



Zachor | *Remember*

The Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre Newsletter | Number 3 | August 2005



GERRI LONDON & GLORIA WAISMAN
HONOURED WITH 2005 LIFE FELLOWS AWARD



Gloria Waisman



Gerri London

Dear Gloria & Gerri,

I would like to take this opportunity to express our admiration and appreciation to both of you for coordinating the monthly Drop Ins for our Survivors for the past six years. You not only bake delicious goodies such as cheesecake and komish monthly for the drop in, you welcome each Survivor personally with genuine warmth and caring, you organize interesting programs for the drop in with Rabbis, bankers and physicians to name a few, and then extend a thank you to the guests with a gift; you organize rides for those Survivors who need it and you clean the kitchen before you leave! On top of that you remember the birthdays of Survivors who regularly attend the Drop in by mailing them a birthday card. Your commitment is so evident and sincere and we truly appreciate all you do as volunteers of the VHEC. This life fellow recognition is awarded to those individuals who have made special contributions to Holocaust education and remembrance and, Gloria and Gerri, you both truly deserve this recognition.

Rome Fox, Volunteer Coordinator

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We apologize for any errors or omissions. To volunteer call Rome 604.264.0499

2005 Lehrer Prize for Student Writing

This year’s winner of the \$300 Lehrer prize is Jennifer Rekis, a grade 12 student from Mount Boucherie Secondary School, Kelowna, BC, for her essay on genocide which appears below.

Genocide: The Paroxysm of Human Hatred and Intolerance

BY JENNIFER REKIS

Living in a radical, democratic, and diverse society, it is nearly impossible for one to imagine being sent to a prison due to one’s ethnic traditions or personal beliefs. A Canadian living in the 21st century will most likely never know the true pains of starvation, disease, medical torture, and widespread death. However, such atrocities were reality for millions of people, particularly Jews and other “undesirable” minorities in Nazi Europe during a time now known as the Holocaust. During this horrific and ultimately catastrophic era, millions of people were deported to concentration camps where they were tortured and brutally murdered. This was genocide. “Genocide” is not just a word to describe massacres, it illustrates the entire destruction of a nation or ethnic group, deliberately and methodically. According to RJ Rummel, in the 20th century alone, approximately 170 million individuals have fallen victim to genocide (Death By Government, figure 1.1); individuals guilty of nothing. How is it that since the disasters of the Second World War, as a civilized society, we have not yet embraced prevention against such atrocities but, only idly stand by. It is amazing that such tragic crimes against humanity are still taking place after 1945 when six million Jews bitterly perished. Genocide is a disease that lives in history with the Holocaust, more recently with Rwanda, presently in Sudan, but it is with hope that, with education of human decency and tolerance, genocide can be eliminated.

The language of the 1948 UN Convention of the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide speaks of acts “deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part.” This all too clearly depicts the human catastrophe that was rapidly accelerating in Rwanda in 1994. Despite the full knowledge of the Holocaust, which has become the representation of genocide, and the fearful tension growing between the Hutu and Tutsi, the UN and Western democracies watched. Although the specifics between Rwanda and Nazi Germany were different, the brutality and perpetrators’ desires were the same. Both nations are filled with a legacy of mass death and trauma that share deep psychological scars. Furthermore, Nazi Germany’s 1940’s genocide and Rwanda’s 1994 episodes of genocide could have similarly been prevented. Great responsibility should lie with the Western democracies because in both cases of genocide, their intervention would have saved millions of lives. The reaction of international countries to the grow-



2005 Lehrer Essay Prize Winner:
Jennifer Rekis, Grade 12 Student,
Mount Boucherie Secondary, Kelowna, BC

ing agitation and compulsion within Nazi Germany and Rwanda were more or less identical. The Western democracies did not show compassion for the Jews in Nazi occupied Europe nor for the Tutsi that Romeo Dallaire, Canadian Peacekeeping Commander, cried help for. Democratic nations, such as Canada, showed only self-interest when regarding Jews seeking refuge. Mackenzie King, Canadian Prime Minister during WWII, said “We must nevertheless seek to keep this part of the Continent free from unrest and from too great an intermixture of foreign strains of blood.” The United States, France, Belgium, and Italy quickly evacuated their peacekeeping personnel for “safety reasons” almost as soon as they arrived in Rwanda in 1994. It is interesting that no effort was made to evacuate Tutsi civilians or Hutu moderates. Instead, they were left behind entirely at the mercy of the avenging Hutu. The lack of grace and humanity shown by blessed nations during those two devastating periods is shameful. As a result of the League of Nations and United Nations inadequacy to keep peace in Nazi Germany and Rwanda, six million Jews and 800,000 Tutsi perished. Innocent people were murdered for ideology, race, or wealth by so called civilized societies. Whether it was by machete or gas chamber, men, women, and children were killed en mass for a “cause.”

Despite the full knowledge of the Holocaust, which has become the representation of genocide, and the fearful tension growing between the Hutu and Tutsi, the UN and Western democracies watched. Although the specifics between Rwanda and Nazi Germany were different, the brutality and perpetrators’ desires were the same.

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Cover: Top; Docent Lani Levine with students during the Anne Frank Exhibition
Bottom; A visitor viewing the Faces of Loss Exhibition.
Printed with assistance from the Province of British Columbia

PICTURES FROM
THE FACES OF LOSS
EXHIBIT ARE NOW READY
FOR PICK UP AT THE VHEC.

Thank you for your participation
in the exhibit.

Now, a preventable humanitarian crisis, affecting more than two million people, is raging in the Darfur region of Western Sudan. Not since the Rwandan genocide has the world seen such a calculated campaign of slaughter, rape, starvation, and displacement. Government backed Arab militias, known collectively as the Janjaweed, are systematically eliminating entire communities of African tribal farmers, imitating Germanys 1940’s mobile killing squads, the Einsatzgruppen. Villages are being razed, women raped and branded, men murdered, and food and water supplies targeted and destroyed. The human destruction in Darfur has

One of the most vital steps in preventing genocide is raising children and teaching adolescents to become “inclusive,” caring people, that feel compassion for all human beings. Such education and socialization will help develop moral courage, which then can lead people to resist the evolution of violence and intolerance... “The worst form of child abuse is teaching a child to hate,”

been deliberate and, sadly, looks to be a sequel to the Rwandan massacres. The “ethnic cleansing” campaign of the Nazi’s and Hutu is repeating itself violently in Sudan. This is the crime of our century. Without intense action taken by both the UN and non-governmental organizations, the genocide in Darfur will end up being another chapter of injustice, cruelty, and tragedy added to human history. Child abductions, murders, rapes, pillaging, burned villages, and ongoing terror are an invisible yet vast Holocaust, as they were in Rwanda. The similarities of past affairs in Rwanda and current affairs in Darfur are remarkable. However, a sane person would never want to see comparable mistakes made in 1994’s Rwanda occur again in Sudan. One of the most significant mistakes made in Rwanda that may dangerously reoccur in Darfur is the UN’s failure to label the massacres “genocide.” If UN officials marked the 1994 situations in Rwanda as genocide immediately, emergency action could have been taken. Instead the world turned away, and went on eating its dinner. If the brutality rising in Sudan isn’t officially recognized as genocide it will precipitously worsen with hundreds of thousands of lives at stake. It is estimated by the human rights organization “Save Darfur Coalition” that 200,000 people have died and approximately 1.6 million people have been displaced from their homes. Many people are living in concentration camps that are used as a means of controlling the massive numbers of displaced people. The conditions in the camps are atrocious, lacking adequate food, shelter, sanitation, and health care, all too similar to the Nazi

death camps. As the situation continues to deteriorate significantly, the fighting and violence will escalate and many more Darfurians will die. It is vital for World leaders to awaken their consciences and recognize that disastrous genocide is presently occurring in Sudan. Furthermore, it is our, as civilized and privileged communities, moral responsibility to save the Darfurians from further victimization and possible human destruction. In ten years, this preventable humanitarian crisis should be remembered but not with regret; in ten years, let there be no “Hotel Darfur.”

