

# Zachor

*Remember*

VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE NEWSLETTER | NUMBER 2 | SPRING 2006





## MARCH OF REMEMBRANCE AND HOPE 2006

"The March of Remembrance and Hope forced us all to transcend our religious, political, and cultural boundaries in order to bear witness to the common humanity we all share, the common humanity that speaks in the language of life and death, hope and despair, joy and pain, acceptance and alienation".

This was the reaction of Ayesha Siddiqua Chaudry, a Muslim Canadian, after spending a week in Poland on the March of Remembrance and Hope (MRH), an educational program that brings university students from different religious, ethnic and cultural backgrounds to Poland to teach the lessons of the Holocaust. From May 22-29, 2006, hundreds of students will once again meet in Poland to step into history, learning about the dangers of anti-Semitism, intolerance and racism through the study of the Holocaust, and promoting better relations among diverse groups of people.

MRH is a leadership experience that stresses the necessity of each of us doing our part to create a world in which religious and ethnic diversity are cause for celebration rather than discrimination. Almost 1,000 students and teachers from across the globe have participated in MRH since its inception in 2001. Canadian groups have included Muslims, Rwandans, First Nations, Poles, and Christians of various denominations.

This year, it is expected that about 350 students and faculty from North America will take part, including 40-45 Canadian students from Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and Montreal. The students are accompanied by Holocaust survivors, academics and expert Holocaust educator/guides from Israel. The itinerary includes Warsaw, Krakow and Lublin, the former death camps of Auschwitz-Birkenau and Majdanek, as well as other locations of historical and religious significance.

Bart Bonikowski, a Polish Canadian, summed up his experience: "We must listen; we must welcome opportunities to become exposed to other cultures and to other peoples; and we must educate each other. Hope can only be realised through mutual understanding. Only through such an understanding can we promote knowledge and diminish hatred. And then maybe, just maybe, will we be able to say "never again".

Canadian partners are the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews (CCCJ/ C-DET) and Students Helping Others Understand Tolerance (SHOUT).

**For more information on this important project:**

[www.remembranceandhope.com](http://www.remembranceandhope.com)

In Vancouver, please contact:

Howard Stein: Faculty of Medicine, UBC: [howardstein@shaw.ca](mailto:howardstein@shaw.ca)

Richard Menkis: Faculty of Arts, UBC: [menkis@interchg.ubc.ca](mailto:menkis@interchg.ubc.ca)

Yael Amit: Program Director, Hillel, UBC: [programdirector@vancouverhillel.ca](mailto:programdirector@vancouverhillel.ca)

## SURVIVOR SEDER

Mark your calendar!

Survivor seder will be held on April 4th!

Please join Gloria Waisman, Gerri London and all your survivor drop-in friends at the 2006 survivor Seder

Date: April 4, 2006

Time: 3:30-6:30

Place: Temple Sholom Synagogue

Cost: \$10.00

Reservations required. Call 604.264.0499 with your reservation.

### A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING VOLUNTEERS JANUARY — APRIL 2006:

MAILING: Maddi Bell, David Rosengarten, Tori Simon, (VTT Students)

DOCENTS: Holly Anderson, Julia Bernhardt, Beth Bogner, Michelle Brewer, Yael Caron, Jessica Deutsch, Myriam Dinim, Marie Luise Ermisch, Debby Freiman, Phillipa Friedland, s Fuller, Karyn Gold, Gabriella Klein, Lani Levine, Gabby Moser, Naomi Rozenberg, Wendi Vaisler, Rina Vizer, Linda Wener, Heather Wolfe

SPECIAL PROJECTS: Aiden Fox, Amalia Boe-Fishman, Miriam Davidowicz, Saul Cohn, Shannon Labelle, Gerri London, Sharon Meen, Rachelle Pullmer, David Schaffer, Jan Selman, Gloria Waisman, Dmitry Stone, Stan Taviss, Mark Rozenberg

We apologize for any errors or omissions

To volunteer call Rome Fox at  
604.264.0499

ARE YOU A NOTARY PUBLIC or authorized to notarize forms and would be willing to occasionally volunteer to notarize Holocaust survivor restitution applications? If so please call Rome Fox, Program Coordinator at the VHEC 604.264.0499 or email: [volunteer@vhec.org](mailto:volunteer@vhec.org)

## Zachor | Remember

Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre | 50 – 950 West 41st Avenue Vancouver, BC V5Z 2N7  
tel. 604.264.0499 | fax. 604.264.0497 | web. [www.vhec.org](http://www.vhec.org) | email [info@vhec.org](mailto:info@vhec.org)

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Cover: Young worshipper in a ghetto synagogue | Warsaw Ghetto: a group studying the Torah in secret

# JOIN US IN OBSERVING YOM HASHOAH HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

## YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATIVE CONCERT

UNSPOKEN VOICES: A LEGACY TO REMEMBER  
AN EVENING OF SPECIAL MUSIC AND PERFORMANCES  
COMMEMORATING THE HOLOCAUST

7:30 PM Tuesday, April 25, 2006  
Wosk Auditorium, Jewish Community Centre

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW IN THE VHEC

The theme for the 2006 Yom HaShoah Commemorative Concert is Unspoken Voices: A Legacy to Remember. This theme reflects on the rich legacy of pre-war Jewish life that we remember alongside the destruction, as both are part of our history. We both celebrate life and mourn the loss at this time of commemoration. The pre-war Jewish life was rich in music, literature, art and culture. This theme speaks to our obligation to tell the stories and to speak for those whose voices were silenced by hatred and prejudice.

No one event can represent the collective ritualized memory of a nation, a community, a group of people or family - yet the act of commemorating the Holocaust each year, as a community is a solidifying force for community and is a vehicle to pass the obligation to remember to the next generation. Through commemoration we affirm the value of each life lost and acknowledge our obligation as a family, a group and a community to remember, an obligation and moral duty that is being passed from the survivor generation to the 2nd and 3rd generation. Please join us at this free community-wide commemorative event.

The Yom HaShoah Commemorative Concert, coordinated by Wendy Stuart, will feature Warren Kimmel, a singer and an actor of national renown, performing Ravel's "Kaddish"; the Vancouver Jewish Men's Choir performing in Hebrew, English and Yiddish, with soloist Cantor Yaacov Orzech and soloist and choir conductor Cantor Steve Levin. Alia Rosenstock, soprano, will sing Yiddish selections and a duet with Warren Kimmel. A number of talented youth will join with Yiddish and Hebrew songs. Candle lighting in memory of the six million who perished will take place.

Sponsors: Gail Feldman Heller Endowment Fund of the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre, Sarah Rozenberg-Warm Memorial Endowment Fund of the VHEC, Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver and the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver.

