NO LONGER ALONE"

Lillian Boraks-Nemetz

DESIGN

Illene Yu

Cover: *Belgian Jews celebrate a Chanukah party arranged by Chaplain Samuel Cass in Antwerp, Belgium, December 17, 1944. Cass' mother sent gifts from Winnipeg for the children. Courtesy Ken Bell, Congregation Shaar Hashomayim Museum and Archives, Canadian Jewish Heritage Network/SH-01 251*

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

If you were able to join us earlier this year at our first-in-a-decade gala event “Looking Back ... Moving Forward,” you know about the depth and breadth of the work we are doing at the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre. That memorable evening gave each of us an experience similar to that which has changed so many lives when B.C. students hear eyewitness testimony from survivors of the Holocaust. In this instance, we were honoured not only to hear the testimony of Robbie Waisman, a Buchenwald survivor, but also from a survivor of the genocide against the Tutsis of Rwanda, Éloge Butera, who was inspired in part by the example of his friend Robbie to courageously share his story with young Canadians.

The evening really was unforgettable and I want to extend my thanks to everyone who made it possible, especially the event co-chairs Mariette Doduck, Helen Heacock Rivers and Shoshana Lewis. And, of course, everyone who attended and supported this event deserves the gratitude of our organization and the many people we serve.

Guests that evening, including long-time members and founders of the organization, learned about aspects of our programs and services that they were not aware of previously. (To get a taste of the relevance of our work, please take a few minutes to look at the video we premiered that evening, at www.vhec.org)

This issue of *Zachor* will also introduce you to some of the activities we are engaged in, including several we hope you will attend. As you will see in these pages, our annual High Holidays Cemetery Service this year will include a special memorial to Dr. Elie Wiesel z'l, who passed away this summer. You can also learn about the thought-provoking lecture at this year's Kristallnacht Commemorative Evening. Other upcoming events and recent news, including exciting advances in our collections, are highlighted in these pages.

This fall will also see the opening of a new VHEC-produced exhibition, *Canada Responds to the Holocaust, 1944-45*. Researched and written by Professor Richard Menkis and Ronnie Tessler, this original exhibition examines the contact between Canadians in Europe and survivors of the Holocaust. It captures the varied experiences and perspectives of Canadians desperately struggling to respond to the emerging realization of the breadth and inhumanity of the Shoah. We hope that you will join us at the opening program and learn more about this history by viewing the exhibition. This is an example of the sort of original work by the VHEC that addresses a particular area of Holocaust scholarship, in this case as in many, with a particular relevance to local and Canadian audiences.

As we enjoy the last days of summer and return to our routines, then turn our attentions to the High Holidays, I hope you will take the time to peruse this issue. All of the achievements you see here are possible because the VHEC has the support of friends like you, who understand the value of the work we undertake.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Nina Krieger
VHEC Executive Director

Elie Wiesel – Reminiscences

BY ROBERT KRELL



Dr. Elie Wiesel (right) signing books at the VHEC with Dr. Robert Krell, May 5, 1996.

I met Professor Elie Wiesel in 1978. I was 38 years old. He was 49. Elie, as he insisted I call him, came to Vancouver to speak at a commemorative event. It was for Yom HaShoah, the day of Holocaust remembrance.

He arrived Friday afternoon and I fetched him at the airport and brought him to our home for a few moments pre-Shabbat and then to his hotel. He had agreed to a press conference on Saturday morning stipulating only that no microphone be used. Elie was observant.

I moderated that morning. He was engaging, handled difficult and peculiar questions equally graciously, and made a deep and lasting impression on the journalists and religious leaders who attended. I learned that morning that his book, *Night*, a slim 120 pages, had once been nearly 1,000 pages written in Yiddish and published

in Argentina. How had he reduced it to its present size? By eliminating every paragraph without which the book would not lose its essence and then by eliminating every sentence in those paragraphs that was not needed to sustain its narrative. Ever since, I have tried to practice that in my talks and writings.

Elie asked me to visit at the hotel on Sunday for breakfast and we ended up talking all day. That evening he spoke to an audience of 500. I had the honour of introducing him. I used two minutes. How long does one need to introduce Wiesel? He was known to all even though he had not yet received the Nobel Peace Prize. That was to come in 1986. His lecture that evening was astonishing. One could listen to him forever, one of the few speakers in the world who commanded attention and seldom, if ever, lost his audience.

We remained friends. He was the kindest, gentlest, wisest person in my life. And he always made time for me although he was also the busiest and most prevailed upon person imaginable. So I took it upon myself to do two things. One was to call him from time to time and briefly visit when I was in New York. Famous people sometimes have no-one who inquires as to their own lives. I did not ask him for anything unless the idea began with him. No demands, requests, or favours. The other was to assist wherever I could with whatever little I could do. For example, he asked whether I could arrange for him to be in touch with Rudolf Vrba, one of only four or five escapees from Auschwitz and the author of the Vrba-Wetzler report (Auschwitz Protocols) warning of the imminent deportation of Hungarian Jews in 1944.

Vrba lived in Vancouver and I knew him well. Elie and Rudi subsequently corresponded for years and I can only

guess that some of it concerned the fact that the Wiesel family was not informed, by those who received the report in Hungary, when there was still a chance to flee into the nearby Carpathian Mountains. Did they ever meet? I offered Elie the opportunity. His response, "I do not think I can look into his eyes."

One time, when in New York, I received Elie's return call. Yes, he had time for me to have a brief visit on Monday morning. I went to his home and we caught up for perhaps a half-hour. During that time, he excused himself only once, to take a call from the White House. Presidents, secretaries of state, governors and senators all sought his counsel. He often flew at short notice to speak, to warn, in the midst of various crises around the world.

It was close to Passover. He asked who was travelling with me and I told him, Marilyn and my oldest daughter and granddaughter. Elie was upset not to greet them and

he insisted we all visit the next Thursday so he could personally wish them a Happy Pesach. How he made time in his wildly busy schedule, I will never understand.

I saw Elie speak in Israel at the 1981 World Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors at Lohamei HaGeta'ot (The Kibbutz of the Ghetto Fighters) and at the closing ceremonies with Prime Minister Menachem Begin. While in Los Angeles in 1982, I heard him speak at Cedars-Sinai Hospital on "the Holocaust patient" and on "Talmudic Tales" at UCLA Hillel House. Spell-binding.

For the very first World Gathering of Child Survivors (the 1991 Hidden Child/ADL Conference), the New York-based committee asked if I could convince him to speak. Since Elie seldom said no if he was able to attend, wherever in the world he was needed, this request for my involvement was puzzling. After all, this was New York, his home and the site of the gathering. But he



Dr. Elie Wiesel being interviewed by the CBC at the VHEC, 1996.



Dr. Elie Wiesel at a book signing reception in Vancouver, 1996.

had declined. My guess is that the situation had become complicated by competing factions.

I called him and reminded him that this was “the gathering of the children.” Where else would he want to be? He graciously agreed to give the closing address. I introduced him on the closing night and wondered out loud how it was possible that I had heard him lecture at Yale, in Israel, New York and Los Angeles. Somehow, wherever he was, I found him. I must be his groupie! I certainly never missed an opportunity to hear him and to learn from him.

In 1998, in New York, Elie presented me with the Elie Wiesel Holocaust Remembrance Medal for my work in Holocaust education, psychiatric contributions to the care of Holocaust survivors, and for founding the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre. Elie had visited the VHEC and served on its International Advisory Council along with Irwin Cotler, Yaffa Eliach and Sir Martin Gilbert. My family was there and my children all came to know him better. His loving presence is seared into their memories. Children for him were like a magnet. All who wrote to him received a personal response. How he managed this, in between teaching at Boston University,

speaking around the world, and publishing at least one book every year, I do not understand. But that is what he did.

In 2008, I went to Boston to celebrate his 80th birthday, which consisted of a three-day Festschrift devoted to his scholarship and writings, as well as a tribute concert. Although surrounded by his friends and fellow scholars, I found him sitting alone in the front row and joined him. At one point, I turned to him, “Elie, what is it like to hear all these scholars speak about your contributions all day long?” His response, “I am a good listener.” And indeed he was. He listened

attentively, to individuals and to humanity.

I nominated him for an honorary doctorate from UBC and although he was still recovering from open heart surgery (and wrote a book *Open Heart*), he travelled to attend the 2012 ceremony and to participate in “An Evening with Elie Wiesel,” held at the Orpheum theatre, attended by some 3,000 people. Our cab driver said, “Oh, look, Elie Wiesel is speaking.”

I asked questions, some “naïve” as in “Why remember such awful events (the Shoah)?” Elie’s response: “How can you not? Memory is part of who you are, your identity. I have so many wonderful memories of my family and being in shul and it’s all I have now of my family except my two surviving sisters of whom one has since passed on. Without memory, who would I be? The moments are so important.”

“Elie,” I asked, “you were asked to be the President of Israel. Can you tell us about this?” He answered that the thought had tormented him. How could he turn down the highest honour that could ever be bestowed upon him? He felt he

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Looking Back ... Moving Forward

Centre poised to accommodate change and significantly expand reach

BY PAT JOHNSON

Seven decades after the end of the Second World War, Holocaust-related organizations worldwide are facing a period of change and reorientation. For many, reliance on eyewitness testimony has been the core of their work. While the diminishing numbers of aging survivors means this survivor testimony must be supplemented with different approaches, technology and other advancements are breaking down geographical barriers to Holocaust remembrance and education.