There are a plethora of actions necessary to further the tremendously difficult task of preventing genocides and future mass killings. One of the most vital steps in preventing genocide is raising children and teaching adolescents to become “inclusive,” caring people, that feel compassion for all human beings. Such education and socialization will help develop moral courage, which then can lead people to resist the evolution of violence and intolerance. To raise and educate inclusive, caring children requires the transformation of the adults who influence children, and the institutions where children spend a substantial amount of time. “The worst form of child abuse is teaching a child to hate,” was said in an Honesty Reporting.com film, *Relentless: The Struggle for Peace in the Middle East*. This could not be stated more accurately because hatred and intolerance starts in the minds and hearts of individuals. To stop the cycle of genocide, one must also help the victims of genocide; not only the individual survivors who were directly affected, but the entire group. This will not only improve their lives, but will make it less likely that they will become perpetrators, and thereby helps to cease any continuing cycle of violence and intolerance. Genocidal violence flourishes in a variety of difficult life conditions: intense and persistent economic strife, political conflict and disorganization, such as conflict between privileged minorities and minorities without rights, great social changes, or a combination. These conditions have a tendency to give rise to the search for scapegoats and destructive ideologies. Such ideologies tend to identify enemies, especially when a group’s culture has characteristics such as a history of discrimination against ethnic groups and a tendency to obey authority. These lethal steps can end in genocide. Seeing as the perpetrators are increasingly committed to their annihilative ideology or “cause,” only the innocent bystander or the witnesses to these actions can stop the evolution towards the rising violence against the victimized group. Furthermore we need to restrain power, foster democratic freedoms, and enforce constitutional governments. RJ Rummel has stated, “Power kills; absolute power kills absolutely,” as the reason democratic nations should be enforcing democracy in developing worlds and singling out nations who continually refuse to embrace democracy. Active bystanders, teaching tolerance of difference and diversity, and controlling power, will help heal the sickness and inherent evil of mankind, as demonstrated by its horrific act, genocide.

“Mankind must put an end to war, before war puts an end to mankind.” President Kennedy’s words are relevant to the persistent battle against genocide. Do men, women, and children have to be slaughtered in the tens of thousands to cause a change in our priorities and levels of concern? When the sanctity of human rights can be so blatantly violated and yet remain tolerated by the international society, there is a problem of such seriousness that words alone cannot explain it. It is mystifying that human life, the security of noncombatants, and the prevention of such horrors as genocide in the Holocaust, Rwanda and presently in Sudan are, sadly, not sufficient to act as a catalyst for a swift and determined response from the international community. As Margaret Macmillan wrote in Paris 1919, “ How can the irrational patterns of nationalism or religion be contained before they do more damage? (p. 494)” By recognizing that individuals can make a significant difference, by promoting social tolerance and diversity, and by helping nations build true democratic governments yet restrict the abuse of individual power, the global community can foster international cohesion and stop the chain of violence and genocide that has wretchedly become part of our society. It is with hope and perseverance that genocide can for once annihilate itself.

BOOK DONATIONS

From April to June, 2005

Gabor L. Szekeres, *Freedom By Choice*. Kearney, NE: Morris Publishing, 2004. Donated by Gabor Szekeres.

L’Agonie et la Révolte des derniers Juifs du ghetto de Varsovie, Compiled by Adam Rayski, Edited by le Musée de la Résistance nationale and La Lettre des Résistants et Déportés Juifs de France. Paris, 2003. Donated by René Goldman.

Jasenovac: Proceedings of the First International Conference and Exhibit on the Jasenovac Concentration Camps, Edited by Wanda Schindley and Petar Makara. New York: Kingsborough Community College, 2005. Donated by Milan Kasic.

Two propaganda posters for teachers’ resources. Donated by Bill Zimmerman.

Set of 6 DVDs from Moriah Films and the Simon Wiesenthal Centre: *Genocide, Echoes That Remain, Liberation, The Long Way Home, In Search of Peace, and Unlikely Heroes. 1997 – 2004*. Donated by Robbie Waisman.

Dr. J. Blum, *English-German Dictionary*. Paris: Libraire Garnier Press, 1946. Donated by Oscar Jason’s Estate.

Israel Pocket Library: Anti-Semitism. Jerusalem: Keter Books, 1974. Donated by Oscar Jason’s Estate.

Israel Pocket Library: Holocaust. Jerusalem: Keter Books, 1974. Donated by Oscar Jason’s Estate.

Antisemitismus, Edited by Herbert A. Strauss and Norbert Kampe. Frankfurt: Schriftenreihe der Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, 1985. Donated by Oscar Jason’s Estate.

Yehuda Bauer, *They Chose Life: Jewish Resistance in the Holocaust*. New York: The American Jewish Committee, 1973. Donated by Oscar Jason’s Estate.

The National Holocaust Committee and the Canadian Jewish Congress, *Remembrance Day for Jewish Martyrdom and Heroism*. Montreal,1968. Donated by Oscar Jason’s Estate.

Miep Gies, *Anne Frank Remembered*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1987. Donated by Barry Dunner.

Elie Wiesel, *Sages and Dreamers: Biblical, Talmudic and Hasidic Portraits and Legends*. New York: Summit Books, 1991. Donated by Barry Dunner.

Joseph Bau, Dear God, *Have You Ever Gone Hungry?* New York: Arcade Publishing, 1998. Donated by Barry Dunner.

Saul Rubinek, *So Many Miracles*. Markham, ON: Penguin Books, 1988. Donated by Barry Dunner.

Martin Gilbert, *Auschwitz and the Allies*. London: Mandarin Paperbacks, 1981. Donated by Barry Dunner.

Martin Gilbert, *The Holocaust: A History of the Jews of Europe During the Second World War*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1985. Donated by Barry Dunner.

Martin Gilbert, *The Holocaust: Maps and Photographs*. London: Clifford-Thames Printing Company, 1978. Donated by Barry Dunner.

Nechama Tec, *Dry Tears*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1984. Donated by Barry Dunner.

Nechama Tec, *In the Lion’s Den*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1990. Donated by Barry Dunner.

Nechama Tec, *When Light Pierced the Darkness*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1986. Donated by Barry Dunner.


Claude Lanzmann, *Shoah: An Oral History of the Holocaust*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1985. Donated by Barry Dunner.

Genocide: Critical Issues of the Holocaust, Edited by Alex Grobman and Daniel Landes. Los Angeles: Simon Wiesenthal Centre, 1983. Donated by Barry Dunner.

Lita-Rose Betcherman, *The Swastika and the Maple Leaf: Fascist Movements in Canada in the Thirties*. Vancouver: Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 1975. Donated by Barry Dunner.