Yom HaShoah Committee: Johlene Fehler, Cathy Golden, Ethel Kofsky, co-chairs and Rome Fox, VHEC Staff.



## YOM HASHOAH CEMETERY SERVICE

Sunday, April 23, 2006  
12:00 Noon

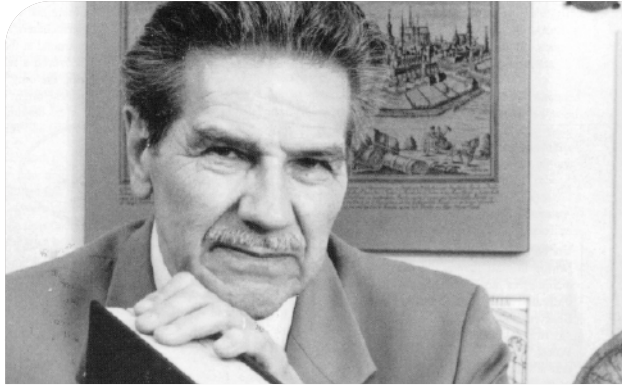
SCHARA TZEDECK CEMETERY  
2345 SW Marine Drive, New Westminster, BC

SERVICE INCLUDES:  
Rabbi Avi Berman  
Schara Tzedek Congregation Officiating  
Hinda Avery, 2nd Generation Speaker

Candlelighting in memory of  
the six million who perished

# VANCOUVER REVEREND: RIGHTEOUS AMONG THE NATIONS

BY DEBRA KLEINMAN



## HONOURING REVEREND METZGER

The Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre will honour Reverend Frederick Metzger for his role in rescuing Jews during the Holocaust. An award ceremony will take place as part of the VHCS Annual General meeting

**7:30 PM, TUESDAY MAY 30TH, 2006**

**NORMAN ROTHSTEIN THEATRE**

Yad Vashem developed the *Righteous Among the Nations* program in 1963 as a way to honour non-Jewish people who rescued Jews during the Holocaust. Survivors are extremely grateful and indebted to those who had the courage to help Jews and feel that they have a moral obligation to honour them. The Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre feels particularly privileged to be able to acknowledge a local Vancouver resident, Reverend Frederick Metzger, for his actions, which saved Hungarian Jews during the Holocaust. To be considered for this award there are many criteria to be fulfilled, and the commission, headed by an Israeli Supreme Court Justice, takes into account all the circumstances significant to the rescuer. Generally, a non-Jewish person must have risked his or her freedom, life or safety, saved either one or many Jewish lives, and done so without any monetary or material compensation. Testimony from a witness as direct evidence of the rescue first hand is often necessary as well. To date, approximately 21,310 non-Jewish people have been awarded the title *Righteous Among the Nations* worldwide from roughly 42 different countries. Among those honoured are several diplomat rescuers. Diplomat rescuers are now recognized as the group of rescuers who were able to save the largest number of Jewish people. Another group that was particularly well placed to help Jews was the clergy.

Reverend Frederick Metzger was born in Budapest in 1920, to German and Hungarian parents. In 1941 he was ordained by the Reformed Church of Hungary. In 1943 he was appointed as a staff member to the Good Shepard Commission, which was organized by the Reformed Church of Hungary for the protection of Hungarian Jews, but predominantly aimed at saving those of mixed heritage or for those who had converted to Christianity. The Good Shepard Commission was the first ecumenical body in Hungarian history and had the cooperation of the Lutheran, Catholic, and Free Churches. On many occasions, members of the Commission, hid Jews within their own homes. Over the course of the war the Good Shepard Commission succeeded in hiding nearly 2,000 Jewish children and rescuing many Jewish forced labourers.

While the practice of the Good Shepard Society was primarily to help converts, many of its members, including Reverend Metzger

also rescued many Jews who had not converted. Reverend Metzger was particularly active in this rescue. He opened his home to those being persecuted, and worked underground, posing as the chaplain of a chemical company. Metzger saw it as his duty and responsibility as a minister to provide Jews with protection. In doing so, he continually put his own life at risk and managed to save several Jewish lives from the horrors of the Holocaust, amongst them, the Chief Rabbi Joseph Berg and his sister.

In his testimony in support of Metzger's nomination as a "Righteous Among the Nations" Dr. Jan Gecsei recounted how Reverend Metzger was instrumental in saving him and his mother. Jan Gecsei was a ten-year old boy when he travelled with his mother Korinna Gecsei to Budapest in the hope of finding refuge. A friend referred them to Reverend Károly Dobos, who then sent them on to Reverend Metzger. Metzger hired Korinna as a nurse and housekeeper, and gave them certificates of employment, under false names. These documents proved crucial to their survival, and allowed them to pass the obligatory police registrations. Today, Dr. Gecsei, a retired professor of computer science, and his 92 year-old mother both live in Montreal.

In 1950, Reverend Metzger and his wife Margaret immigrated to Canada. He continued his commitment to the church by serving as a Presbyterian minister in Western Canada, founding many congregations, and establishing the Westminster Foundation, which offers courses in Pastoral Counselling. Reverend Metzger has supported the Vancouver Jewish Community and Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre over the years in many ways. He has also lead 14 study tours to Israel and received the Terra Sancta and Silver Tourism 25th Anniversary Medal from the Israeli Government. Reverend Metzger also founded and became the Executive Director of the Biblical Museum of Canada – Quest Exhibits.

There are several survivors in Vancouver including Susan Bluman, Robert Krell, Celina Lieberman and Ruth Sigal, who have also successfully nominated their own rescuers. If you are interested in nominating someone for the title of Righteous Among the Nations please contact Yad Vashem directly. Information can be found on their website at [www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org).



# THE STORY OF HANA'S SUITCASE

## FEATURED AT THE 2006 ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL SYMPOSIUM

The story of *Hana's Suitcase* is one that has brought together several different people from around the world and touched the hearts of millions.

In 1998, Fumiko Ishioka, the Director of the Tokyo Holocaust Education Centre, wanted young people in Japan to learn from the Holocaust. She believed that the best way to do this was to present them with something tangible that could connect them



Hana Brady was born May 16, 1931 in the small town of Nove Mesto, Czechoslovakia. In 1942 Hana and her brother were deported to Theresienstadt and eventually to Auschwitz, where in 1944, she died at the age of thirteen.

personally with the past. With that goal in mind, she contacted the Auschwitz museum and secured a replica of a suitcase, that had once belonged to a thirteen-year old Czech girl, Hana Brady. Ishioka explained,

*I asked the curator for a shoe and a suitcase belonging to a child killed in the gas chambers. I thought such belongings would show how these Jewish children were allowed only one suitcase when they were deported and help our children understand something of the pathos of their journey.*

The young students at the Tokyo Holocaust Education Centre implored Ishioka to find out more about the owner of the small brown suitcase bearing only the name "Hana Brady, orphan." And so began a research quest, that took Ishioka to Prague's Terezin Museum, where she combed through long deportation lists to the eventual discovery that although Hana Brady had perished, her older brother George Brady had not and was living in Toronto, Ontario.