“The Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre is quite superbly poised to not only respond to the challenges of the future, but to leverage them into opportunities for reaching even more people,” says Nina Krieger, executive director of the VHEC. “Through the use of technologies, we intend to eliminate geographical limitations and share our collections worldwide. We are also in the process of introducing innovations to make our collections more accessible and impactful to students, researchers and the general public within the Centre itself.”

“While looking to the future, the VHEC is by definition also focused on the past, which has always been a positive dichotomy within the organization,” says Krieger.

“We educate about the past in the hope of creating a better future,” she says. “The VHEC teaches about the Holocaust in order to advance a world free of antisemitism, racism and genocide, with social justice and human rights for all.”

That complementary attention to the past and the future was the theme of a first-in-a-decade special event in May. A gala-type evening, titled *Looking Back ...*

Moving Forward, paid tribute to the forward-looking individuals who founded the organization that created the VHEC, while setting the Centre on a trajectory of growth and innovation.



Keynote speakers Éloge Butera and Robbie Waisman.

The event included keynote addresses by Robbie Waisman, a survivor of the Holocaust, and Éloge Butera, a survivor of the genocide against the Tutsis of Rwanda. Both men shared their stories of survival and loss, providing attendees with an indication of the power eyewitness testimony has on the more than 25,000 B.C. students who attend VHEC Holocaust symposia each year. They also mentioned their commitment to speaking, despite the emotional difficulty, because of the potential it has to change lives.

Katia Hessel, a granddaughter of four Holocaust survivors, spoke movingly about her sense of responsibility in carrying the stories of her family into the future.

In another powerful presentation, Grade 11 student Caden Dorey shared a letter he had written to survivor speaker Lillian Boraks-Nemetz after a symposium.



Caden Dorey embracing Lillian Boraks-Nemetz after reading a letter he had written to her about the impact of hearing her testimony.

“I have never been so moved in my life,” he wrote. “You have changed my perspective on the Holocaust, and life itself ... I will never forget you, and thank you for letting me share this moment with you. I’m forever impacted by this day.”

The gala was co-chaired by Mariette Doduck, Helen Heacock Rivers and Shoshana Lewis. Honorary co-chairs were the four past-presidents of the organization, Robert Krell, Robbie Waisman, Rita Akselrod and Jody Dales. Dr. Art Hister emceed.

About 500 people attended the event, which took place at Congregation Beth Israel. Among the milestones marked was the first symposium on the Holocaust for



Event co-chairs Shoshana Lewis, Mariette Doduck and Helen Heacock Rivers.

high school students in B.C., which took place more than 40 years ago. About 30 years ago, the society that went on to create the VHEC was founded and the Centre opened its doors more than 20 years ago. These achievements, and the people who made them possible, were recognized throughout the evening.

Just days after the gala, another milestone occurred when the organization’s annual general meeting saw the passing of the leadership from Ed Lewin, who had served as president for six years, to Phil Levinson.

While he has served on several boards, Lewin said there is something special about the VHEC board, on which he continues to sit as past president.

“This one has been particularly rewarding because both my parents were survivors and I’ve always felt a very close connection to their story and wanting to spread the lessons to be learned from it,” he says. One of the sources of pride from his time at the helm, he says, “is having recruited a new generation of leaders.”

He acknowledges that the VHEC and organizations like it have challenges, but that the board and staff have ensured the Centre is amply prepared.

“The greatest single challenge we face is continuing to maintain the relevance of our mission and mandate in a post-eyewitness survivor era and I think we are well-positioned to do that,” Lewin says. Crucial to meeting the challenges, he says, is a project funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada to digitize the Centre’s archival collections, which will be accompanied by pedagogical materials allowing teachers anywhere to make use of these rich resources. Investments in infrastructure, which will allow greater access to, and visibility of, artefacts within the Centre, will enrich the experience of visitors.

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Canada Responds to the Holocaust, 1944-45

BY RICHARD MENKIS AND RONNIE TESSLER

A visitor to Washington's United States Holocaust Memorial Museum will find a full presentation on the role the American military played in liberating Nazi concentration camps in the Second World War. A visitor to the Imperial War Museum in London, England, will find a section on the "discovery" of the camps by the British. But there has been very little written about the encounter of Canadian soldiers with the Holocaust and with survivors at the end of the war and, to the best of our knowledge, no museum exhibition.

The VHEC's upcoming exhibition, *Canada Responds to the Holocaust, 1944-45* tells that previously untold story.

We follow the progress of Canadian soldiers fighting in France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany. There they first encountered Jews emerging from hiding, and then the Jews who had survived the camps. They also witnessed the devastation — the mass graves at Bergen-Belsen, and the desecration of synagogues by the Nazis. In the first few months after the war, Canadian soldiers waiting for demobilization used that time to help Jewish chaplains reach out to the surviving Jews. Canadian relief workers joined the United Nations Relief

and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (the "Joint") to provide aid to survivors and other displaced persons.

These encounters were complex. How could they not be? The Canadian government did not enter the Second World War to save Jews.

Most soldiers would have vague notions, at best, of the Nazi persecution of Jews, Roma, Sinti, homosexuals, disabled people and other vulnerable minorities. But then, in the fall of 1944, Canadian soldiers began to meet the victims and hear of the hardships of being in hiding. Many of the soldiers either witnessed, or saw widely circulating pictures, of the "horror camps."

How could these encounters not be complex? When the Allies, including the Canadians, moved through Europe after D-Day, liberating France, Belgium and the Netherlands, they witnessed the local population's joy at the end of Nazi rule. But did the Jews share in that jubilation? For many, it was the time when they discovered how many family members they had lost, or saw what little remained of their communities. Is the term liberation even appropriate? That's why the British have referred to the "discovery" of the camps.

And there were other complexities. Amongst them were deep-seated disagreements on the planning for the remnant of surviving Jews. Certainly Canadian soldiers and relief workers aided with the short-term needs of the



A Dutch Jood ("Jewish") star from the Netherlands given by a Holocaust survivor to E.J. (Ted) Sheppard. Originally from and currently based in Victoria, Sheppard served in the 8th Reconnaissance Regiment, the reconnaissance arm of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division in the Second World War. Courtesy E.J. Sheppard



Canadian military personnel on a picnic with the children of Bergen-Belsen. Courtesy Ontario Jewish Archives

survivors. But what of a long-term solution? Repatriation to a devastated community in a weakened country? By the end of 1945, many Jews—including the Canadian Jewish chaplains—were convinced that there was no future for Jews in Europe, and that the answer was Jewish emigration to Palestine and the creation of a Jewish state. This solution was not unanimous. By late 1945, at least one prominent Canadian aid worker found it hard to support Jewish nationalism when it was nationalisms that had torn Europe apart.

Canada Responds to the Holocaust, 1944-45 thus conveys an intertwined history of soldiers, survivors, aid workers and government officials.

We also show how the information was reaching Canada. We hear the broadcasts from the CBC's Matthew Halton, reporting from Belgium in September 1944 and Germany in April 1945. We see the images taken by Canadian official photographers and widely circulated of orphans celebrating Chanukah and soldiers at a Passover seder in Germany in late March 1945. We can learn of the heartfelt radio broadcast by Canadian ambassador Georges Vanier, after his visit to Buchenwald.

The exhibition incorporates elements of the stories that some might deem uncomfortable. The womanizing of the Canadian soldiers, crudely articulated in the war diaries of two regiments, and commented upon by survivors, is part

of this narrative. The sharp accusations of paternalism that survivors made against aid workers are also part of the history.

Many of these stories are being heard for the first time. Dr. Mark Celinscak, recently appointed to the University of Nebraska Omaha, demonstrates in his new book (*Distance from the Belsen Heap*) the important role that Canadians played in the liberation of Bergen-Belsen, and in the weeks immediately following. He is the author of a number of the exhibition's panels, and will be a guest speaker of the VHEC during the exhibition.

Also on display are a number of images (some commissioned by the military, others taken by amateurs), reproductions of paintings, and documents that have never been incorporated into publications or displays. These primary sources were located in archival collections in Canada, the United States, the Netherlands and Israel, as well as from the VHEC's own collection, and made available to the exhibition.

This research would not have been possible without an excellent international team. One of the delights of working on this project was the contact with colleagues in other countries. We were fortunate to have Dutch-speaking researchers, especially Ms. Katja Gross Sommer (University of Amsterdam) and Ms. Annemarie van Dijk (University of Groningen). We received great support from the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies in Amsterdam (with special thanks to Dr. Jaap Cohen and Dr. Erik Somers) and the Camp Westerbork National Memorial (with special thanks to conservator Mr. Guido Abuys and researcher Mr. Bas Korholt).