The Precious Legacy: Judaic Treasures from the Czechoslovak State Collections, Edited by David Altshuler. New York: Summit Books, 1983. Donated by Barry Dunner.

2005 MEYER & GITA KRON AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN HOLOCAUST EDUCATION



This year’s recipient is Graeme Stacey, a teacher at Mount Boucherie Secondary School, Kelowna who developed and taught a Ministry approved province-wide course, Hate & the Holocaust 12. The \$500 prize was presented at the High School Symposium on the Holocaust, May 11, 2005.

“My inspiration for the Holocaust 12 course and my passion for Holocaust studies came from my attendance at the Symposium as a 4th year teacher in 2001. I left yesterday feeling very inspired and with some great ideas for my classes.” Graeme Stacey

All That Glitters Is Not Gold

BY VANESSA MATT

In late September 2004, I visited Kulturen, a cultural museum located in Lund, Sweden. My visit was intentional: I aimed to complete something that I had started nearly three years earlier.



The Bus Driver's Uniform

I began an internship at the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre in November 2001. As a student researcher, I was given the task of gathering information for a future exhibit about the women's concentration camp at Ravensbrück (Ravensbrück – Forgotten Women of the Holocaust, VHEC, February-May 2003). A specific topic of my research was the rescue of prisoners from the camp in 1945. The rescued women were transported out of the camp on Red Cross buses, an action attributed to the efforts of Count Folke Bernadotte who, as vice-president of the Swedish Red Cross, had negotiated with Heinrich Himmler for their release. During the internship, I came in contact with Kulturen, a museum in southern Sweden that holds in its collections the uniform of one of the Red Cross bus drivers.

At the same time that I was interning at the VHEC, I was accepted to a graduate program in International Museum Studies at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. Two years later, as I contemplated a thesis topic, my thoughts returned to the Red Cross buses and the bus driver's uniform in Kulturen. Realizing that I was living a three-hour drive north of Lund, I decided to take advantage of the opportunity and see the uniform in person.

Through email correspondence with the museum, I was referred to Anders Jansson, a curator at Kulturen. Having an avid interest in the museum's collection of items related to Ravensbrück, Anders was keen to assist me in gaining access to the uniform. During our initial communication, he informed me that the uniform was not the one worn during the rescue missions. Rather, this uniform was made in 1957 for the original bus driver to wear on commemorative trips around Europe honouring the rescue of Holocaust victims. In this way, the uniform assumed a different role in my mind: as a replica of the earlier uniform and as a physical memory of the mission's success.

Anders also passed on information about the owner of the uniform, Sten Olsson. I learned that Mr. Olsson was a young

soldier who drove one of the Red Cross buses that transported women from the camp. The uniform was turned in upon the completion of his service, hence the creation of another in 1957. Mr. Olsson donated the uniform to the museum in 2001, along with a cigarette holder and banknotes from Theresienstadt, which had been given to him as gifts by the prisoners.

Once at Kulturen, I was led through the museum's labyrinth-like storage area to a narrow room. Using the bright light of a solitary floor lamp, Anders laid the uniform onto the working table. It is in notably excellent condition. The uniform has a matching cap, jacket, and pants, as well as a brown leather belt. Armbands on the jacket are prominent against the soft taupe colour of the uniform; these are white bands of fabric, one bearing the blue and yellow Swedish flag and the other a blunt red cross – the symbol of the Red Cross. Small buttons on the jacket's lapels and on the front of the cap also have the Red Cross emblem.

I felt a certain sense of satisfaction in seeing the uniform that had hung in my memory for so long.

The Ravensbrück Collection

Within the storage room where the uniform is kept lies the 'Ravensbrück collection'. Kulturen has been safeguarding these objects for the Lakocinski family since the 1960's and, at present, negotiations are underway for the museum to assume ownership of it. There are 130 items in the collection and an archive of written materials, such as the stories of survivors, is kept in the library of Lund University.



As to the source of the objects, the museum knows that Zygmunt Lakocinski collected them when he worked as a translator for the rescued women arriving to Lund, Sweden via the Red Cross transportation. When he discovered that the survivors carried possessions, he asked for and received them. It has been suggested that small items may have been found sewn into the clothes of the former prisoners. Although such garments typically were destroyed, by utilizing his contacts Mr. Lakocinski was able to preserve samples of them as well.

Visually, the Ravensbrück collection makes a strong first impression. I immediately recognized the blue-and-grey striped uniforms as those worn by prisoners in the camps, my reference point being images and sketches I had seen in books. There is an assortment of handmade notebooks, dolls - even pairs of shoes fashioned from rough materials. I still recall the carvings made from the handles of toothbrushes; a tiny, translucent yellow crucifix is remarkable for its intricate detail. What time, what effort, what affection went into making and hiding these objects?

From this experience, I may have closed a door on the topic of 'the bus driver's uniform,' but another has been opened to more objects and stories. Anders and I spoke of the relationship these items had to the human thoughts and feelings that had inspired their creation. In the Ravensbrück collection, there are notebooks that would fit in the palm of the hand. Prisoners had used them as a multi-language reference book, a source of various quotations, or a bitter-sweet journal of life and death. My fiancé, who accompanied me to Kulturen, is French and thus was able to translate the faint, penciled words of French written in the miniature notebook of a former prisoner. As the three of us stood in the dim storage space he read aloud, "All that glitters is not gold." Looking around me, I could agree.

I would like to give special thanks to Anders Jansson, a Custodian of Antiquities at Kulturen for his expertise and for his willingness to assist me in viewing the collection. Information about the uniform and the Ravensbrück collection was obtained from Mr. Jansson. Permission was received for the taking of personal photographs and their inclusion in this article.

As of January 27, 2005 of this year, the Ravensbrück collection was placed on permanent display at Kulturen. The objects and information pertaining to the collection are accessible online at www.kulturen.com/Ravensbruck/Ravensbruck/English/index.htm



VHEC RAVENSBRÜCK EXHIBIT TRAVELS TO THE UNITED STATES

The VHEC exhibit *Ravensbrück: Forgotten Women of the Holocaust* will be exhibited at The Holocaust Education Resource Centre of The Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania in Scranton, Pennsylvania beginning in November of 2005.

The Ravensbrück exhibit was also shown this past spring at the Holocaust Museum and Study Centre in Spring Valley, New York.



The Amber Necklace

BY VANESSA MATT



During my visit to Kulturen, Anders Jansson brought to my attention one object he feels has special significance. After learning of the item’s poignant history, I too became intrigued by it.

Peeling back the protective tissue paper, Anders showed me a necklace of unpolished amber stones. Initially appearing to be simple and bulky, upon closer examination the necklace is impressive for its size and number of amber pieces. However, its visual attributes come second to the hardship it has been witness to.

Kulturen received the necklace as a donation in 1998. It was sent to the museum by Britt Skoog, who had been given the necklace as a gift from her former neighbour and friend, Regina Jönsson. Because of its extraordinary past, Mrs. Skoog thought that the museum might wish to keep the necklace in its collections.

The following passage is the detailed letter that accompanied the necklace and which describes the life of its original owner, Regina Jönsson:*

My name is Britt Skoog, of Gislaved [in the province of Småland, Sweden]. In 1966, my family got to know Regina Jönsson and her husband. We had moved from Gothenburg and got a house close to Regina’s. She became very attached to our daughter and that’s how we got to know each other; a friendship that lasted until 1981 when Regina died.