This emotional story of Fumiko Ishioka's meeting with George Brady was first told in a CBC radio documentary produced by Karen Levine and then retold in Levine's award-winning, book for young readers. Through the use of alternating chapters, Levine moves readers between past and present, between the tragically short life of Hana Brady and the detective work undertaken by Fumiko Ishioka.

Hana Brady was born May 16, 1931 in the small town of Nove Mesto, Czechoslovakia. In 1942 Hana and her brother were deported to Theresienstadt and eventually to Auschwitz, where in 1944, she died at the age of thirteen.

On May 3 and 4, 2006, Karen Levine, Fumiko Ishioka and George Brady will be reunited at the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre's 31st Annual High School Symposium, where over 700 grade 11 and 12 high school students will have the distinct privilege of hearing about this remarkable history, directly from those most closely involved. Their presentation is a poignant testament to the importance of each life lost during the Holocaust as well as way of helping to education this generation of young people.

Also on the program will be an address by Professor Chris Friedrichs, Department of History, UBC and small group sessions with local survivor speakers. Teachers attending the Symposium will receive a copy of *Hana's Suitcase* for their school libraries provided by the VHEC Leo Krell Book Fund.

The symposium is sponsored by the Edwina & Paul Heller Holocaust Education Fund, Sid and Sylvia Eibschutz Endowment Fund, the Sophie Waldman Endowment Fund of the VHEC, the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver, the University of British Columbia, the Leo Krell Memorial Book Fund, the Meyer & Gita Kron Fund for Excellence in Holocaust Education, and the Lehrer Endowment Fund, with the financial assistance of the Province of British Columbia and with a generous donation from Shevi Wosk on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah.

### VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST CENTRE SOCIETY: NOTICE OF THE 2006 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 30, 2006

6:30 PM Business Meeting | Members of the Society welcome  
Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre

7:30 PM Ceremony Honouring Reverend Metzger, Righteous Among the Nations  
Members of the public welcome | Norman Rothstein Theatre  
Reception to Follow at the VHEC

# RAOUL WALLENBERG DAY

BY GABRIELLA KLEIN

It began to rain in earnest as we pulled up in front of the Seasons Hilltop Bistro in Queen Elizabeth Park on January 29th, 2006. Rain is such a common occurrence here in the Pacific Northwest that it barely deserves a nod, but on that day the heavy dark skies seemed fitting; as though the heavens were commiserating with the determined line of people walking down the curving path, hunched below open umbrellas. We were winding our way towards a barely noticeable bronze

a violent close. Twenty years later the Second Generation Group of Vancouver along with the Swedish Consul, Anders Neumuller and the Consul General of Hungary, Andre Molnar revisited the site so that this important legacy would not be forgotten.

I was invited to speak on behalf of the Second Generation Group because my mother, Eva Klein and my grandmother, Yolan



plaque that sits under a small waterfall, in order to attend the 20th Anniversary Event commemorating Raoul Wallenberg Day.

At a ceremony organized by the Second Generation Group on January 26, 1985 His Excellency Per Anger, Wallenberg's friend and fellow rescuer and the Swedish Ambassador to Canada, unveiled the plaque honouring Raoul Wallenberg for his heroic efforts that saved thousands of Hungarian Jews in Budapest as the Second World War was drawing to

Hexner, survived the war together in the Budapest Ghetto due in great part to the haven provided by one of the 'Wallenberg safe houses'. It was a great privilege to bear witness before the 80 people standing in the pelting rain and to pay tribute to the brave man without whose efforts I might not even exist.

In the Jewish tradition we are taught that it is important to remember. For many it is painful to travel back in time and they choose to do it as little as possible. Today I will take that journey for the two women who can no longer walk that road,



my mother and my grandmother. I will respectfully remember those ancestors whose voices speak to me, who have followed me to this adopted land with its own tradition of honoring ancestors and who stubbornly refuse to let me forget my story that began in the old land of my birth, Hungary.

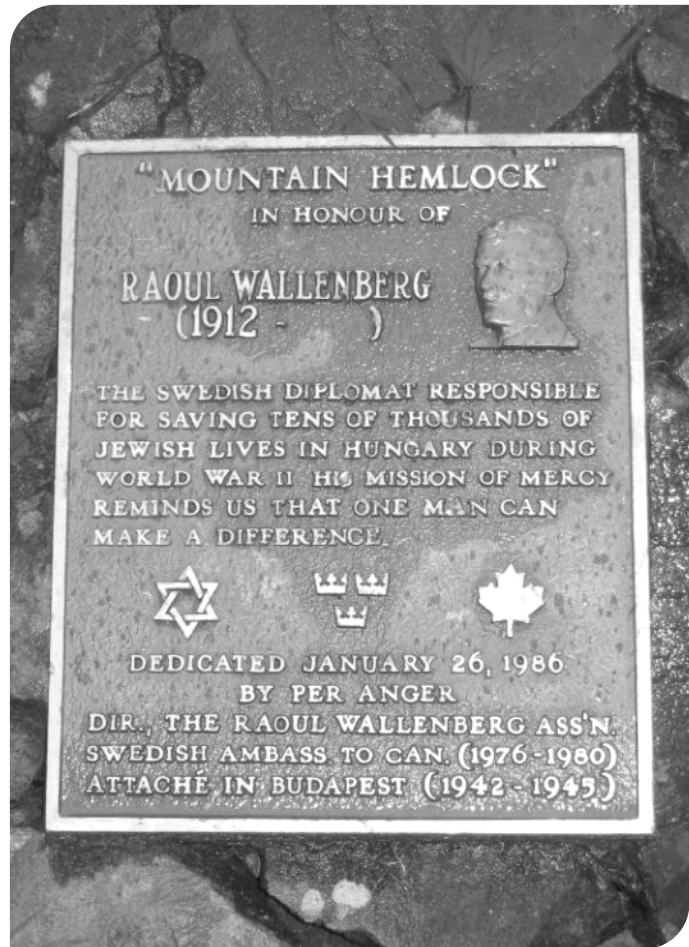
The event began with a welcome on behalf of the Swedish community by Mr. Lennart Osterlind and continued with greetings from The Hon. Councillor and Deputy Mayor Peter Ladner. The Consul General of Hungary, Andre Molnar acknowledged the valour displayed by Raoul Wallenberg against the face of seemingly impenetrable evil. The Consul of Sweden, Anders Neumuller concluded the ceremony by laying a wreath on the plaque. The short but moving ceremony created a palpable feeling of sorrow mixed with gratitude amongst the attentive crowd who then congregated up at the restaurant where we feasted on Swedish cookies and chocolate bubka.