The co-authors had meaningful exchanges on sensitive issues with Ms. van Dijk and student researcher Ms. Meredith Shaw (UBC). We were also privileged to converse with Mr. Colin Upton about his project to create a graphic narrative of some of the themes of *Canada Responds*. While artistic license has taken him in



Belgian Jews celebrate at a Chanukah party in Antwerp, Belgium, December 17, 1944. Courtesy Ken Bell, Congregation Shaar Hashomayim Museum and Archives, Canadian Jewish Heritage Network/Sh-01 251

directions somewhat different than the exhibition, we are very excited about the result, *Kicking at the Darkness*. His collaborative process included a visit to Richard Menkis's UBC history course on the Jewish graphic narrative, where Mr. Upton commented on student projects in comic form that explored the themes of the exhibition. The exhibition and the comic are supported by a grant to the VHEC from the Inter-Action Multiculturalism Grants and Contributions Program of Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Canada Responds to the Holocaust, 1944-45 offers, at long last, a display and study, through printed and spoken words as well as images, of Canadian perspectives on "liberation" and early postwar reconstruction.

The Canada Responds to the Holocaust, 1944-45 exhibition will be on view from October 16, 2016 to March 31, 2017. An opening program will be held on Sunday, October 16, 2016 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre with remarks at 2 p.m.

Richard Menkis and Ronnie Tessler are the co-research directors and co-writers of *Canada Responds to the Holocaust, 1944-45*.

was letting down the State of Israel that wanted him and his leadership. But he explained that he was without political experience and that all he really had were words which, as a politician, would no longer be his. “And besides,” he joked, “my wife would have divorced me.”

“How do you choose the language in which you write?” (Elie speaks Hungarian, Romanian, Yiddish, Hebrew, French and English). “I prefer the eloquence of French which is the easiest for me. And sometimes my choice is determined by what I am writing about. And I like to write to classical music, preferably a quartet as an orchestra is too distracting.”

“What message would you send to our young people here tonight?” His response, “Your life is not measured in time and years. It is a collection of moments. You will look back and have so many moments in time that remain fresh, memorable and meaningful. I would tell all of you young people in the audience to enjoy all these moments in time. Being here in Vancouver this weekend has been one of those moments for me.”

With his passing, I shall be without more such moments with him. His death leaves an enormous void, for his moral strength and inspiration will be missing from all who benefitted. We must resolve to step up and commit to continue to learn from and emulate this remarkable human being who returned from the depths of despair and loss to provide a measure of hope.

I urge you to read *Night* and Elie’s brilliant memoir in two parts *All Rivers Run to the Sea* and *And The Sea is Never Full*. Having absorbed at least these books, you may then reflect upon and hopefully act upon, the lessons learned. They will last you a lifetime.

Robert Krell is a Professor of Psychiatry at UBC and the founding president of the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre.

Lewin commended the professional team and volunteers at the VHEC. “Our staff is amazing,” he says. “Second to none in the non-profit sector. They work extremely hard. Very dedicated, very devoted. Our lay leadership, as well, we are a cohesive unit. The interaction between professional and lay leadership is very, very strong, congenial and collegial.”

Levinson, the incoming president, joined the board about a decade ago, partly motivated by his first encounter with Holocaust denial.

“When I first faced Holocaust denial, it was in Canada,” says the South African-born Levinson. “I’d never heard of such a thing actually. It was so terrible, I felt like a victim. It was so frustrating, it’s hard to put into words.”

This was not a high-profile case covered in the news. “It was face-to-face,” he says. “This guy I became friendly with — he seemed pretty normal — he started to explain to me how this thing never happened.”

That interaction helped set Levinson on a path of volunteerism with the VHEC.

“This is at least one way I can deal with it,” he says. “I’m doing my little bit to fight Holocaust denial. Fighting Holocaust denial fights antisemitism, which is part of my motivation.”

The coming years will bring important changes to the organization and its programs, Levinson says. It’s difficult to say that the future will be better, because the programs and services the Centre delivers are top-notch, he says. But the scope and reach of the VHEC’s work will definitely be bigger.

Pat Johnson is a journalist and communications and development consultant to the VHEC.

Family Letters

A trove of correspondence between parents and children shed light on family ties during the Holocaust

BY PAT JOHNSON

Nearly two decades ago — and a full half-century after the end of the Second World War — a man in Switzerland cleaning out the apartment of his deceased aunt came across a stash of more than 1,000 letters. The discovery disclosed the aunt's comparatively simple but valiant acts during the Holocaust and provides new insights into the lives of Jewish children and parents separated during the Holocaust.

The aunt, Elisabeth Luz, was an unmarried Protestant woman living near Zurich who appears to have stumbled into a role as the sole connection between hundreds of divided Jewish families.

Because postal service between belligerent nations was restricted during the war, neutral Switzerland provided a potential channel for communication. Through what appears to have been happenstance aided by the compassion of a single devoted individual, thousands of letters made it to their intended recipients — and the record they provide demonstrates what families chose to say, and not say, in furtive missives in times of crisis.



Deborah Dwork ©Jonathan Edelman

The nephew knew that he had stumbled upon something important. He was familiar with the book *Children with a Star*, by Professor Debórah Dwork, a definitive study of the experiences of Jewish children under Nazism and the adults who helped them. He contacted Dwork to ask if she would like the letters.

Dwork, Rose Professor of Holocaust History and founding director of the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University, in Massachusetts, now possesses the letters, has studied them for years and will be in Vancouver this fall to speak about what they tell us about families during the Holocaust. Dwork will deliver the keynote address at the annual Kristallnacht Commemorative Lecture November 1.

Dwork cannot be certain how Luz came to be the intermediary for hundreds of families.

“From what I can piece together — and this is what I believe is the case — there was a refugee camp, sort of an internment camp, not a concentration camp, for refugees that had been established by the Swiss government in that town,” Dwork says. Elisabeth Luz went to the camp to give voluntary aid, Dwork believes, “to show with her presence that she cared about their plight.”

One of the men in the camp asked Luz whether she would be so kind as to send a letter to his wife.

“From there, it snowballed,” says Dwork. “Some of the letters that I have from the children, for example, say ‘you

don't know me but Susie told me that you are an auntie who is willing to write to our mothers,' and so on."

The parents were mostly in "Greater Germany," Germany, and the areas it occupied. The children had mostly been sent to places thought to be safe, including Britain, France, Belgium and the Netherlands. Remarkably, the letters do not end in 1945. In the course of being a conduit between hundreds of parents and their children, Luz became a confidant to many of them, "Tante Elisabeth," and remained in contact with several who continued their correspondence.

The fact that the collection of letters exists at all is due in part to the fact that Luz hand-copied each one, believing that this would be less likely to catch the attention of war-era postal censors. She maintained the originals.

"Parents sent their letter to her, she copied every letter and then sent it on to the children and the children did the same in reverse," says Dwork.

Some of the children were on the Kindertransport, the effort to transfer Jewish children from Germany and Nazi-occupied Europe to the United Kingdom, while others were sent by their parents to places considered safer for Jewish children.

"There were a number of children who were sent to family members or to friends or to religious organizations by their parents independently, individually," she says, adding that there is much to be learned from the letters.

"It tells us an enormous amount about family, the importance of family and the way in which family members use letters as thread to bind the family together. I think also it tells us about how children absorbed, adjusted, adapted — or did not adjust or adapt — to their ever-changing lives," she says. What the letters do not always indicate is the fate of the families who sent them.

"We know a lot about the children who went on the Kindertransport to Britain, because they survived," says Dwork. Less is known about the children sent to Belgium, the Netherlands and France.

"Many of them did not survive as the Germans conquered and occupied those countries," she says. Of those who continued corresponding with Luz long after the war, many had lost their parents.

"Because of the relationship that developed between the children and Elisabeth Luz, those who continued to write, by and large, were now young adults whose parents did not survive and she, Elisabeth Luz, was the last tie to their prewar and wartime life," Dwork says. "So she had become their confidant and that's very important, the way Elisabeth became a confidant to the parents and the children."

Dwork says Vancouverites should join her in November not only to hear specifics about the contents of the letters, but also to reflect on some of the broader issues raised by a collection of this sort, which is a focus of Dwork's academic work.

"The larger question, I think, is how do people keep in contact?" she asks. "What do parents in Greater Germany say to their children? And what do children tell their parents about their daily lives?"

While the letters represent voices from the past, they have much to say to people today.

"This is a very human story," says Dwork. "And as we are looking at refugees today far-flung from one spot to another, it may help us to think about how each one is a member of a family."

The Kristallnacht Commemorative Lecture takes place Tuesday, November 1, 2016, at 7 p.m. at Congregation Beth Israel.

Centre's Collections Going Global

The VHEC's extensive resources will be accessible to all online

BY KATIE POWELL

Over the past two years, visitors to the VHEC might have noticed that the Centre's programming and education space has been mysteriously repurposed by new faces busily typing amidst stacks of tapes and boxes, the walls papered with flow charts and to-do lists. During this time, the VHEC has undertaken two of its largest projects since the organization's founding. Funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the estate of Paul and Edwina Heller, these projects will change the way researchers, members of the public, educators and students engage with and access the VHEC's four collections, both onsite and remotely.

The VHEC is home to four collection types, which represent Western Canada's largest Holocaust-related holdings: a uniquely curated library collection; the museum, which contains three-dimensional historical artefacts; the archives, which hold over 100 linear feet of donated historical documents, records, and photographs; and the Centre's Holocaust survivor testimony collection, which contains over 200 recordings ranging from the late 1970s to the present day.