She was born in 1971 in Warsaw and came from a Jewish family. When she was singing in a church choir she was brought to a prison camp, even though she tried to fight back. To be able to catch her they broke her wrists and ankles. Later she was brought to another camp and then finally to Ravensbrück. The gold she had in her teeth was ripped out, her golden earrings too (the scars were still visible), her hair was cut off to be used in cushions. Regina told us about her work in the camp. It was to carry

dead people to graves. One Christmas Day morning, she had to stand barefoot without underwear in the snow and the cold while the women were counted over and over again. Her toes got frost-bitten. The medical experiments Regina had to undergo I cannot describe. She was destroyed for life. She told about the transportations of prisoners from one camp to another. The carriages were packed with women, dead and alive, and a few guards. The famine was huge and if the guard was asleep she could steal some food from him. At the end of the war Regina came to Lund with the Folke Bernadotte action. She was scared to death when she had to undergo medical examinations.

Then she was brought to Tomelilla [east of Lund] and sometime later she was given shelter in the home of a priest in northern Skåne, by Father Gunnar in Osby. She took care of the children, worked as a maid, but most of all she got compassion. In Osby she met Ove, and they got married and moved to Gislaved where Ove worked as a night porter. Regina soon had to sit in a wheel chair and needed lots of help. I tried to help her as much as I could when not working as a teacher. Our children helped too, and she treated them as her own.

One day, Regina took out a necklace and told me how she had smuggled it through three camps. She wanted to give it to me to thank me for all of the help. It was dirty, just a thread for a string and a rusty clasp unfortunately, but it was a gift from her heart. When I received it sometime later, I put a new thread in it. I might regret that today, but at that time I thought it was a good thing to do. I’ve never worn it because of its history. Now I wonder if you would like to take care of this amber necklace, so that it will be kept. Think about how it’s been hidden under a mattress, among old rags, hidden from the guards etc.

Regina experienced horrible pains in her stomach during the autumn of 1981, fell unconscious quickly at Värnamo Hospital and died after a couple of weeks. I sat with her in the ward. The doctors and nurses were deeply touched by Regina’s life and I saw many of them crying. With broken feet and hands, figures on her arm – it was too much for them to bear. Now, Regina rests at the cemetery here in Gislaved together with her husband. I take care of the grave because there are no relatives. Through the Red Cross, my husband managed to get a pension from the German government. Regina’s life also got documented. Unfortunately I don’t have a copy of it.

*As translated from the Swedish by Anders Jansson, Custodian of Antiquities, Kulturen. The amber necklace and the letter are the property of Kulturen (KM 85078).

How All Roads Could Lead to Auschwitz:

The Extraordinary Story of Dr. Karel Sperber

BY DR. CLAUDE ROMNEY

During the course of my research on the Auschwitz prisoner doctors, I have come across many extraordinary stories, but Dr. Karel Sperber’s counts among the most incredible ones. Dr. Sperber was Mrs. Lisa Kafka’s cousin and some time ago, she donated to the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre archives a copy of a text which he wrote in May 1945, immediately after his return to England from the Nazi concentration camps. As I read his story, it became obvious to me that, for a Jew during WWII, all roads could lead to Auschwitz.

Dr. Sperber was born in 1910 in Tachov, Bohemia, and studied medicine at the German university in Prague. After Czechoslovakia was invaded by the Nazis in 1939, he escaped to England, but as a foreigner was not allowed to practice medicine in that country. He therefore enlisted as a ship’s surgeon on a merchant navy vessel, the Automedon, which routinely sailed from Liverpool to Singapore, Hong Kong and Shanghai. However, the liner was sunk on November 11, 1940 by a German raider in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Sumatra. Some of the crew members were killed during the raid, including the captain, but Dr. Sperber was one of the ninety or so people who were taken prisoner. They spent five weeks on the German raider Atlantis before being transferred to a captured Norwegian tanker which took them to Bordeaux, a port in Southern France. From there they were marched to a prison camp in the vicinity.

In March 1941, Dr. Sperber and some other prisoners were put on a train bound for Germany. He was then interned in a succession of prisons before arriving in a camp for merchant navy prisoners, situated in Northern Germany and named Marlag und Milag. There he was instrumental in having a hospital established to treat the sick inmates and was able to save many lives.

In late 1942, he was moved to a jail in Bremen, and then transferred to Auschwitz where he arrived on December 13. He worked there as a physician, doing his best to treat fellow prisoners. Like the other prisoner doctors, he also witnessed many atrocities. Among them were the barbarous experiments which were performed on young Jewish prisoners, such as crude sterilization surgery. In 1944, he worked in the hospital in Auschwitz III (Buna-Monowitz). In January 1945, after the evacuation of the camp, he was forced to take part in one of the deadly marches in the snow. With a group of prisoner doctors, he arrived in Buchenwald where they succeeded in getting themselves admitted as patients to the hospital and were later able to work as physicians. He subsequently escaped and hid in a forest until he met up with a division of the American army on April 1, 1945.

Dr. Sperber then returned to England where he testified in front of the Allied War Crimes Commission. He was appointed an honorary officer in the Civil Division of the Order of the British



Dr. Karel Sperber

Empire in recognition of his “most excellent” humanitarian work in the merchant navy camp. Still unable to work as a physician in Britain, he enlisted on another merchant navy vessel. While on a visit to his uncle and aunt in Vancouver in August 1945, he gave interviews to the press about Auschwitz. Indeed, his accounts of the atrocities committed by the Nazis in that camp must have been among the very first ones to be read by British Columbians.

For a few years he practiced medicine in Ghana, but unfortunately he contracted Hodgkin’s disease and died in Accra in 1957 at the age of 47. Had he lived, he would probably have written more extensively about his experiences in the camps.

His is, indeed, an extraordinary story, but there is more, which was unknown to Dr. Sperber himself. As it happened, when the cargo ship Automedon was sunk in the Indian Ocean, it was carrying top secret documents from His Majesty’s Government to the British Commander in Chief in the Far East. These very detailed documents stated that Britain would not be in a position to defend that region if it were to be attacked by the Japanese. The documents were immediately sent to Berlin and Hitler’s officials promptly communicated the contents to the Japanese who were their allies. According to some historians, the capture of those secret documents enabled the Japanese to plan the attack on Pearl Harbor which took place in December 1940. The Foreign Office was so embarrassed by the whole affair that the British never admitted to the loss of the documents which had been seized by the Germans and were later found in Berlin in the Foreign Ministry archives.

Dr. Sperber did not know about the secret documents which the Germans found in the safe of the Automedon. He did know, however, that among the ship papers was a list of crew members which gave his nationality as Czech. According to him, this was the reason why, having been captured in the Indian Ocean, he was sent to the notorious Nazi death camp, which goes to show that, for a Jew during WWII, all roads could lead to Auschwitz.

Fragments of Memory

BY HANA GREENFIELD

Reviewed by Yuriy Rubin (Most-Bridge Russian Jewish Seniors Society – assisted by Carol Franklin)

Hana Greenfield was born in Kolin, Czechoslovakia into an educated Jewish family in 1927. She passed through the Terezin Ghetto, Auschwitz & Bergen Belsen Concentration camps during the Second World War. This book is a story of her experiences.