“Whether Hungarian,  
Swedish, Salish or English,  
we cut our teeth on the  
legends of those who  
fought evil...”

Whether Hungarian, Swedish, Salish or English, we cut our teeth on the legends of those who fought evil, slayed dragons and gained the kingdom as reward. What rare element transforms a man or a woman into a hero and why are they so few?

Raoul Wallenberg disappeared mysteriously on January 17th, 1945 in Hungary and was imprisoned in the Soviet Union. Although he was never heard from again Raoul Wallenberg's legacy lives on through the many lives he saved: some say as many as one hundred thousand Jews. His reputation as a man of unswerving conviction, intelligence and charisma is the stuff of legends. I am pleased to report that the Mayor of the City of Vancouver, Sam Sullivan, proclaimed Sunday, January 29th, 2006 as “Raoul Wallenberg Day”, an event that will henceforth be recognized annually.

Perhaps what this flesh and blood man had is what all children know when they hear those old fairy tales. A hero simply needs the unfaltering strength of his own conviction. Raoul



The Wallenberg Plaque at Queen Elizabeth Park

Wallenberg did not win the princess or gain the treasure and his just reward was stolen from him, but he lives forever... through me and thousands like me who say his name with reverence. The man was called Raoul Wallenberg and he possessed conviction. He is my hero.

# NO LONGER ALONE

## THREE POEMS BY ANDREW KARSAI

### OSVIECIM

Here, evil smiled with the grin of railroad ties.  
Here, evil smiled with the grin of “Deutschland Uber Alles.”

Here, the former altar boy Salvatore Dali  
would not be able to find  
dark enough colors  
to paint, to sculpt.

Here, Dali’s horse “saddled with time”  
carries suitcases, knapsacks, children’s shoes,  
pencils, love letters, prayer books,  
human hair, (obvious signs of an inferior race).

Here, the horse walks without water,  
without chewing on hay, or grass,  
quivers under saddle’s grip,  
quivers under the ocean waves,  
waves of blood and six pointed stars.

Here, is your heart my love,  
in the ground, in the air, still burning,  
looking back at the killers,  
looking back at the mourners,  
looking back.

### HE REMINDS ME OF MANY PEOPLE IN ONE (PARADOX)

I met a truck driver who wore glasses.  
I met a runner who wore orthopedic inserts.  
I met a young sophomore receiving  
dental treatment.

I met someone vastly different: an anti-Semite  
who would not even dream of  
consulting a hygienist  
of the human mind.  
(Admittedly, such professional  
is damn difficult to find).

He reminds me of many people in one:  
a short-sighted truck driver without glasses,  
a flat footed runner without inserts,  
and a student with inflamed gums.

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\*Correction: In the NLA article by Janosh Benisz printed in the January 2006 Zachor, it was stated incorrectly that Janosh’s father Moritz Benisz fought in World War II. This was not so. It was in the First World War that Moritz Benisz valiantly defended Hungary and became one of its highest decorated heroes.

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



### A LETTER TO PRAGUE

In the old City of Prague  
Where the street lights burn yellow stars into the sidewalks  
A short man rides on an empty suit  
A short man with the black eyes  
Rides on the tailored suit  
Maybe the suit is not so empty  
Maybe the suit is full

Full of directives and clauses with specific meanings  
For specific people  
Produced by the great clerk of Austro-Hungary  
This man (named Franz Kafka) has a message for you  
Madam Sender: the addressee has not been known  
For the last sixty years

He likely was aborted in the forty-first year of the last century  
When certain birth certificates reached a value  
Close to the second decimal place after zero  
Or he was shot in the year of forty-four  
By the Aryan sons of those great clerks  
Who loved their country so much  
They wore black polished boots  
Marched with raised arms – what great volunteers

Probability also indicates that his body violently burned  
Somewhere in the land of Poles although no-one knows  
Whether he was alive or gassed first at that time

Lastly even if he would be in hiding in this great city  
From people who pretend that nothing had happened  
Even then Madam Sender  
Even then your letter  
Would be deemed undeliverable



## FILM SCREENING

### THE HUNGARIAN SERVANT



Italian film produced in 2004, directed by Massimo Piesco and Giorgio Molteni, in Italian with English subtitles

Advisory: This is a powerful film with occasional scenes of overt brutality.

THE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL AND  
THE VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE  
PRESENT THE VANCOUVER PREMIERE SCREENING OF

## THE HUNGARIAN SERVANT

7:00 P.M. MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2006  
NORMAN ROTHSTEIN THEATRE

TUESDAY, APRIL 4 AT 2:00 P.M.  
FIFTH AVENUE CINEMAS

A Hungarian deportee in a German concentration camp is selected to work as a servant to the Nazi commandant, August Dailermann, and his wife Franziska. The eloquent and cultured Hungarian Jew exploits Dailermann's love of opera and music, and his wife's vanity, in a futile attempt to preserve certain works of art and the lives of musicians and artists deported to the death camp where black smoke, visible from the Nazi's elegant quarters, veils the atrocities within

his domain. The incongruity of art and music in the death camp is an unnerving reminder of tragic cultural depletion. Tomas Aranas's strong performance as Dailermann confers an ominous presence mitigated by a flawed sense of artistic appreciation.

There will be a discussion session following the film, facilitated by Dr. Mark N. Wexler, Professor of Applied Ethics, Segal Graduate School of Business, Simon Fraser University and Dr. Gabor Maté, Vancouver based physician and author of numerous best selling books.

Following the discussion there will be a reception at the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre.

*The Hungarian Servant* is sponsored by the Lövi Memorial Fund of the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre. The Maté Family through the Lövi Memorial Fund honours the memory of their grandparents and aunt by sponsoring a Holocaust film screening each year in the Jewish Film Festival.

**opposite page:** "Empty suit" refers to the statue of Franz Kafka erected in Prague in 2003 near Spanish Synagogue. Kafka sits on top of a suit (jacket and trousers), frustrated, unable to move around. Of course this is only one of many explanations. The sculptor is the leading Czech artist Jaroslav Rona who won a national competition for this most interesting 3.75m high bronze statue situated in the spiritual tangent of the synagogue and the catholic and protestant churches of old Prague. Jaroslav's father, Bedrich, is a child survivor of the Holocaust.