The focus of the two multi-year projects has been to improve access to all four collections by creating an

VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE COLLECTIONS

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Home > Archives > Gottfried Family collection > Vienna > Kraus Family

Kraus Family

SUB-SERIES
IDENTIFIER
RA001-1s

EXTENT & MEDIUM
5cm of textual records

DATE
[191-]-[193-]

CREATOR
Kraus Family

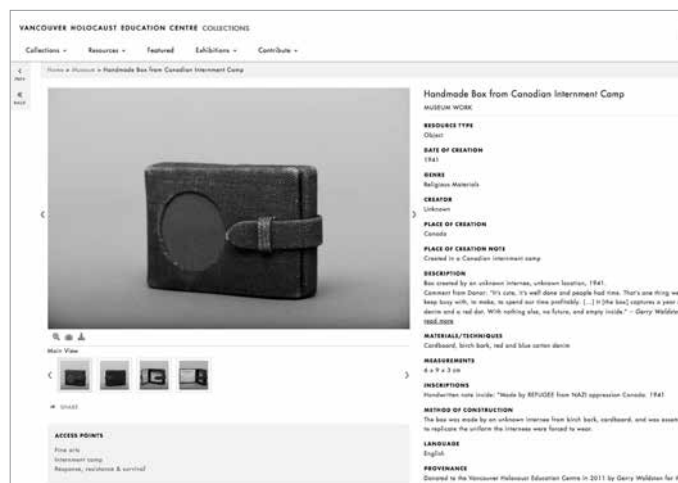
ADMINISTRATIVE/BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY
Kraus was the family name of Gerda Gottfried's husband Hans, who brought to their 1947 marriage much of his family's documentary history. He was the only child of Edmund and Irma Kraus (nee Mosauer). They were wealthy Ashkenazi Jews and were very integrated into Austrian society. Edmund, a highly educated man, served with distinction in the First World War as a doctor – he was commended by the Red Cross for his services – before returning to set up a successful dental [read more](#)

SCOPE & CONTENT
Series documents the pre- and interwar life of the Kraus family. It includes the extensive correspondence between Edmund Kraus and his wife Irma during the First World War, which is noteworthy for its poetry and the Austro-German nationalism it evidences. It also includes acknowledgements of Edmund's military honours. Further records comprise birth certificates, death certificates, death books, report cards, Hans' guild membership and training certificates, and documents relating to [read more](#)

ARCHIVAL HISTORY
Records from the first and third accessions were maintained by Gerda Kraus (nee Gottfried) and her sister Lori Seemann (nee Gottfried) until at least 1999, when the first donations to VHEC occurred. Records from the second accession were discovered at a garage sale and donated by George Wendziak.

IMMEDIATE SOURCE OF ACQUISITION OR TRANSFER
The first group of records was donated by Gerda Gottfried Kraus in 1999. A further accession took place in 2000, when George Wendziak found a number of documents in a junk heap at a yard sale; realizing their value, he brought them to VHEC where they were identified and added to the collection. A final donation came in 2001 from the estate of Lori

An example of an archival record in the VHEC's new Collections Management System (CMS).



An example of a museum record in the VHEC's new system.

online catalogue, a Collections Management System (CMS), to support the characteristics of the VHEC's holdings. As we customized the new system, the touchstone of our work remained — what are the strengths and unique qualities of the VHEC's collections? How could this information best serve the community of survivors, families, educators, students and researchers in the years to come?

From the start, our approach was to treat all of the collections holistically. For many heritage institutions, collections live in independent silos of information within their respective departments. However, the VHEC's system facilitates the inclusion of all four collections into one system, something innovative within the world of libraries, museums and archives. This approach has already proved to be a game-changer for the Centre's research projects, and other institutions are also looking to the VHEC's work as a model for cross-collection integration.

What this means for users is that when they are browsing through the new web interface, they will be able to see the entire contents of the VHEC's collections, accessible to all online. Each record also has a rich set of relationships linking it to other people, places and things

across all collections. A researcher searching the "Warsaw Ghetto," for example, will have results that show all related publications, testimonies, objects and archival materials held at the VHEC, but will also show more nuanced relationships by linking themes, Holocaust-related topics and historical events and exhibitions.

The root of this innovation was in the selection of metadata, or data about the data, that should be included for every record entered in the system. How do you maintain an inventory of Holocaust testimonies that have been copied to multiple formats over time? How do you incorporate new library descriptions and theoretical standards into a living system? What types of descriptors are important for objects? How do you create an archival hierarchy of information in a system that is built around single objects rather than aggregates? These are a handful of the questions that staff worked through with many hours of discussion and testing along the way.

The road to researching, selecting, customizing, testing and populating this system has been a long process. The first few months consisted of contacting over 30 institutions across North America, Great Britain and Europe. For many weeks, we weighed the features of fixed proprietary systems versus more customizable open source systems. In the end, we decided on an open source system called CollectiveAccess. Based out of New York City, this software has been used by large organizations like the 9/11 Memorial Museum as well as local institutions including the Vancouver Maritime Museum.

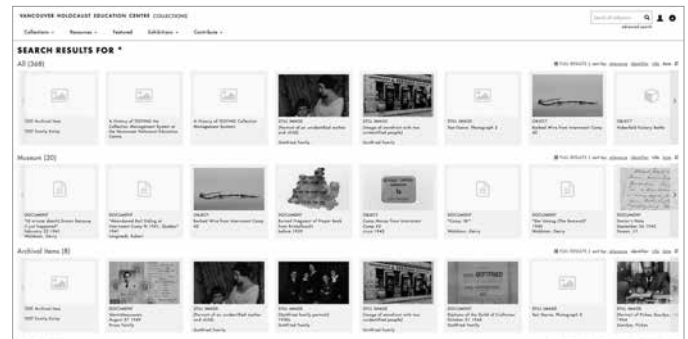
For members of the public, the most important aspect of the project was the user web-interface. Our goal was to highlight the visual components of the collection throughout and maintain an emphasis on bridging all four collections together. Users will notice that at the bottom of each catalogue record are all of the related holdings in the other collections, related people and organizations, places and exhibitions and events. Our

goal was to capture the often subtle and complex stories associated with people, their history and their belongings.

A concurrent project was the large-scale digitization of the collections. Once the CMS is thoroughly populated with all of the VHEC's records, users will be able to not only view information about the Centre's holdings but also the digital materials: testimony content as well as digitized two- and three-dimensional items. For testimonies, this meant digitizing all of the recordings from their original formats, which included ¾-inch U-matic tapes, VHS, MiniDV, and digital files.

Over the past year, more than 400 hours of testimony has been digitized to create high-quality preservation files, utility copies for inclusion in exhibitions, and access copies for user-friendly research. With the collection digitized and accessible to the public, researchers and educators can now access a more comprehensive study of Vancouver's Holocaust survivor testimony.

Visitors to the VHEC's newly enhanced collections website will be able to stream clips or entire testimonies online (depending on the privacy restrictions on the recordings), bringing testimonies into classrooms. As an additional resource, the VHEC collections staff has created time-coded summaries, which act as textual



An example of cross-collection search results in the new system, which allows users to search across archival museum, testimony and library collections.

guides for testimonies. These guides aid in navigating the narratives of the testimonies to pinpoint specific topics or experiences. All testimony catalogue records have also been tagged with a customized list of subject headings to assist researchers who are investigating specific themes across multiple recordings.

Alongside the digitization of Holocaust testimonies, the VHEC has also started digitizing the entire museum and archives, and the Centre is home to a new digitization lab and photography studio. This work will continue over the coming year and visitors to the site can expect to see frequent updates with new images to accompany collection records.

The VHEC is very pleased to introduce this new Collections Management System to members of the public. Over the next year, staff will be working hard to catalogue the Centre's holdings but at the moment the final touches are being added to the user interface. Please stay tuned for the official site launch later this year. In the meantime, we would like to express our thanks to the community for supporting the Centre's work during these years of growth, and as the collections, the new CMS and our digitization work move into the future, making our rich collections accessible to broader audiences.

Katie Powell, formerly collections assistant at the VHEC, is pursuing a Master's degree in history at UBC.



An example of a video testimony record in the new system.

A Promise Kept, A Legacy Honoured

BY DAN SONNENSCHIN

The October 1996 issue of *Zachor* contained an article by Claudia Cornwall entitled “A Bridge to Nuremberg: The Story of Bronia and Markus.” Bronia Sonnenschein was my mother, well known to many for her work in Holocaust education, mainly as a compelling outreach speaker. Markus is Markus Schirmer, a schoolteacher in Germany, where he is active in Holocaust education and commemoration. The two met when Markus approached my mother after being moved by a talk she gave in 1993 during Hillel’s annual Holocaust Awareness Week at the University of British Columbia, where he was then a student. He learned much more from her and, before returning to Nuremberg, promised he would educate young people about the Holocaust. Claudia quoted my mother as saying: “He kept his promise to me. He has restored my faith; I can trust again. And that is very important.”

This story began when Bronia’s eldest granddaughter, Emily Sztabyb, visited Nuremberg while on a trip to Europe in 2000 and gave presentations to Markus’s students about the Holocaust. In 2002, Emily’s sister, Claire, also visited and similarly addressed students.

Emily, her parents and two siblings, and their families, all live in Calgary. In April 2012, a little over a year after my mother’s death, Calgary’s Yom HaShoah event saw the premiere of Emily’s play, *The Treasure*, based in part on the Shoah experiences of Bronia, her sister Paula, and their mother Emily (after whom my niece is named). The play was directed by an acclaimed director, Kevin McKendrick, and the performance was very well received. Emily had copies of the script professionally printed and, after reading it, Markus decided to have students in his new school, Reuchlin

Gymnasium in Ingolstadt, perform this play in October 2016.