When Germany occupied Czechoslovakia, her family was deported from Prague to a suburb and then in 1942 they were deported to the Terezin Ghetto. During the war, all of her family members perished and she was forced to stay alone until April 1st, 1945 when the United States Army liberated her at Bergen-Belsen.

Because her memories of the events during the war remained so vivid, Hana decided to write *Fragments of Memory*. It is a book of several stories, written by an eyewitness of the Holocaust.

The story that made the greatest impression on me was that of the children’s march through the Terezin Ghetto in 1943. About 2000 Jewish children were deported from Bialystock, Poland to Terezin. Rows of children between the ages of 4 – 12 walked through the Ghetto as marching ghosts, with wet rags clinging to their emaciated bodies. Holding hands, the older children helped the small ones as best they could. People on the streets stopped and watched with tears in their eyes, as the children were lead by SS men to a building where inmates of the Ghetto were disinfected and deloused. Smelling an unusual odor, the children started to cry and shouted “Gas! Gas! Gas!” They huddled together, refusing to be washed or have their wet rags changed for dry clothing. Looking like scarecrows, the older children again tried to protect the smaller children by standing in front of them, holding hands and doing their best to comfort them. The other inmates of the Ghetto could not understand why these children



Hana Greenfield and her mother.



refused to wash; their clothing permeated with lice, their bodies full of sores. But those watching didn’t know of the gas chambers and of the murders, as the children did.

On October 7th 1943, the children were deported to Auschwitz and on the eve of Yom-Kippur, they were murdered in the gas chambers. The sight of the children’s march through Terezin was so horrendous that five artists living in the ghetto at this time, painted pictures of the event. Among them was a young girl of 14. One artist, Ernest Morgan, a former lawyer from Australia, painted the scene after he was liberated. The rest of the artists painted their pictures during their stay in the Ghettos and hid them in different areas. At present, four of these pictures are in museums in Jerusalem.

Another story which is impossible to forget demonstrates that the Nazis not only murdered people, but also tried to kill their dignity by turning them into animals. In an Auschwitz hospital, a mother sat beside her sick, dying daughter. When the daily rations were distributed, she stood in line for some watery soup. Upon her return, the mother realized her daughter was dead. She sat down on the edge of the bed, ate her daughter’s soup and just after, she closed her child’s eyes, covered her pale face with the thin gray blanket and cried.

Hana Greenfield’s book has been published in many languages, such as: Hebrew, Polish, French, Yiddish, English, German, Russian and Czech. Ruth Davis of *The Journal of Czech & Slovak History* said *The Diary of Anne Frank* is now a part of a Reading List. I would recommend Hana Greenfield’s *Fragments of Memory* as a better book for older students because where Anne Frank’s narrative stops, Hana Greinfeld’s takes the reader into the heart of darkness and shows what life was in the death camps through the eyes of a teenager. I think Hana Greenfield’s *Fragments of Memory* must be more widely read.

The Meaning(s) of “Liberation”

BY PETER SUEDFELD

As our group of dirty, hungry, and shivering children huddled in a dark Budapest cellar a few days after a Russian soldier had burst in and announced “Háború kaput” (“War finished”), another Russian appeared at the door. We could tell from his uniform and equipment that he was an officer. In fairly good Hungarian, he asked the woman in charge who these children were? She answered that we were war orphans being cared for by the International Red Cross. To his next question, she said, “Yes, some of them are Jewish.”

The Russian looked around, saw that none of his comrades were in sight, and furtively showed her a Mogen David on a thin chain under his tunic. Then, hearing that we were very short of food, he went into the street and shot a horse that happened to be coming along, pulling a wagon. Its owner was devastated, but he was not about to argue with an armed Soviet officer; for us, it was the first meat and the best meal in several months.

The recent commemorations of the liberation of Auschwitz, and an even more recent discussion among the Child Survivors’ Group at the VHEC led me to ponder the meaning of liberation. Regarding the former, what struck me while I was watching the TV coverage of the ceremonies and the history they evoked, was that the overwhelming focus was on the horrors of Auschwitz-Birkenau and by extension of the Shoah. Very little was said about the event that led to these anniversary programs: the liberation of Auschwitz and, again by extension, the eventual end of the Shoah, the Nazi Reich, and the war in Europe. Almost nowhere was the joy, the celebration, the honoring of the men who fought, the nations that mobilized their military might, and their domestic economies, that made this anniversary meaningful. I thought this a strange and unsettling way to commemorate liberation.

I’ve also been thinking about that Red Army major. He was clearly afraid, or at least reluctant, to let his fellow soldiers know he was Jewish. We, hidden children, knew what this was about, as we had been well drilled in concealing our true religion, name, and parentage. But now we had been liberated, and for the first time the few of us, appearing among the majority of real war orphans in the group - mostly Catholic, like most Hungarians – could reveal ourselves. That officer obviously was still in need of that kind of liberation. Perhaps we should differentiate between liberation from murderous governmental persecution and liberation from society’s ingrained prejudices.

Soon after the Soviets liberated Hungary from the Germans and our own homegrown version of the Nazis, their occupation forces not only engaged in widespread robbery and rape, but also suppressed all practices and opinions that were not in line with their own ideology. In a few months, the first, freely-elected, postwar government was supplanted by a Communist regime



< Peter and his father after the war in Vienna (1947). Realizing that his wife had perished in the Holocaust, Peter’s father decided to go to Vienna where he worked as a musician for the American Army.

that remained in power for decades. Does the term “liberator” fit a nation that removes one set of oppressors and then puts itself in their place? Should we differentiate short-term from long-term liberation?

In the Child Survivors’ Group, several members argued that in some sense the end of the Shoah was not liberation for them. They went from hiding or being in the camps to orphanages or foster families that did not understand what they had gone through and imposed on them ideas, behaviours, religious practices, and life plans without considering these children’s own preferences. Do we need to differentiate liberation from official persecution and liberation from the often well-meaning adults who care for, control, and perhaps damage the child, psychologically if not physically?

For many survivors, the loss of family members and of home has remained a constant and sharp pain, which affects their life, disturbs their dreams, unsettles their sense of identity, mars every celebration, and prevents them from experiencing unalloyed happiness. In the sense that the Shoah has effected, or infected, their life in the subsequent six decades, they have never been free from it. Does liberation imply that one should lose the memory of the suffering that preceded it, or the aftermath of that suffering? Should we expect that liberation from persecution would also liberate us from those memories and their impact?

I have raised the questions, but I cannot provide clear answers. For me, words that are used loosely lose their meaning. I don’t think that poor, deteriorating inner city neighborhoods are “–ghettoes”; or that Israel’s security fence is a “Berlin Wall”, or that unkind words are an “assault”. I don’t accept “cultural genocide” as equivalent to genocide, and for me liberation was when that first Russian infantryman poked the muzzle of his sub-machine gun into our cellar and declared the war to be over. The problems that came afterward, including persistent experiences of anti-Semitism, do not detract from that liberation. Others, obviously, view it differently and have trouble fully celebrating the moment when they were liberated in this perhaps limited sense.

I celebrate mine with great, unending joy and gratitude.