# DR ROBERTA KREMER: A TRIBUTE FROM THE BOARD

BY ROBBIE WAISMAN AND ROBERT KRELL



## TRIBUTE BRUNCH

TO THANK DR ROBERTA KREMER  
FOR TEN YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE  
& HER OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION AS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sunday April 30, 2006  
11:00 AM | The Richmond Country Club  
\$20.00 per person  
Please join us in showing our appreciation!

RSVP before April 24, 2006  
by calling the VHEC at 604.264.0499

The VHEC has been extremely fortunate to have the services of a remarkable Executive Director, Roberta Kremer for the past decade, from 1996-2006.

When a select group of Holocaust Survivors came together to establish the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre, we started with a vision, but guidelines had to be established in order for us to achieve our objectives in a precise and meaningful way. The consultant who was hired and became instrumental in defining our goals and priorities and to guide us to implement programmes to achieve the vision we all shared, was Dr. Roberta Kremer.

In 1996, we needed to search for an Executive Director to replace Ronnie Tessler. The Society had been so impressed with Dr. Kremer's work as a consultant that we hired her. This was a great decision for the Holocaust Education Centre.

The achievements under Roberta's direction are too numerous to mention, but some should be particularly noted. She has the ability to secure talented staff and nurture their creativity. She inspired everyone she worked with by her work ethic, talent and her drive for perfection. Many of the young people she trained over the years have gone on to great success in their careers and still consider her advice invaluable.

Roberta's ability to deal with survivors and their needs was also exceptional. She knew and appreciated the sensitivities of individual survivors and handled them with respect and love. She was not only the demanding director of our Centre but the loving mother to us all. There were simply no bounds to her compassion and understanding.

We should also mention that Roberta is brilliant. She reads widely, loves music and art and is extremely creative. She uses her intellectual talents to write, teach, and conceptualize

exhibits. Even in a simple conversation about film or literature, she brings new perspectives and informed opinions that make you think.

Her knowledge combined with her talent led to the creation of many wonderful exhibits that captured the imagination of everyone who visited the Centre. Many of her exhibits are highly sought after, travelling to other Holocaust Centres in the United States and Canada. Some of the memorable exhibits she has worked on are: *Broken Threads*, *Shanghai as a Refuge*, *Open Hearts – Closed Doors*, *Faces of Loss*, *Janusz Korczak and the Children of the Warsaw Ghetto*, *Ravensbruck: Forgotten Women of the Holocaust*, and *MAUS*.

Roberta was able to envision new ways to reach audiences who might never have had the opportunity to learn about the Holocaust. She organized a literary conference on Primo Levi attracting international scholars as well as students of literature, invited Art Spiegelman to speak to the exhibition of *MAUS* which attracted cartoonists and others interested in the visual arts, and brought in coin collectors with the exhibit *Questionable Issue: Currency of the Holocaust*.

Through her efforts tens of thousands of people have learned from various programs and exhibits she so lovingly nurtured. In the process of educating others to the evils of racism and prejudice, she has also honoured the millions of loved ones who perished.

Roberta, you have had a huge impact on the success of our Holocaust Education Centre, one that will endure forever. We thank you. Our gratitude and admiration know no bounds. We will always be very grateful to you.

Officially Roberta is leaving her position as Executive Director at the end of April 2006, but the VHEC is not leaving her.



# REMEMBRANCE, REPARATIONS, REJUVENATION

BY BARRY DUNNER

The letter arrived in the mail. I stared at it for some time before opening it. And in that moment, a barrage of thoughts, images and emotions raced through my mind.

Shortly after my mother passed away, I began organizing her affairs. My mother was a pack rat and I intended to throw out most of her boxes of junk. But as I sat alone in her empty apartment, rummaging through the dusty files, I uncovered letters, news clippings, memorabilia, photos, love poems and piles of Holocaust related documents - many of which I never knew existed. And something profound happened to me. Suddenly, I found a new connection to my parents and their past and I knew that this discovery would offer me new ways to learn about and connect with my parents. Though barely out of Shiva, I was elated.

One of my first finds was several boxes of files relating to Wiedergutmachung – reparations. Long lost memories surfaced. My mothers’ letters, written mostly in German or

“I found a new connection  
to my parents...”

Polish, were typed on extremely thin, almost crepe, paper. I could visualize her sitting at our dining room table late into the evening, typing away with her clumsy black Underwood. How she loved that typewriter! (It was the exact same model as the one she had back home.) As I looked through the numerous documents, for the first time, I recognized the massive effort it must have taken to apply for reparations – not to mention the emotional strain of having to recount and prove the horrors she went through.

Right around this time, the German government announced that it was seeking inmates of slave labour camps to come forward, as reparation funds were being made available. My mother worked in the slave labour camps of Plaszow and Brinlitz, so I thought there was a chance that she would have qualified were she alive. Interestingly, her heirs were eligible to apply for these funds. So, the question I had to ask myself was: should I apply?... What would my mother have done?

Back in the 1960s, when my mother applied for Wiedergutmachung, she was struggling to make ends meet in a new land. My parents had a house and a mortgage and two children at Talmud Torah. They needed the money. However, financially secure in her golden years, perhaps today my mother would not have applied for these funds. But, I don't think so. She once told me that while the money could never

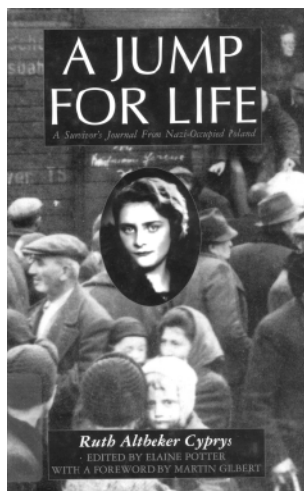
begin to repay what the Nazis had done to her – had taken away from her - still, it was something. Reparations were an acknowledgement that a wrong was committed. Also, to her way of thinking, somewhere in Germany, there were a bunch of bureaucrats processing these claims and writing cheques. And, at minimum, these bureaucrats would have to come to terms with, acknowledge and remember what happened in their land not so long ago. I decided to apply.

The application was straightforward and brief. A far cry from the complicated procedures and details required when my mother first applied some forty years ago. In completing the forms I remembered that my mother had assisted many of her friends apply for reparations. In one instance, the German government had asked for proof that Mrs. G. was actually a German citizen; for proof that Mrs. G. attended gymnasium (grade school); for records of Mrs. G.s’ courses and grades. Incensed at these requests my mother responded, “You didn’t ask us for this information, you didn’t ask us if we were good German citizens, when you sent us to Auschwitz!”

With these thoughts and images swirling in my head, I opened the letter. It contained a cheque of over \$8,000! What to do with the money? In some ways, I thought, my situation today is not too dissimilar from that of my parents’ so many years ago – for I, too, have a house and a mortgage and two children at Talmud Torah. That cheque could help pay for tuition. I believe that mom would support my decision to use the reparation funds to provide my children with a Jewish education.