While planning for this was underway, he also arranged a student exchange program with Kitsilano Secondary School in Vancouver and, working with the school’s principal, Edith Philipp-Rasch, accompanied 16 students here in May of this year. Part of their activity-packed two weeks was a workshop about the play. Emily, along with my sister Vivian and brother-in-law Ben, came for the occasion, and Emily gave a presentation to the students, following an introduction by me. We were also joined by Kevin, who shared his expertise as a theatre director, and by Claudia, who spoke of her friendship with my mother (a relationship that began via the VHEC, when Claudia was doing research for her book, *Letter from Vienna: A Daughter Discovers her Jewish Roots*). As it happens, Claudia had written another article about Bronia, “Seeing past hate,” which was published in *The Vancouver Sun*, about a religious letter given by a German woman to my mother



Markus Schirmer with Bronia Sonnenschein, 1994.



Emily Sztabyb addressing visiting German students, with the school principal at the right.

shortly before she was sent on a “death march” in April 1945. This letter (“Schutzbrief”) was intended to provide her with a mystical form of protection from all harm, and has a central role in Emily’s play.

On the day after the theatre workshop, Markus arranged for the group to visit Beth Israel synagogue and then the VHEC. Phillipa Friedland, the VHEC’s education director, offered an overview of the exhibit on view, *Open Hearts, Closed Doors*. Phillipa presented to Markus a copy of previous education director Adara Goldberg’s book *Holocaust Survivors in Canada: Exclusion, Inclusion, Transformation, 1947-1955* (which contains several pages about my mother and her family). I gave Markus a copy of the book *With a Camera in the Ghetto*, containing photos taken by Mendel Grossman in the Łódź Ghetto (where my mother and her family had been imprisoned), some of whose photos were included in the VHEC’s previous exhibit, *The Face of the Ghetto*. I also showed

Markus and the group a book I had donated to the VHEC library, *The Secret of Priest’s Grotto*, which I had arranged with librarian Shannon LaBelle to be inscribed in his honour. The group was also pleased to meet VHEC executive director Nina Krieger.

A month later, Calgary’s *Jewish Free Press* published Emily’s article about the workshop, “Theatre as living memory.” In it, she reflected on her feelings as a member of the Third Generation, writing: “For a long time, the strength and miracle behind my very existence, a blessing denied to so many, was a haunting and driving factor behind much of what I tried to do, personally and professionally. For some years, it seemed that, while all lives are special and unique and beautiful, perhaps mine needed to be more so. A Third Generation survivor syndrome of sorts.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

Hunting for Justice

Bringing Nazi war criminals to court often fell to small group of dedicated ‘hunters’

BY PAT JOHNSON

After the Nuremberg trials, official international interest in bringing Nazi war criminals to justice waned. As the Cold War heated up, world powers were more focused on potential wars of the future than on relitigating, literally, the war just passed.

Bringing to life a cast of sometimes eccentric seekers of justice, the journalist and author Andrew Nagorski’s book *The Nazi Hunters* surveys the manner in which perpetrators of some of the 20th century’s worst crimes finally met justice. In many instances, it was simply because of the tenacity of a single individual or small group of dedicated people that the false identities or hidden pasts of Nazi figures were uncovered.

There were the “official” Nazi hunters, those whose government-designated roles included identifying perpetrators and bringing them to justice. These include figures like Fritz Bauer, a German prosecutor and judge who helped the Mossad track down Adolf Eichmann, and Allan Ryan, who led the U.S. Justice Department’s new office of special investigations in the 1980s that belatedly identified and stripped the citizenship of Nazi war criminals who were living in the United States. But there were also those, like Simon Wiesenthal and Tuvia Friedman, who established independent agencies to do the job government officials — of any government — would not. (The Israeli government, as one senior security official told Nagorski, was too busy building the nascent state to devote resources to hunting Nazis.) There was also the legendary husband-and-wife team of Serge and Beate Klarsfeld, the latter of whom slapped West German chancellor Kurt Kiesinger across the face.



Andrew Nagorski ©Andrew Rudakov

While tracing the intrigue around the hunt for Nazi fugitives, Nagorski also uncovers some of the familial squabbles among Nazi hunters themselves. When Eichmann was apprehended, media portrayed Wiesenthal as the hero of the caper. But Isser Harel, who was head of Mossad and therefore both more intricately involved in the operation and sworn by the nature of his job from trumpeting his achievement, simmered quietly. (“For the first time in history the Jews would judge their assassins,” Harel told members of the team the night before the Eichmann abduction.)

The most famous of the “hunted” were Adolf Eichmann, Rudolf Höss and Klaus Barbie. Others, like the retired Cleveland auto worker John Demjanuk nearly ran out the clock fighting justice. He died of old age a year after his conviction.

Nagorski has noted that the pursuit of justice was about more than bringing perpetrators to justice; it was about presenting documentary evidence, recording eyewitness accounts and screening film footage of death camps in order to produce a clear historical record. The emergence of Holocaust denial, in the 1970s, made subsequent trials especially relevant for reminding a new generation of historical facts.

Andrew Nagorski will present at the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre Tuesday, November 29, at 5:30 p.m. as part of the Cherie Smith JCC Jewish Book Festival.

Reflections on my VHEC Internship

BY ANNEMARIE VAN DIJK

It might seem strange: a student from the Netherlands travels all the way to Vancouver to do an internship at a Holocaust centre. It is not something I would have expected when I started my Master's degree in history. But I would not have wanted it any other way: the internship and the VHEC turned out to be perfect for me.

I specialize in the representation of both the Holocaust and the American civil rights movement and my goal is to create exhibits or educational programs that make people reflect upon the consequences of racism and discrimination. To gain experience in this field, I wanted to do an internship before my graduation, so I started looking for a suitable organization. When I came across the VHEC, I knew this would be the right place. It would offer me the opportunity to work in both the museum and the educational fields, and I would be able to gain many different skills. I also wanted to broaden my perspective on the Holocaust by doing an internship in another country. This would offer me both the opportunity to study the Holocaust from a transnational perspective and the experience of working in a foreign environment.

I was appointed as a project researcher for the Centre's upcoming exhibit, *Canada Responds to the Holocaust, 1944-45*. The Canadian army was largely responsible for the liberation of the Netherlands. I grew up listening to my grandfather's stories about how the Canadian soldiers liberated the city of Groningen and — perhaps just as important — handed out chocolates and white bread. Each year around May 5 — the Dutch liberation day — there is still a lot of attention for the Canadian heroes. Therefore, I was excited to get to know the other side of the story. It was really interesting to find out what our liberators thought about the Netherlands, and how this fits in with the Dutch narrative. As it turned out, the

Canadians were especially fascinated by the Dutch women, to say the least. But I also encountered a fact that shocked me. In the Netherlands, we tend to see Canada (and the other allies) as brave heroes who came to save both Europe and the Jews. Learning about the Canadian war policy and the internment camps for Jewish refugees, it was an eye-opener for me to find out that the Canadian government had almost no interest in saving Jews.

Witnessing all stages of the process and seeing the pieces of the exhibit slowly coming together truly was a valuable experience for me. But besides my work on the exhibit, I also had the chance to discover other facets of the VHEC. I attended the Abbotsford district-wide Holocaust Symposium and helped with the organization of the VHEC's Annual Symposium on the Holocaust at UBC. It was interesting to learn more about Holocaust education in British Columbia, and to see how the VHEC contributes to it. The symposium made me realize how important interactions with survivors are for Holocaust education. Although there are institutions



Annemarie van Dijk at the VHEC.

CONTINUED FROM A PROMISE KEPT, A LEGACY HONOURED



Dan introducing his niece's presentation, with a 1938 photograph of his mother, aunt, and grandmother.

I am proud of my niece for contributing to Holocaust education with her play. I'm also very pleased to have continued the friendship with Markus and to help him with various projects related to the Shoah. In October 2010, he made a visit to my mother, which proved to be his last before her death. It was then that he gave her the article he called "Absolutely Grateful for this Friendship." I had asked him to write one for a third edition of the book (*Victory over Nazism: The Journey of a Holocaust Survivor*), by and about my mother, that I had been working on. The visit meant a lot to her, and I'm happy that she had this chance to read his warm words of appreciation.

On International Holocaust Remembrance Day, on January 27 this year, Markus was a main organizer of a commemorative ceremony for Ingolstadt held in his school. He arranged to play an excerpt of a radio interview with my mother describing her arrival at Auschwitz, preceded by a brief speech about her by one of his students. So Markus carries on keeping his promise, and the story that began almost a quarter of a century ago continues.

Dan Sonnenschein was born in Israel and grew up in Vancouver. He has worked in the computer industry and in publishing.