Donations & Cards, APRIL 1 – JUNE 30, 2005

THANK YOU <←

Alex Buckman, Thank you for sharing your story with us. Pinetree School

Alex Buckman, Thank-you. VHEC Board & Staff and the Gala Planning Committee

Jody Dales, Thank you for your time and effort on the Gala. Ethel Kofsky

Rabbi Laura Duhan-Kaplan, Thank-you. Mark Rozenberg & Lynn Kaplan, Ed & Debbie Rozenberg, Annette & Paul Small, Rome & Hymie Fox, & Families

Rabbi Charles Feinberg, Thank-you. The VHEC Board & Staff

Rabbi Feinberg, For your kindness on the passing of our Mother & Grandmother. Mark Rozenberg & Lynn Kaplan, Ed & Debbie Rozenberg, Annette & Paul Small, Rome & Hymie Fox, & Families

Harriet Frost, For your help with the Survivor Seder. The VHEC Board & Staff

The Kahn family, Thank You. Jody Dales

Robert Krell, For coming to speak. The Calgary Jewish Centre

Gerri London, For your help with the Survivor Seder. The VHEC Board & Staff

Gail & Dave Morton, For your gift. The VHEC Staff & Board

Rabbi Orenstein, Thank-you. Mark Rozenberg & Lynn Kaplan, Ed & Debbie Rozenberg, Annette & Paul Small, Rome & Hymie Fox, & Families

Peter Parker, For coming to speak. Alice Brown Elementary School

George & Yvonne Rosenberg, Thanks for your help. Julie & Henry Gutovich

Rabbi Rosenblatt, Thank-you. Mark Rozenberg & Lynn Kaplan, Ed & Debbie Rozenberg, Annette & Paul Small, Rome & Hymie Fox, & Families

Rabbi & Cirelle Rosenblatt, Thank You, Rochelle Golumbia

David Rubin, Thank you. Marianne Rev & Tom Ross

Sam Szajman, Thanks for the game. Barry Dunner

Temple Sholom & Staff, For your help with the Survivor Seder. The VHEC Board & Staff

Frieda Ullman, With many thanks & appreciation. Julie & Henry Gutovich

Gloria Waisman, For your help with the Survivor Seder. The VHEC Board & Staff.

Robbie Waisman, For coming to speak. Terry Groner and Eva Hoffman

Robbie Waisman, Thank you for sharing your story with us. TAG Community High School Students

Robbie Waisman, Thank You. Rochelle Golumbia

GET WELL <←

Agi Bergida, Wishing you a speedy recovery. Child Survivor Group of Vancouver

Leslie Feldman, Wishing you a speedy recovery. Izzy Fraeme

Lola Haber, Wishing you a speedy recovery. Regina Wertman, Harold & Bella Silverman, Jack & Henia Perel & Family

Edwina Heller, Wishing you a full & speedy recovery. Gloria & Robbie Waisman, The Board & Staff of the VHEC

Eva Jacobs, Get Well. Gloria & Robbie Waisman

Louise Levinson, Get well soon. Aron & Neri Tischler

Harry Nortman, Get Well Soon. Izzy Fraeme, The Szajman Family, Chaim & Aliza Kornfeld, The VHEC Board & Staff

Pola Nutkiewicz, Get Well. Bella & Harold Silverman

Sally Rogow, Wishing you a speedy recovery. Aron & Neri Tischler

Maria Rozenberg, Get Well. The Rozenberg, Rozenberg/Kaplan, Fox and Small Families

Frieda Ullman, Get Well. Julie & Henry Gutovich

Serge Vanry, Get well soon. The VHEC Board & Staff

MAZEL TOV <←

Rita Akselrod, On your honour. Frieda Miller & Danny Shapiro, Lola & Saul Apfelbaum, Alan Farber & Felicia Folk, The VHEC Board & Staff

Rhona & Larry Barzelai, On your 25th Wedding Anniversary. Aron & Neri Tischler

David Bluman & Olga Frankenstein, Mazel Tov. Chris & Rhoda Friedrichs

Morly & Pam Charkow, On your 35th Wedding Anniversary. Beth & Leon Bogner

Karl Choit, Happy Birthday. Mark, Debby, Barbara, Daniel & Rachel Choit

Sabina Choit, Happy Birthday. Mark, Debby, Barbara, Daniel & Rachel Choit

Emanda Cotton, On your Graduation. Penny & Mel Sprackman

Mariette Doduck, On your 70th Birthday. Gerri, Mark, Dana & David London

Mariette Doduck, On your great effort with the Gala. Betty Elfenbaum, Meyer & Gail Mattuck, Ethel Kofsky

Mariette & Sid Doduck, On your Grandson's Bar Mitzvah. Barrie & Ellen Yackness

Sandy Dore, Wishing you a great retirement. Gloria & Robbie Waisman

Toby & Rochelle Feldman, Mazel Tov on both occasions. Jocy Lowy

Izak Folk, Happy 90th Birthday. Susie & Chaim Micner, Karl & Sabina Choit, Ben & Rose Folk, Eddie & Debbie Lewin & Family, Les & Karen Cohen & Family, Mark, Debby, Barbara, Daniel & Rachel Choit, Mark & Susie Kierszenblat, The Nortman Family

Norman Gladstone, On your very Special Birthday. Peter & Marla Gropper

Cathy & David Golden, On Shane's Bar Mitzvah. Vivian & Jeff Claman

Serge & Elinor Haber, Happy 50th Anniversary. Lola & Bill Mendelson

Joanna Jordan, On Your Bat Mitzvah. Alan Moranis & Bev Spring

Robert Kemeny, On both of your special occasions. Estika Hunning

Robert Krell, On your honour. Maurice Schachter, Lili & Izak Folk, Sidney & Shirley Kaplan, Graham & Judith Forst, Cathy, David, Tyler & Shane Golden, Irene & Stuart Ross, Karen & Gary Simkin, Shana & Alan White, Beatrice & Lew Lewis, Lisa & Bernie Conn, Ida Wiener, Roberta & Brian Mickelson, Jack & Karen Micner, Barb & Herb Silber, Ben & Rita Akselrod, Ethel Kofsky, Judy & Mark Litvack, Felicia Folk & Alan Farber

Lani Levine, On the birth of your granddaughter. Frieda Miller & Danny Shapiro

Michael Levy, On your 60th Birthday. Beth & Leon Bogner

Ed Lewin, Happy 50th Birthday. Patti & Ralph Aknin, Lynne & J.F. Fader and Children

Lucien & Carole Lieberman, On your daughter's engagement.The VHEC Board & Staff

Carole Lieberman, Happy Birthday. Gloria & Robbie Waisman, Gayle & Alvin Rossman

Dr. & Mrs Roger Lyons, Mazel Tov on 35 years. Gloria & Robbie Waisman

Karla Marks, On your 60th Birthday. Leon & Beth Bogner

Sophie Mivasair, On your Bat Mitzvah. Sheryl Sorokin & Hillel Goelman

Corazon Murnane, On your Honourable Mention in the Lehrer Student Essay Contest. Frieda Miller

Dana Prince & Elana Sigal, On the Bar Mitzvah of your son. Jeannette & Harry Greenhut

Dr. Jack & Jenny Rootman, On the birth of your Grandchild. Lili & Izak Folk

Stanley Schwartz, On your 60th Birthday. Beth & Leon Bogner

Marilee Sigal & Avihu Nachmani, On the Bat Mitzvah of your Daughter, Nomi. Harry & Jeanette Greenhut

Ruth & Cecil Sigal, On the Bar Mitzvah of your Grandson and the Bat Mitzvah of your Granddaughter. Jeanette & Harry Greenhut