I could come up with many rationalizations of why I should keep the money. But as much as I’d like to, I can’t. It is simply not mine to keep. So, I am donating the funds to the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre. The Centre has been instrumental in assisting local Survivors apply for reparations and social assistance over the years. They will lovingly distribute these funds to remembrance, educational or social assistance programs in our community and to Survivors as need be.

The Nazis tried to murder my parents solely because they were Jewish, and now, through this donation, they will be supporting programs and services that combat hatred and racism. The German government will effectively be supporting our efforts to make Holocaust - related programs more vigorous, dynamic and effective. My mother had a dark sense of humour. I think that she would appreciate this irony and support this use of the money. Also, she’d like the fact that not only am I doing the right thing, but that I get a tax receipt to boot!



## BOOK REVIEW: A JUMP FOR LIFE

BY RUTH ALTBEEKER CYPRYS

REVIEWED BY LUCIEN LIEBERMAN

In order for a Jew to survive Nazi-Occupied Europe he or she had to be endowed with three characteristics; a will to survive the oppressor, a healthy disposition and a great measure of good luck. This was especially true of occupied Poland. Ruth Altbeker had all three characteristics. A native of Warsaw, trained as a lawyer, she finds herself preg-

nant and alone, separated from her husband who has been exiled to the Far East by the Soviets.

As the Jewish population is pressed into the Warsaw ghetto, Ruth finds protection through employment as a seamstress in a German managed garment factory. There, working 12-hour shifts, often with her baby daughter in her lap, she avoids several selections for deportation. While others are sewing gems and gold into garments for use as bribes in tight circumstances, Ruth obtains a metal saw and becomes adept at cutting into locks and bars. Eventually this is her salvation. She is able to cut the bars in a cattle car transporting her to Treblinka. She persuades a fellow traveler to throw her child out of the opening following her jump from the moving train. She and her daughter survive the jump. The reader is left to wonder how many followed her through the escape portal rather than await the fatal events at the rail terminal.

In making her way back to Warsaw, Ruth encounters a female stranger who takes pity on her and provides her with Aryan identification papers. These enable Ruth to take on a gentile identity. Fortunately her non-Semitic features match the identity papers. She takes on the role of a domestic in

Warsaw and regains contacts with some family members in the ghetto. She witnesses the destruction of the ghetto in 1943 and survives the August 1944 uprising in Warsaw which pits the under armed Polish Nationalists against the German army. Much of the city is destroyed and Ruth makes her way to the countryside where she is reunited with her daughter who has been hidden with gentiles.

This journal gives a detailed description of every day life in both the ghetto and the Aryan districts. In the midst of all this evil the observer records efforts of loving-kindness. As more families are pressed into smaller quarters in the ghetto, each apartment block organizes committees to administer to the needs of the occupants, particularly the poor. Following the destruction of the ghetto, Polish gentiles organize cells to assist in the hiding of Jews with special attention to the children.

Ruth is eventually united with her husband George. He is amongst the Jewish Poles in Russia who were allowed to join the allies in a Polish army headed by General Anders. The couple settles with family briefly in Palestine and then in South Africa. It is interesting to note that this journal was written in Polish in 1946 and translated into English at the same time. It was then put away for posterity. Upon Ruth's death in 1979 in London, her daughters find the documents.

Amongst the most interesting chapters is the epilogue written by the two daughters, Eva born in 1940 and Annabelle born in 1949. They briefly describe the history of the family in the post-war period. They profile Ruth as a mother and as a person who is continually on the alert. Their comments on their parent's attitude towards Judaism and their mother's choices provide interesting insights to the story of Ruth.

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## DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY: JANUARY – MARCH 2006

Angier, Carole. **The Double Bond : Primo Levi – A Biography.** New York : Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2002. Donated by Rob Krell.

Friedländer, Saul. **Nazi Germany and the Jews Vol. 1: The Years of Persecution, 1933-1939.** New York : HarperPerennial, 1998. Donated by Geoffrey Druker.

Kater, Michael H. **Composers of the Nazi Era : Eight Portraits.** New York : Oxford U. Press, 2000. Donated by Ronnie Tessler.

Katz, Steven T. and Alan Rosen (eds.). **Obliged by Memory: Literature, Religion, Ethics.** Syracuse, NY : Syracuse U Press, 2006. Donated by the publisher.

Krauss, Nicole. **The History of Love.** New York : W.W. Norton, 2005. Donated by Alan Matheson.

Paperny, Myra. **The Greenies.** Toronto : Harper Collins, 2005. Donated by the publisher.

**Witnessing Darfur : Genocide Emergency (DVD).** Washington DC : United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 2005. Donated by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.



# DONATIONS AND CARDS

DECEMBER 7 – MARCH 15, 2006

## GET WELL

Zav Abramson, Wishing you a speedy recovery. Pola Nutkiewicz

Maurice Benyaer, Get Well Soon.  
Shoshana & Moshe Fidelman, Ben & Rose Folk, Lili & Izak Folk

Alex Buckman, Wishing you a speedy recovery! The VHEC Board & Staff

Rosalie Dimant, Get Well Soon! Karl & Sabina Choit

Grace Ehrlich, Wishing you a complete recovery! The VHEC Board & Staff

Jan Fishman, Wishing you a Speedy Recovery! Izzy Fraeme & Leonore Etkin

Lili Folk, Wishing you a Speedy Recovery!  
Ben & Rita Akselrod, the VHEC Board & Staff, George & Frieda Wertman, The Szajman Family, Debby & Mark Choit & Family

Tommy Gelfand, Wishing you a speedy recovery. Sherie & Odie Kaplan

Myer Grinshpan, Wishing You a Speedy Recovery! The VHEC Board & Staff, Gloria, Gerri & Survivor Drop-In

Abe Jampolsky, Get Well Soon! Gloria & Robbie Waisman

Lynn Kaplan, Best Wishes for a Speedy Recovery! Ethel Kofsky

Sam Mandelbaum, Wishing you a speedy recovery! Sam Szajman

Bernice Neuwirth, We are thinking of you and your family. The VHEC Staff & Board

Elizabeth Stern, Best Wishes For a Speedy Recovery. Debby & Mark Choit & Family

Veronica Winkler, Wishing you a very speedy recovery! The Nagy Family

## MAZEL TOV

Lola Apfelbaum, Happy Birthday! The Board and Staff of the VHEC

Betty Averbach, Happy Early Birthday! Jocy, Richard, Gary & Tammy Lowy

Michael & Dvori Balshine, On Shelly's engagement! Jack & Evelyn Huberman

Paul Heller, Happy Birthday! Lillian Boraks Nemetz

Steve Chercover, HAPPY CHANUKAH!  
Jocy Lowy & Family

Marla Eist, In appreciation and admiration.  
Irene N Watts

Elie Ferera, On your special birthday! Aron & Neri Tischler

Frances Franco, In honour of your reward.  
Rosa & Elie Ferera

Marilyn Goldstone, On Your Special Birthday! Sherry, Johnny, Aaron, Rachel, David, Rebecca & Marla Goldstone