CONTINUED FROM REFLECTIONS ON MY VHEC INTERNSHIP

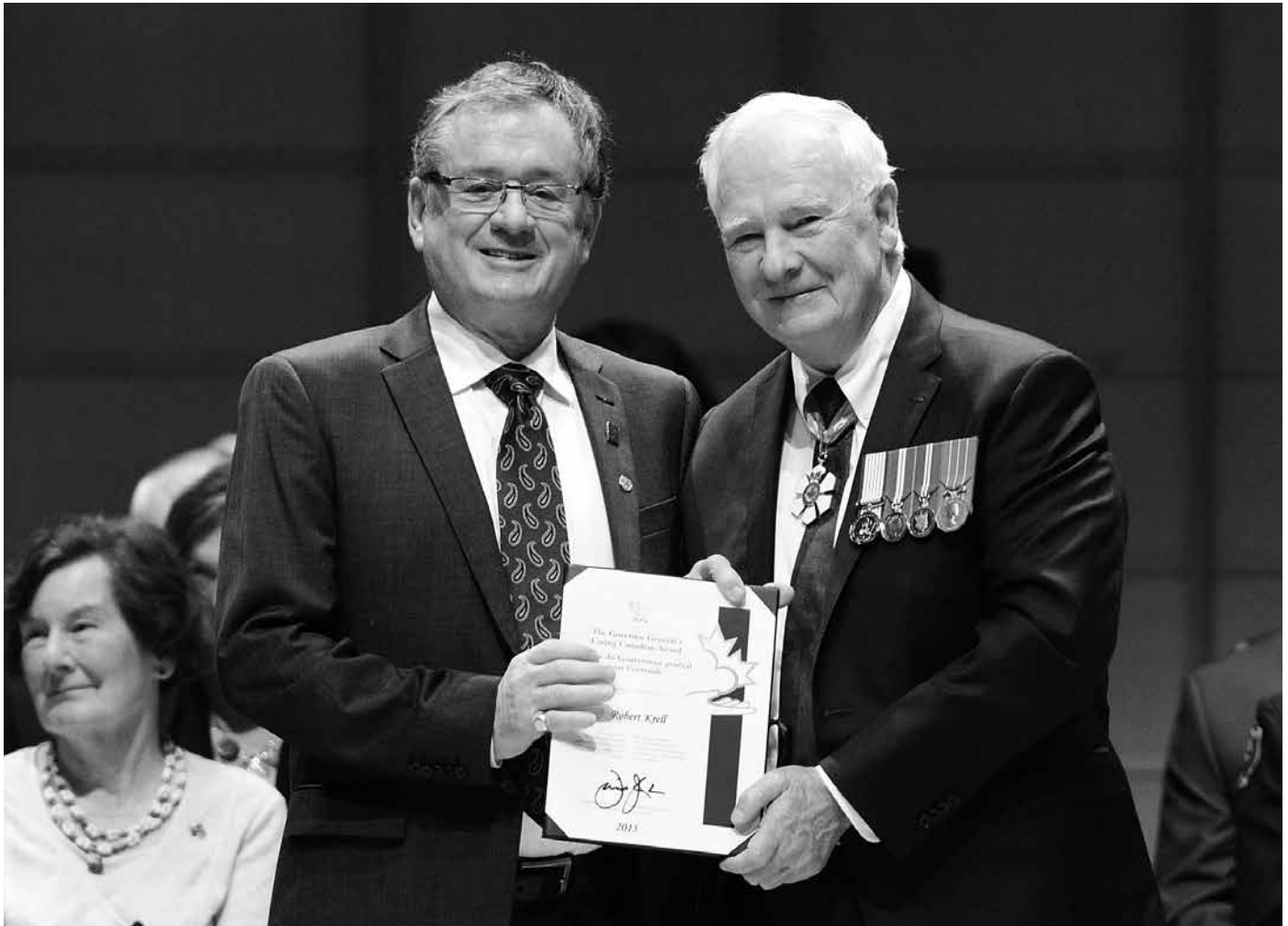
in the Netherlands that facilitate survivor interactions, it did not happen at my school. It was at the VHEC that I heard a Holocaust survivor tell their story for the first time, and then I could understand how important this experience was for students. It was amazing to see how moved the students were by the survivors' stories. I was touched to watch two of the "toughest" kids in the class be the first ones who walked up to the survivor to give her a big hug. I feel so lucky that the internship gave me the opportunity to hear these incredible stories first-hand.

Working on the VHEC's Testimony Project gave me the chance to hear even more stories. Some of them were very hard to listen to, others showed incredible resilience; all of them made a lasting impression on me and made me realize again why I chose this sometimes-difficult specialization. These stories are so important for Holocaust education and the struggle against racism and discrimination. They should be told, and continue to be told in the future. I am very excited for the VHEC's new online collection system, which will make these stories more accessible, especially for students who won't have the opportunity to visit the Centre.

Altogether, I can only say that my internship at the VHEC was a very valuable experience that could not have been any better. I had the opportunity to expand my knowledge, develop practical skills, meet amazing people and to contribute to the work of the VHEC. It feels like the three months went by in no time and, on the other hand, I felt so at home, it was as if I had been working there for years. My heartfelt thanks to Nina Krieger and the rest of the staff, who became dear colleagues in just three months. Sitting at my desk in the Netherlands, I already miss Vancouver and the Centre, and I can't wait to come back someday!

Annemarie van Dijk is a Master's student of history at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands.

Dr. Robert Krell Honoured



Dr. Robert Krell with His Excellency David Johnston.

Dr. Robert Krell has been honoured with the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award. His Excellency David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, presented Krell with the award on March 4, 2016, at the Chan Centre in Vancouver, in acknowledgment of Krell's "active involvement in his community for more than 45 years and founding the Holocaust Education Centre in Vancouver. Through education and remembrance, he has made significant contributions to promoting human rights and social justice in Canada."

The Caring Canadian Award was created in 1995 by then-Governor General, the Right Honourable Romeo LeBlanc, "to recognize the unsung heroes who volunteer their time, their efforts and a great deal of their lives to helping others, and who ask for nothing in return."

Krell joins VHEC outreach speaker Robbie Waisman in being acknowledged by this significant national award for exceptional volunteer activities in support of Holocaust education and remembrance.

MARCH 1 – AUGUST 10, 2016

GET WELL

Rita Akselrod, Speedy Recovery.
Belinda & Sam Gutman, Shoshana
& Shawn Lewis, Aron & Sam & Al
Szajman, Ida & Odie Kaplan, Ruth
Wolochow, Agi Bergida, Corinne
& Mark Gelfer, Sheila & Norman
Archech, Gisi & Bob Levitt, Fran
Goldberg

Anna Maria Alpar, Speedy
Recovery. Alex Buckman & the
Child Survivor Group

Alex Buckman, Speedy Recovery.
Louise Sorensen, Gerri & Mark
London

Karen Cohen, Speedy Recovery.
Jack & Karen Micner & Family,
Mark & Debby Choit

Ben Folk, Speedy Recovery.
Ida & Odie Kaplan, Al, Sam &
Aron Szajman

Ian Penn, Speedy Recovery.
Al Szajman

Gloria Waisman, Speedy Recovery.
Jack & Karen Micner, Lois &
Walter Gumphrich, Aron, Sam, & Al
Szajman, David & Grace Ehrlich,
Sheila & Norman Archech, Lillian
Boraks-Nemetz, Gisi & Bob Levitt

Robbie Waisman, Speedy Recovery.
Jacques & Lila Mydlarski & Family,
Anne & Sam Goresht, Evelyn Kahn
& Family, Gerri & Mark London,
Lillian Boraks-Nemetz, Alex
Buckman, Morley & Fay Shafron,
Stan & Reena Taviss, Linda &
Jack Bogdonov, Phillipa Friedland,
Micner Family

MAZEL TOV

Amalia Boe Fishman & VHEC's May
26 Gala & in honour of the 40th
anniversary of Holocaust education
in B.C. Carol Konkin & Jan Fishman

David Ehrlich, In your honour, to the
VHEC's May 26 Gala. Christian Jarvis.

Shoshana Lewis, On a successful

evening, May 26th. Lew & Beatrice
Lewis

Jack Micner, Mazel tov on your
VHEC Life Fellow Award. Sam
Micner, Ida & Odie Kaplan

Ed Lewin, Mazel tov on your VHEC
Life Fellow Award and for serving
as Chair of the Board of Directors.
Alana & Jeff Korsunsky & Family,
Sam Micner, Ralph Aknin, Odie &
Ida Kaplan

Marie Doduck, In honour of all you
do. Debby Zbarsky

Shirley Barnett, Congratulations.
Lillian Boraks-Nemetz

Ben Folk, On your 95th Birthday.
Debby & Mark Choit, Les & Karen
Cohen & Family, Micner Family,
Pauline Babins, Ida Kaplan, Odie
Kaplan, Aron, Al & Sam Szajman

Ida Kaplan, Happy Birthday. Ruth &
Eve Wolochow

David Yochlowitz, Happy 50th
Birthday. Thyrsa Cohen

Danny Wollner, On your Birthday.
The Bakonyi Family

Bill Levine. On your special
Birthday. Peter & Marla Gropper

Helen Waldstein Wilkes, Happy
Birthday. Reva Kanner Dexter

Melvyn Yochlowitz, Happy Birthday.
Thyrsa Cohen

Rita Akselrod, Happy special
Birthday. Denise Rachelle Pinto
Cohen, Evelyn Kahn & Family