Mel & Penny Sprackman, On the birth of your Grandsons. Jody & Harvey Dales

Lyliane & Larry Thal, Mazel Tov on Todd & Carrie's engagement. Barbara & Herb Silber

Stephen Tick, Happy Special Birthday. Vera Bakonyi & Family

Robbie Waisman, In your honour. Maurice Schachter, Lili & Izak Folk, Sidney & Shirley Kaplan, Graham & Judith Forst, Cathy, David, Tyler & Shane Golden, Ruth & Doug Freeman, Irene & Stuart Ross, Jack & Karen Micner, Barb & Herb Silber, Ben & Rita Akselrod, Ethel Kofsky, Judy & Mark Litvack

Robbie & Gloria Waisman, On the birth of your Granddaughter. Alex & The Child Survivor Group, Hymie & Rome Fox, Frieda Miller & Danny Shapiro, David & Grace Ehrlich, The VHEC Board & Staff

Robbie Waisman, Mazel Tov. Rochelle Golumbia

Irene N. Watts, Congratulations. Lillian Boraks Nemetz

Malcolm & Judy Weinstein, On your 40th Wedding Anniversary. Beth & Leon Bogner

Vera Wollner, On your special birthday. Vera Bakonyi & Family, Tamar, David & Teah Bakonyi

Mrs. Lillian Zenther, On your 65th Birthday. Karen & Perry Trester & Family

Gary Zlotnick, On your 50th Birthday. Beth & Leon Bogner

SYMPATHY <←

Linda Arato, In memory of your dear husband, George. Rosa & Elie Ferera, Lucien & Carole Lieberman

Valerie Asmoucha & Family, With sympathy. Nan Ravvin

Gertrude Blum, In memory of your husband, Andree. Vera & Bernard Rozen, Susie & Chaim Micner

Paula Brook, On the passing of your beloved mother, Miriam. Birgit Westergaard & Norman Gladstone

Ron Burnett, In memory of Sophie Burnett. Monique Fouquet & Michael Banwell & the Academic Office of Emily Carr Institute

Philip Chernov, In memory of your Mother, Mona. Beth & Leon Bogner

Dr. Sherwin Cohen, On the passing of your wife, Charlotte. George & Frieda Wertman

Amelia Coleman, In memory of your Father. Mark & Susie Kierszenblat

Orna, Tal, Darry & Shani Danzig, Sorry for your loss. Cedar Morton

Ken & Reva Davidson & Family, In memory of your dear Mother, Miriam. Mark Rozenberg, Lynn Kaplan & Family, Ed & Debbie Rozenberg

Mel & Geri Davis & Family, In memory of your Dad, Tommy MacDonald. Leon & Beth Bogner & Family

Bea Fayerman, In Memory of your Mother. Susan & Joe Stein & Family

Zoltan Fleischer, Condolences on the loss of Erika. Miriam Eisner

Rome Fox & Family, In memory of your Mother, Sarah Rozenberg-Warm. Angela Hutchinson, Ron & Judy Remick, Sandi & Morris Bojm, Robert & Marilyn Krell, Jeffrey & Hildy Barnett, Ruth & Cecil Sigal, Sheryl Davis-Kahn & Saul Kahn & Family, Kristina & Michael Berman, The Child Survivor Group, Sally & Sid Coleman, Jack Lutsky & Susan Mendelson & Family, Reva & Ken Davidson & Family, Peter Lutsky & Shari Goldman-Lutsky & Family

Haya Fuchs & Tim Newman, On the passing of your Father.

Ellen & Gary Hamer
Sheila Gendis, With Sympathy. Jocy Lowy

Vera Geisberg & Family, In memory of Gerson Geisberg. Andy & Joy Rosengarten

Norman Gladstone, In memory of your Niece, Naomi Gropper Steiner. The Child Survivor Group of Vancouver, Rome & Hymie Fox

Abe & Chana Goldberg, On the loss of your dear Grandson. Harold & Bella Silverman, Regina Wertman

Hillel & Maya Goldberg & Family, On the loss of your Son, Matan. Mark Rozenberg, Lynn Kaplan & Family

Lola Hammer, On the loss of your beloved sister and Aunt, Helen C. Hiller. Harold & Bella Silverman

Allan Hanson, On the loss of your Brother, Brother-In-Law & Uncle. Les & Karen Cohen & Family

Magda Israel & Family, In Memory of David Israel. Marianne Rev, Tom, Adam & Ben Ross

Evelyn Kahn & Family, In loving memory of Leon Kahn. Rita & Ben Akselrod

Veronica Kent, In memory of your husband, Oliver. The Board & Staff of the VHEC

Susie & Mark Kierszenblat & Family, On the loss of your Mother & Grandmother. Sheryl Davis-Kahn & Saul Kahn

Jack Lutsky, In memory of your beloved Mother. Birgit Westergaard & Norman Gladstone, Izzy & Murray Fraeme, Beth & Leon Bogner, Ed & Debbie Rozenberg, Mark Rozenberg & Lynn Kaplan & Family

Peter Lutsky & Shari Goldman-Lutsky & Family, In memory of your dear Mother, Miriam. Mark Rozenberg, Lynn Kaplan & Family, Ed & Debbie Rozenberg

Carol Malkin, Deepest condolences. Peter & Marla Gropper, Evelyn Kahn, Beth & Leon Bogner & Family, Ida Kaplan

Rachel Mate & Sam Asmoucha, In memory of your dear Father & Father-in-law. Frieda Miller & Danny Shapiro

Mrs. Betsy Menkes, On the loss of your beloved Husband, Edwin. Mark Rozenberg & Lynn Kaplan, Iris & Philip Dayson

Richard Menkis, In memory of your Mother. Frieda Miller & Danny Shapiro, Howard & Sunni Stein, The VHEC Board & Staff

Mr. & Mrs. Craig Moss & Family, In memory of Murray. Beth & Leon Bogner & Family

Rosalyn Pawer & Family, On the loss of your beloved husband, Father & Grandfather, Ben. Bella & Harold Silverman

Wolf Prensky, Our Condolences on the loss of Oscar. Marilyn Weinstein

Lisa Pullan, In memory of your Father. Mark & Susie Kierszenblat

Mr. & Mrs. M. Ross, In memory of your Father. Lola & Bill Mendelson

Ed Rozenberg, In memory of your Mother, Sarah Rozenberg-Warm. Joan Uram, Steve & Wendy Hoskin, Jack Lutsky & Susan Mendelson & Family, Reva & Ken Davidson & Family, Peter Lutsky & Shari Goldman-Lutsky & Family

Mark Rozenberg & Family, In memory of your Mother, Sarah Rozenberg-Warm. Fran Goldberg, Elspeth Flood & Harry Satanove, Nora Ferera -Pullmer, Lew, David & Rochelle Pullmer, Ron Einblau, Harriett Lemer & Katy, Beverley Kort, Ray Schacter & Family, Mark & Sylvie Epstein, Ruth Hoffman & Ed Conway, Jack Lutsky & Susan Mendelson & Family, Reva & Ken Davidson & Family, Peter Lutsky & Shari Goldman-Lutsky & Family

Yvonne Rosenberg & Family, In memory of Hilda Billig. Hymie & Rome Fox & Family

Denise Rouben & Family, In memory of your beloved Father. Ben & Rita Akselrod

Harvey Sandomirsky, in loving memory of your Mother, Toby Sandomirsky. Rome Fox & Mark Rozenberg