Gloria & Harry Harris, on the birth of your Granddaughter! Irv Wolak & Susan & Joe Stein

Edwina Heller, On your Birthday! Ethel Bellows, Lillian Boraks Nemetz

Pola Hister, On your special Birthday! Frieda Miller & Danny Shapiro

Abe Jampolsky, Happy 85th Birthday! Gloria & Robbie Waisman

Mrs. Lori Kirsch, Happy 75th Birthday! Lana Landa

Ron Krell, In honour of your special birthday! Rob & Marilyn Krell & Family

Lucien & Carole Lieberman, On the birth of your grandson. The VHEC Board & Staff, Frieda Miller & Danny Shapiro, Ethel Kofsky

Rodney & Lynne Massel, On your Special Anniversary! Irv Wolak & Susan & Joe Stein & Family

Frieda Miller, Congratulations! The Child Survivor Group of Vancouver

Jack & Ina Polak, On 60th Wedding Anniversary. Susan Quastel

Moishe Pripstein, On your Special Birthday! The Tischler Family

Lew Pullmer, On Your Special Birthday! Aron & Neri Tischler

Bud & Fay Riback, On your 50th Anniversary! Gloria & Robbie Waisman

George & Yvonne Rosenberg, On Alisa & Sheldon's engagement. Shelley & Perry Seidelman & Family

Morley Shafron, On Your 70th Birthday! Martin & Sheila Hector

Robbie Waisman, On your special birthday, Martin & Sheila Hector

Sarah Shapiro, On your 80th Birthday. Rosa & Elie Ferera

Herb Silber, Happy Birthday! Linda & Joel Wener, Beth & Leon Bogner

Bernie & Lee Simpson, On your celebration. Neri & Aron Tischler

Larry Thal, Happy 60th Birthday! Linda & Ken Glasner

Neri Tischler, Happy Birthday! Shirley & Jerry Kushner, Rome & Hymie Fox

Robbie Waisman, On your special birthday! Gwen & David Tessler, the Hector Family, Brian & Sheryl Ross, Jody & Harvey Dales, Birgit Westergaard & Norman Gladstone

Irv Wolak, On your Birthday! Lynn & Rodney Massel & Family

### SYMPATHY

Arnold & Carole Abramson, On the loss of your Mother. Jack & Evelyn Huberman, Vivian & Ken Rosenberg & Family

Mr. & Mrs. M. Adler, On the loss of your Sister. David & Grace Ehrlich

Shirley & Peter Barnett, In Memory of Your Mother. Lillian Boraks Nemetz, Norman Gladstone & Birgit Westergaard, VHEC Board & Staff, Neil & Judy Kornfeld, Karyn & Joe Gold, Izzy Fraeme & Leonore Etkin

Arthur Block, In Memory of Your Beloved Wife. The VHEC Board of Directors & Staff, Ben & Rita Akselrod

Bernie & Sandra Bressler, In Memory of Bernie's Mother. Debbie & Eddie Rozenberg

Barb Brezer, On your great loss. Gloria & Robbie Waisman

Michael & Jack Eisner, On the loss of your Mother. Sally & Sid Coleman & Alex, Jean & Harvey Gerber, Harry & Gloria Harris

Faye Cohen & Family, On the Loss of your Father. Lola Apfelbaum.

Iris & Phillip Dayson & Family, In Memory of Your Mother. Lillian Boraks Nemetz, Izzy Fraeme & Leonore Etkin

Ben Dayson, In Memory of Your Wife, Esther. Lillian Boraks Nemetz, the VHEC Board & Staff, Karyn & Joe Gold, Izzy Fraeme & Leonore Etkin

Reva Dexter, In Memory of Sarah Kanner. Barrie Nault & Victoria Mitchell

Arthur & Judy Dodek, On the loss of your Mother. Gloria & Robbie Waisman

Faye & Richard Elias & Family, On the loss of your father. Debbie & Eddie

Rozenberg, Lili & Izak Folk, Grace & David Ehrlich

Sylvie Epstein & Family, In Memory of Your Mother. Ralph & Claire Swartz

Rosa Ferera, On the passing of your dear Elie. Susan Quastel, the VHEC Board & Staff, Robert & Marilyn Krell, Lynn Kaplan & Mark Rozenberg & Family, Bluma Tischler

Nora Ferera-Pullmer, On the passing of your dear Father. Robert & Marilyn Krell, Mark, Jacob, Talya & Nirit Rozenberg & Lynn Kaplan

Dr. Martin & Paulette Fishman, On the loss of your Mother. Irv Wolak & Susan & Joe Stein, Mark & Susie Kierszenblat

Dr. Sherold Fishman, on the loss of your dear Shirley. David & Grace Ehrlich

Mr. David Hallis, On the loss of your wonderful Mom. Gloria & Robbie Waisman

Paul & Edwina Heller, On your very great loss. Gloria & Robbie Waisman, Robert & Marilyn Krell & Family

Barbara Heller & Family, on your your great loss. Robbie & Gloria Waisman, the VHEC Board & Staff, Robert & Marilyn Krell, Lillian Boraks Nemetz

Eva Hoffman, In Memory of Your Mother. Birgit Westergaard & Norman Gladstone

Sharon Jacobson & Family, On the passing of your Father. Ed & Marilyn Gaerber

Debbie & Ted Koffman & Family, On the passing of Gertie. Lynn Kaplan & Mark Rozenberg & Family

Eva Koplowitz, In Memory of your husband. Debbie & Eddie Rozenberg

Paulinka & Gerard Kreisberg & Family, In memory of Simon Wiesenthal. Karyn & Joe Gold

Mary & Irving Leibgott, In Memory of Your Sister. Joan, Marc, Jordan & Adrian Pinkus

Harriet Lemer, On your great loss. Neri & Aron Tischler

Jeff & Cathy Lowenstein, On the loss of your Mother. Mark & Susie Kierszenblat, Susan Albersheim & Steve, Benjamin & Ami Barer