Jozef Mogendorff, On your 90th
Birthday. Amalia Boe Fishman

Evelyn Viner, On your 90th Birthday.
Eddie & Debbie Rozenberg

Shelley Rivkin, On your special
Birthday. Eddie & Debbie Rozenberg

Molly Ross, On your special
Birthday. Grace & David Ehrlich

Anita Shafron, In honour of your

Birthday. Jessica Shafron

Steve Simon, On your special
Birthday. Peter & Marla Gropper

Reena Taviss, On your Birthday.
Emil & Elaine Campbell

Carol Chark, On your special
Birthday. The Cantors

Susan Emanuel, Mazel tov.
Alex Buckman

Steve Emerman, On your 80th
Birthday. Clare Prasow, Cynthia &
David Prasow, Esther & Don Kenyon

Linda Frimer, On your Honourary
Doctorate. Lillian Boraks-Nemetz,
Rita, Melenie, Eric, Lenny & Talia
Feischer

Melvin Haber, On your Birthday.
Mia & Joel Mackoff

Judy Kornfeld, On the marriage of
Dory to Patrick. Odie Kaplan

Rob Krell & Shoshana Lewis, On
celebrating 40 years since the
establishment of the Vancouver
Holocaust Education Centre. Barb
and Ron Krell

Janine Krikler, On your special
Birthday. Karen & Les Cohen

Max Laskin & Family, On your
Bar Mitzvah. Shoshana & Moshe
Fidelman

Janos Mate, Congratulations.
Danny Shapiro & Frieda Miller

Carol Modes & Gary Gruen, On your
engagement. Hymie & Rome Fox
& Family

Richard & Gail Wenner, On your
newest grandchild. Nora Ferera-
Pullmer & Lew Pullmer

Rob & Marilyn Krell, On the arrival
of your newest granddaughter.
Phillipa, Aaron & Eli Friedland

Sally Kremer, On the birth of your
granddaughter, Sloane. Odie Kaplan

Robbie & Gloria Waisman, On your

granddaughter's Bat Mitzvah. Alex
& Colette Buckman

Frieda Miller & Danny Shapiro, On
the birth of your granddaughter,
Charna Evi. Ida & Odie Kaplan

Mark & Debby Choit, On becoming
grandparents to a baby girl. Eva
Dymant

Mark Weintraub, On being
recognized as a Queen's Counsel.
Linda & Ted Zacks

Al Szajman, On receiving a JFGV
award. Rita Akselrod

Lyliane & Larry Thal, In honour of
your 45th Wedding Anniversary.
Harold & Marla Groberman

Robbie Waisman, On the Governor
General's "Caring Canadian Award."
David Feldman

SYMPATHY

In memory of Mayer Yaarov Ben
Shlomo. Mark Fenster

In memory of Irma Lee. Robert Haber

In memory of Sarah Rozenberg
Warm. Rome & Hymie Fox & Family

In memory of Malka and Pinchas
Reiman. Gloria Altman

In memory of Michael Dymant.
Eva Dymant

In memory of Elie Wiesel. Haideh
Boroomand

Bernice Neuwirth, On the loss of
your daughter, Rosalie. Debby &
Mark Choit, Odie Kaplan, Evelyn
Kahn & Family, The Szajman
Family, Henia & Jack Perel &
Anita & Avie Perel-Panar, & Caren
Perel & Tom Winkler & Liza Perel
& Joel Wertman, Shelley & Perry
Seidelman, Sally & Sid Coleman,
Sharon Lewin, Rome Fox, Gloria,
Gerri & the Survivor Drop In
Group, Leonor Etkin, Mark & Sylvie
Epstein & Family

Norman & Lola Pauer, On your loss.
Mendy & Lana Landa

Sam, Harry, Ed & Michael Reay,
On the loss of Sam's father, Bob
Adelman. Belinda & Sam Gutman

Larry Garfinkel & Sandy Karmel,
On the loss of your mother and
mother-in-law, Marsha Garfinkel.
Odie Kaplan.

Gila Golub & Family, On the loss of
your sister and aunt. Sam Szajman.

Jaap Hamburger, On the loss of
your Mother. Jannie Berlow

Katia Hessel, On the loss of
your grandfather, Israel Jacques
Rosengarten. Brian & Elana
Jacobson, Robert & Marilyn Krell,
Kamiel & Daniel Schwartz, Nava &
Ryan Rosenberg, Rome & Hymie Fox

Marlene Hershfield, On the loss of
your mother, Ruth Superstein. Marc
Lieberman

Phillipa Friedland, In memory of
your father, Joel Samuel. Anita
Willson, Phil & Sherry Levinson,
Shoshana, Shawn, Mattie, Julian
& Charlie Lewis, Jody & Harvey
Dales, Deborah Litvack, Jennifer,
Jeff, Kai, Justine & Jackson
Shechter-Balin, Jeff Witten, Marla
Guralnick & Josh Pekarsky & Jack
& Ella, Helen Heacock & Jason
Rivers &, Alex & Catherine, Robert
& Marilyn Krell, Ivan & Merle
Linde, Robbie & Gloria Waisman,
Al Szajman

Rabbi Avi Berman & Family,
In memory of your mother &
grandmother. Anita Shafran &
Family

Linda Hertzman, In memory of your
Mother. Eddie & Debbie Rozenberg

David Brand, In memory of Freddie.
Tamar & Gary Lowy

Jen Chelin, On the loss of your
father. Belinda & Sam Gutman,
Shoshana & Shawn Lewis & Family

Gallia Chud, On your loss. Ida &
Odie Kaplan

Eddie, Denise, Alfred Cohen &
Family, On the loss of your Mother.
Haidah Boroomand

Michael & Sharon Isaacson, In
memory of your daughter-in-law,
Karen. Debbie & Eddie Rozenberg
& Family

Joe Wertman, In memory of your
wife, Cristina. Ida & Odie Kaplan,
Robert & Marilyn Krell & Family

Julian Collis & Family, In memory
of Maureen Collis. Eddie & Debbie
Rozenberg

Gina Dimant, In memory of your
daughter-in-law. Leonor Etkin,
Lillian Boraks-Nemetz

Gina Dimant, In memory of your
sister. Leonor Etkin

Eva Dymant, In memory of your
husband Michael. Robert & Marilyn
Krell, Debby & Mark Choit

David & Grace Ehrlich & Family,
On the loss of your sister and
sister-in-law, Rose Jordan. Sheila
Gendis & Jocy Lowy, Faye & Richie
Elias, Robert & Marilyn Krell,
Bill & Adella Moscovitz, Tammy,
Adam, Tanya, Amir, Shana & Harry
Rosenblatt, Michael and Tami
Lipton, Kit Krieger

Marilyn Jordan & Family, on
the loss of your mother and
grandmother, Rose Jordan. Sheila
Gendis & Jocy Lowy, Bill & Adella
Moscovitz, Tammy, Adam, Tanya,
Amir, Shana & Harry Rosenblatt,
Gina Shulman & Ron MacMillan

Michael Epstein, In memory of your
father & grandfather, Erwin Epstein.
Sherry & Philip Levinson & Family

Cheryl Plotkin & Family, In memory
of Cheryl's dad, Abe. Debbie &
Eddie Rozenberg & Family

David, Deborah, Sydney & Adrian
Freedman, On the loss of your
mother, grandmother & great
grandmother. Susan & Joe Stein
& Family

Patti & Ralph Aknin & Family, On
the loss of your father, father-in-
law & grandfather Aaron Eichler.
Les & Karen Cohen & Family, Phil &
Sherry Levinson, Cynthia & George
Bluman, Robbie Waisman

Jeff & Richie Eichler, On the loss of
your father, Aaron Eichler. Robbie
Waisman, Cynthia & George
Bluman

Merle Ames, On the loss of your
mother. Anita Shafran & Family,
Julie Gutovich

Dr. Susan Jung-Kemeny & Family,
On the loss of your husband and
father, Robert Kemeny. Estika
Hunnings, Robert & Marilyn Krell,
Inge Manes, Micner & Guincher
Families, Ivan & Laurie Gasoi

Horatio Kemeny, On the loss of
your father, Robert Kemeny. Jody &
Harvey Dales

Judy Kornfeld & Family, On the
loss of your mother & grandmother,
Betty Davinsky. Barb & Arny
Gordon, Szajman Family

Beverly Kort & Family, On the loss
of your mother and grandmother,
Shirley Kort. Sam Szajman,
Robert & Marilyn Krell, Sue & Lee
Cohene, Mark, Jacob, Talya & Nirit
Rozenberg

Ken & Leah Levitt, In memory of
Leah's mother, Mary Gofsky. Eddie
& Debbie Rozenberg

Al, Corinne & Jordan Margulius,
On the loss of your mother &
grandmother. Les & Karen Cohen
& Family

Norman Miller & Danny & Family,
On the loss of your mother, Sylvia.
Evelyn Kahn, Mark, Hodie, Saul,
Sheryl & Family

David Neuman, In memory of your
mother, Rose. Les & Karen Cohen &
Family, Debbie & Ed Rozenberg

Avie Panar, Anita Perel-Panar
& Family, In memory of your
mother, grandmother and great-
grandmother, Fran Panar. Julie
Gutovich, Hymie & Rome Fox &
Family, Aron, Sam & Al Szajman

Yvonne & George Rosenberg, On
the passing of Yvonne's sister,
Evelyn Huberman. Odie Kaplan,
Julie Gutovich, Beth & Leon
Bogner, Robert & Marilyn Krell,
Beryl & Walter Sussel, Mark,
Jacob, Talya & Nirit Rozenberg,