Ray & Steve Schacter & Families, In memory of your beloved Father & Grandfather. Mark Rozenberg, Lynn Kaplan & Family

Alex E. Schwartz, Our sympathies are with you. Gloria & Robbie Waisman

Masha Seiden, In memory of Paul. Evelyn Kahn & Family

Danny Shapiro, Frieda Miller & Family, On the loss of your Father, Father-in-law, & Grandfather. Ellen & Avi Bick

Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Shenkarow & Family, In memory of Shelley. Beth & Leon Bogner

Barbara Shumiatcher, In memory of your Brother. Gloria & Robbie Waisman

Annette Small & Family, In memory of Sarah Rozenberg-Warm. Jack Lutsky & Susan Mendelson & Family, Reva & Ken Davidson & Family, Peter Lutsky & Shari Goldman-Lutsky & Family

Dr. Vulf Sternin, On the loss of your beloved, Maya. Evelyn Kahn & Family

Wendy Stryer & Family, In memory of your beloved Father & Grandfather. Rome & Hymie Fox & Family

Dr. Jimmy White, Alison, Hana & Paula Brook & Families, In memory of your beloved Mother, Wife & Grandmother, Miriam. Gloria & Robbie Waisman

Hana Wosk & Family, On the loss of your beloved Mother, Grandmother & Wife. Evelyn Kahn, Aron & Neri Tischler

We appologize for any errors or omissions.

THE VHEC IS HONOURED TO HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING NEW
ENDOWMENT FUNDS ESTABLISHED IN 2005 TO SECURE THE FUTURE OF THE VHEC.

Averbach Family Endowment Fund, established by Gary & Dianne Averbach & Betty Averbach.

Dr. Barrett Benny Endowment Fund

Larry Brandt & Family Endowment Fund, Established by Esther Brandt to honour the memory of her husband Larry Brandt (z'l).

Sam & Frances Belzberg Endowment Fund

Lorne & Sylvia Cristall Family Endowment Fund. Established in honour of our children Jodi, Jackie & Gary, Alex and Jodi, and grand-children Ashley, Sidney, Justin, Tyler & Andrew.

The Harvey & Jody Dales Hospitality Endowment Fund of the VHEC, to provide funds to honour the contributions of staff & volunteers.

The Mel & Geri Davis, Charles & Dora Davis Family Endowment Fund

Gordon & Leslie Diamond Family Endowment Fund

Isabelle, Charles, Craig & Carrie Diamond Family Endowment Fund

Sidney & Mariette Doduck Endowment Fund

The Doduck Children Legacy Endowment Fund, established in 2005 by Cathy Doduck Golden, Cheryl Doduck Young and Bernice Doduck Carmeli.

Dr. Arthur & Judith Dodek Endowment Fund

Abe & Rachel Leah Fox and sons, Michael & Nathan Fox Endowment Fund, established in 2005.

The Erika Fleischer Memorial Endowment Fund, established by Mark & Susie Kierszenblat and Ernie Fleischer & Luz Elena Rubio to honor the memory of survivor Erika Fleischer (z'l).

Max & Margaret Fugman Endowment Fund

Edgar Gaerber Endowment Fund

Irving & Noreen Glassner Endowment Fund

David & Aurelia Gold Endowment Fund, established by Judy Wener & Andrew Gillad, and Joseph Gold.

Sylvia Eibschutz & Dr. Peter & Marla Gropper Endowment Fund

The Sam Haber Endowment Fund, established by Lola, and sons Mel and Robert Haber.

Sam (z'l) and Michael (z'l) Heller Memorial Endowment Fund

Paul & Edwina Heller Endowment Fund

Kahn Family Fund, established in 2005 by Sheryl Davis-Kahn & Saul Kahn, Mark Kahn, Hoadie Kahn.

Ida, Abrasha, Sherie & Odie Kaplan Endowment Fund. Established in 2005 by Ida Kaplan. This fund will be used to support the educational activities of the VHEC.

Robert & Marilyn Krell Endowment Fund

Landa & Hector Family Endowment Fund

Bev Libin Family Endowment Fund, established by Bev Libin & Howard Riech.

Bob & Ralph Markin Endowment Fund

The Karen & Jack Micner Legacy Endowment Fund

Pinsky Family Legacy Endowment Fund established by Bernard Pinsky & Daniella Givon, Max & Leona Pinsky, Helen Pinsky & Victor Elias families.

Sarah Rozenberg-Warm Memorial Endowment Fund, established by her children, Eddie & Debbie Rozenberg, Rome Rozenberg Fox & Hymie Fox, Mark Rozenberg & Lynn Kaplan, Annette Rozenberg Small & Paul Small, and grandchildren to honour the memory of their mother Sarah Rozenberg-Warm (z'l). Proceeds from the fund will support Yom HaShoah.

The Abe & Leyla Sacks Foundation Fund

Mark & Tracey Schonfeld & Family Legacy Endowment Fund

The Rosalie & Joseph Segal Endowment Fund

The Anita, Zev & Elaine Shafran Legacy Endowment Fund

The Ari Shiff & Carla van Messel Legacy Endowment Fund

Silber & Greenhut Family Endowment Fund, established by Harry & Jeanette Greenhut and Arnold & Anita Silber.

The Lee & Bernie Simpson, Annie, Jory, & Samantha Endowment Fund

Phyliss & Irving Snider Foundation Endowment Fund

Eric Sonner Endowment Fund of the VHEC established through planned giving.

Dr. Stanley Sunshine Endowment Fund, established anonymously to honor Dr. Stanley Sunshine.

Isaac & Judith Thau Endowment Fund established through donations to the Jewish Community Foundation.

Isaak (z'l) & Bluma, Aron & Neri Tischler Family Endowment Fund, established by Aron and Neri Tischler to honor parents Dr's. Isaak (z'l) and Bluma Tischler.

Robert & Gloria Waisman Endowment Fund

Gerald & Shery Wittenberg Family Endowment Fund

Rabbi Yosef Wosk Legacy Endowment Fund

Ken Wosk, & Miriam Wosk Endowment Fund

Nathan Zalkow Foundation Endowment Fund


**In many cases the permanent name of the fund has not been confirmed.*



From left to right: Robbie Waisman, Robert Krell, Frances Belzberg & Rita Akselrod at the 10th Anniversary Gala Dinner May 29, 2005.

VHEC 10th Anniversary Gala a Huge Success!

Under the impressive leadership of Gala Co-chairs Mariette Doduck and Jody Dales, the VHEC Gala was held on May 29, 2005 to honor past presidents Dr. Robert Krell and Robbie Waisman was a joyful event that marked ten years of growth and service to the community by the VHEC. The theme *Touching Hearts – Engaging Minds* reflects our commitment to quality Holocaust education that has been and will remain the focus of the work of the Centre. The fundraising team, co-chaired by Harvey Dales and Louis Eisman, did an outstanding job. Thanks to our loyal and generous donors, many new endowment funds were established, ensuring the future for the VHEC. An event such as this requires the support of dozens of dedicated volunteers, the VHEC Board and the entire staff of the VHEC. We are grateful for the help of so many, and for the support that the community showed for the work of the Centre.

 VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST
EDUCATION CENTRE
50 – 950 WEST 41ST AVE.
VANCOUVER, BC V5Z 2N7