Rome & Hymie Fox & Family, Eddie
& Debbie Rozenberg

Dorothy Ullman & Family, On the
loss of your sister and aunt, Evelyn
Huberman. Hymie & Rome Fox &
Family

Stacey, Carrie & Tamar Huberman,
In memory of your mother, Evelyn
Huberman. Rome & Hymie Fox

Stacey, Tamar & Carrie Huberman,
Yvonne, Dorothy & Families, On the
loss of your mother & sister Evelyn
Huberman. Rosa Ferera, Lisette,
Nora & Families, Linda & Ted Zacks

Natalie & Mark Rosengarten, On
the loss of Mark's Mother. Sam &
Belinda Gutman

Howard Shapray & Family, On
the loss of your wife, mother and
grandmother, Elayne. Peter & Marla
Gropper

Marvin Stern, On the passing of
your mother, Hilda. Mark Rozenberg

Sharon Slutsky, On the loss of your
Father. Anita Shafran & Family

Louise Stein Sorensen, On the loss
of your husband, Ike Sorensen.
Lillian Boraks-Nemetz, Robbie &
Gloria Waisman, Robert & Marilyn
Krell, Phillipa Friedland, Rome Fox

Linda, Brian, Sam & Eli Tenenbaum,
On the loss of your mother and
grandmother, Molly Tenenbaum.
Sally Berry, Mark, Julie & Allison,
Neil & Judy Kornfeld, Beth & Leon
Bogner

Henia Wineberg, On the loss
of your brother, Rabbi Moshe
Naparstek. Danya & David Fugman,
Rome & Hymie Fox & Family

Lillian Boraks-Nemetz, In memory
of your mother, Wanda Melamed.
Evelyn Kahn & Family, Agi Bergida,
Louise Sorensen, Sidi & David
Schaffer, Rome & Hymie Fox, Gisi
& Bob Levitt, Esther Glotman, Tom
Szekely & Janice Masur

Daeniela Bheamont-Berne &
Family, In memory of your mother
and grandmother Wanda Melamed.
Esther Glotman

TRIBUTE CARDS

David, Jane & Karen Winfield & families, On your loss. Jocy Lowy

Avi Dolgin In memory of Ruth Hess-Dolgin. Ron & Estarisa Laye

Dr. Benny Eichhorn, In sympathy. Evelyn Kahn

Gerry & Andrea Zimmerman, In memory of your mother and mother-in-law. Jack and Karen Micner & Family, Aron, Sam and Al Szajman

Morris & Kathy Gordon & Family, In memory of Harry. Judy & Neil Kornfeld

Effie Gordon, In memory of Harry. Neil & Judy Kornfeld, Art Szajman, Murray Fraeme

Mrs. Barbara Lever, On the loss of your husband. Sally Berry

Phylis Saadon, In memory of your aunt. Ida & Odie Kaplan

In memory of Sara Malka Brawer (née Klecel), Bayla Klecel, Chana Klecel, Eliezer Klecel and the Klecel family. Norman Gladstone & Dr. Larry Wine

THANK YOU

Rita Akselrod, Thank you. Rabbi Yosef Wosk

Donna Cantor, Thank you. Nancy Benyaer, Eva Dymant

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Rita Akselrod, Thank you. Ida Kaplan

Janos Benisz, Thank you. Kit Krieger

Sally & Sid Coleman, Thank you. Eva Dymant

Renia Perel, Thank you. Eva Dymant

Robert & Marilyn Krell, Thank you. Eva Dymant

Ed Lewin, Thank you for your leadership of the VHEC Board of Directors. Gary, Linda, Michael and Babs Cohen

David Ehrlich, Thank you. Kit Krieger

Robert Krell, In your honour, Grandpa. Mattea Lewis

Bonnie Elster, Thank you. Nancy Benyaer

Alex Buckman, Thank you. Kit Krieger

Mark & Sylvie Epstein, Thank you. Eva Dymant

Edward Epstein, Thank you. Eva Dymant

Helen Heacock, Thank you. Mariette Doduck

Shoshana Lewis, Thank you. Mariette Doduck

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THANK YOU VHEC VOLUNTEERS!

OUTREACH SPEAKERS

Janos Benisz, Amalia Boe Fishman, Lillian Boraks-Nemetz, Alex Buckman, Mariette Doduck, David Ehrlich, Serge Haber, Jannushka Jakoubovitch, Chaim Kornfeld, Robert Krell, Inge Manes, Claude Romney, Martha Salcudean, Louise Sorensen, Peter Suedfeld, Tom Szekely, Robbie Waisman.
Coordinator: Rita Akselrod

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Alex Buckman, Bonnie Elster, Herb Mills, Eli Friedland, Lise Grinfeld, Kit Krieger, Ella Levitt, Gerri London, Stan Taviss, Gloria Waisman

Thank you to Eppy Rappaport of Omnitksy Kosher BC for a donation of memorial candles to the VHEC.

DOCENTS

Julia Bernhardt, Christopher Biasutti, Stephen Cook, Reva Dexter, Myriam Dinim, Sylvie Epstein, Eli Friedland, Belinda Gutman, Dalit Har Tuv, Helen Heacock Rivers, James Highet, Charlotte Katzen, Dodie Katzenstein, Dina Kaufman, Lise Kirchner, Uma Kumar, Lucien Lieberman, Ivan Linde, Ellen Millman, Herb Mills, Zachary Mullin, Cathy Paperny, Jessica Passey, Evelyn Ray, Meredith Shaw, Gita Silver, Vivian Tsang, Rina Vizer, Anita Willson

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

OUR SINCERE APOLOGIES FOR ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS



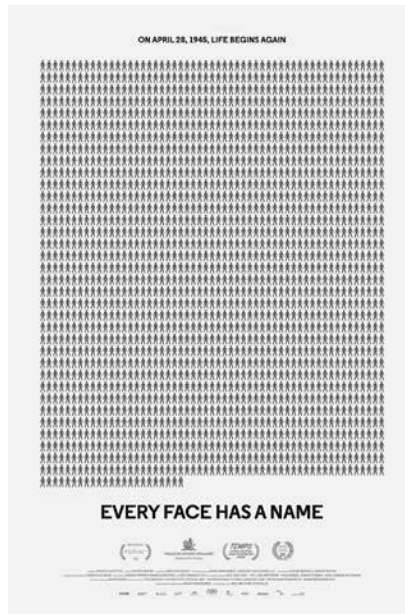
VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

VITA ACTIVA THE SPIRIT OF HANNAH ARENDT BY ADA USHPIZ

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2016 • 1:00 PM
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2016 • 9:15 PM
INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE CINEMAS
88 West Pender Street, Vancouver

Her *New Yorker* coverage of the Eichmann trial, which became the book *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, would permanently associate Hannah Arendt's name with the phrase "banality of evil," as well as the controversy that term has enflamed for a half-century. The film confronts this controversy but goes much deeper, providing a survey of Arendt's life and works, including her insights into the nature of evil, totalitarianism and the perils faced by refugees, topics that may be as relevant today as ever.

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TICKETS:
WWW.VIFF.ORG



VANCOUVER JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

EVERY FACE HAS A NAME BY MAGNUS GERTTEN

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2016 • 1:00 PM
FIFTH AVENUE CINEMA
2110 Burrard Street, Vancouver

In *Every Face Has a Name*, survivors experience the magical moment when they each recognize themselves in archival footage shot at the moment of their liberation more than 70 years ago. Happiness, gratitude, confusion, fear and the complicated moment of freedom are captured in the historical film and in the recollections of the survivors today. In English, Swedish, Polish and Norwegian, with English subtitles.

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TICKETS:
WWW.VJFF.ORG



CHERIE SMITH JCCGV JEWISH BOOK FESTIVAL

THE NAZI HUNTERS BY ANDREW NAGORSKI

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2016 • 5:30 PM
VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE
50 - 950 West 41st Avenue, Vancouver

The book focuses on the small number of men and women who refused to allow Nazi crimes to be forgotten and who were determined to track down the perpetrators to the furthest corners of the earth. Nagorski chronicles the dramatic stories of famous Nazi hunters, along with those who often worked in the shadows. At first, the Nazi hunters wanted revenge, but soon their story was transformed into a relentless struggle for justice.

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TICKETS:
WWW.JCCGV.COM



VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE

CANADA RESPONDS TO THE HOLOCAUST 1944-45

OCTOBER 16, 2016 – MARCH 31, 2017

This exhibition, developed by the VHEC, explores interactions between Canadians in Europe and survivors of the Holocaust at the close of the Second World War. It follows members of the Canadian military – soldiers, chaplains, official photographers and war artists – who fought in the Allied campaigns in Europe, as well as journalists and aid workers, as they encountered and struggled to respond to evidence of Nazi atrocities.

VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST
EDUCATION CENTRE

50 - 950 West 41st Avenue

Exhibition Hours:

Monday - Thursday, 9 AM - 5 PM

Friday, 9 AM - 4 PM

OPENING RECEPTION

Sunday, October 16, 2016

1-3 PM, Remarks at 2 PM

SUPPORTED BY THE INTER-ACTION MULTICULTURALISM GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS PROGRAM OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION

VHEC.ORG

VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE

50 - 950 West 41st Avenue

Vancouver, BC V5Z 2N7 Canada