Lola Mendelson & Family, In Memory of Your Husband. Nancy & Maurice Benyaer, Goldie & Abe Miedzygorski, Sally & Sid Coleman, Harold & Bella Silverman, Regina Wertman, Esther & Abe Nobleman, Lili & Izak Folk, Sarah & Arie Engelberg, Lola Apfelbaum, Linda & Peter Hough & Family, George & Frieda Wertman, Elaine, Marty, Daniel & Ilana Nixon, Pola Nutkiewicz, Rosalie, Dov, & Sally Dimant, Randy, Sheryl, Kyra & Jonah Morris, Zvi & Rose Marie Mammon, Sylvia & Max Pawer, Rachel Wosk, Moshe & Shoshana Fidelman, Michael & Revi Ross, Ethel Kofsky Levine & Don & Rachel Levine

Edith Mittleman, Our thoughts are with you. Jack & Evelyn Huberman

Max Morton & Family, In Memory of your Mother. Shoshana, Moshe, Revi & Michael Fidelman

Mrs Catherine Myerowitz, In Memory of your Mother. Eddie & Debbie Rozenberg, Lisa Kafka

Norman & Janet Pollock & Family, On the passing of Gertie. Lynn Kaplan & Mark Rozenberg & Family

Judy Prizant & Family, On your loss. Goldie & Avrum Miller, Frieda Miller & Danny Shapiro.

Lew Pullmer, On the Loss of Your Aunt. Neri & Aron Tischler

Rachelle Pullmer & Family, On your great loss. The VHEC Board & Staff

Reva Puterman, On the passing of your brother. Linda & Joe Wener & Jack & Betty Mendelsohn

Pam & Murray Robins, On the loss of your wonderful Mom. Gloria & Robbie Waisman

Ralph Rosenberg, In Loving Memory of Becky. Debbie & Eddie Rozenberg

The Family of David Rubin, We share in your loss. Karyn & Joe Gold & Ben Schimer

David & Esther Segal, In Memory of your Mother. Beth & Leon Bogner

Judy Shandler & Family, On your great loss. The VHEC Board & Staff

David Sidorsky, In Loving Memory of Auntie Rhoda. Debbie, Eddie, Mira, Naomi & Aliya Rozenberg

Aron Szajman, On the passing of your Sister. The VHEC Board & Staff

Judy Thau, On the loss of your cousin Andrea. Aron & Neri Tischler

Isaac Thau & Family, In Memory of your Father & Grandfather. The VHEC Board & Staff

Serge Vanry, In Memory of your Brother. Lillian Boraks Nemetz

Brenda & Leonard Wall & Family, In Memory of your Mother. Beth & Leon Bogner, the Korbin Family, Lesley & Mike Rogers, Queenie Hamovich, Cherie & Peter Hochfelder, Carol & Peter Oreck, Jack & Evelyn Huberman, Brian & Sheryl Ross, Carla, Ken Waldman & Family, Arthur & Judy Dodek, Bernie & Lisa Conn & Ida Weiner, Vivian & Ken Rosenberg & Family, the Staff at Alpine Joe Sportswear, Ken & Linda Glasner, Joel, Lynn, Aren & Jonas Altman, Lynn & Rodney Massel & Family, Penny & Mel Sprackman, Linda, Joel & Daryn Wener, Helen Rittberg, Neil & Judy Kornfeld, Sandra & Norman Miller, Ethel Kofsky, Jackie & Joel Buller & Family, Shirley & Jerry Kushner, Peter & Andrea Berger, Sally & Sid Coleman, Alan & Sylvia Pelman, Barry & Ellen Yackness & Family, Sandra & Thomas Macdonald, Gerri,

Mel, Lisa, Ryan & Gabriel Davis, Marilyn & Rob Krell & Family, Gerri, Mark, David & Dana London

Stephanie Watt & Family, In Memory of your Mother. Jocy, Gary, Tammy & Richard Lowy

Mrs Connie Wisotsky – Rubin, In Honor & Memory of Irene. Lillian, Wanda, Daeniela, Steve & Francie Boraks Nemetz

The Family of Chaim Zbar, In Memory of Chaim. Susie & Chaim Micner

#### THANK YOU

Mr. & Mrs. T Bergida, For a lovely evening. Stanley & Joycelaine Sunshine

Mr. & Mrs. M. Bronfeld, For a great party! Mendy & Lana Landa

Alex Buckman, For coming to speak at our school. Julia Bennett and Students

Yossi Darr, For your interesting presentation. Gloria & Gerri & The VHEC Survivor Drop-In Group

Gary Feinstadt, In appreciation. Marlene & Leo Franken & Yvonne & George Rosenberg

S Fuller, Thanks for your help. The VHEC Board & Staff

Mr. & Mrs. J. Heiman, For a fabulous evening! Mendy & Lana Landa

Frances Hoyd, In Your Honour. Anonymous

Nomi Kaplan, Thank you for your help. Roberta, Dan and Gabby

Robert Krell, Thank you! Norman Gladstone & Birgit Westergaard

Mr. & Mrs. R. Meepos, Always great to be with you! Mendy & Lana Landa

Mr. & Mrs. N. Gleiberman, Thanks for a great brunch! Mendy & Lana Landa”

Peter Parker, For coming to speak to our class. Glenda Stewart-Smith & Class

Peter Parker, For coming to speak to our class. Jen Wylie

Susan Rome, Thanks for your help. Roberta, Dan and Gabby, VHEC

David Schaffer, Thanks for your help. The VHEC Staff & Board

Leonard Schein & Assoc, Thanks for your support. The VHEC Board & Staff

Bronia Sonnenschein, Thank-you. Norman Gladstone & Birgit Westergaard

Louise Stein Sorensen, For coming to speak to our class. Marlene Johnston & Cougar Creek Elementary School

Bente Thomsen- Nathan, For coming to speak to our class. Gail Pack

Mr & Mrs W Wallace, For a fabulous evening! Mendy & Lana Landa

Mr. & Mrs. H. Wittenberg, For a fabulous evening! Mendy & Lana Landa

#### A REMINDER: VHEC SPECIAL TRIBUTE CARDS

VHEC Tribute Cards are a meaningful way to acknowledge and celebrate special occasions, as well as expressions of sympathy. A variety of cards are available, messages can be personalized and the donor receives a tax receipt. To send a card please call the centre (604.264.0499).



# HELP FOR LOW INCOME SURVIVORS

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For the last several years B.C. Jewish survivors have been able to access social service funds provided by a variety of grants administered through the Claims Conference. Some of the grants come from Swiss litigation, some from insurance litigation while still others come from the claims conference institutional funds. The goals of all the funds are to help low income survivors remain in their homes and live with dignity. Funds are available for emergency alert pendants, walkers, wheelchairs, house keeping, some medications, and emergency dental work, and glasses.

There is a small amount of extra money for Hungarian survivors. These funds are to be used in the same way as the other grants. Hungarian survivors may have received a letter with an application or they can pick up an application at the VHEC. These funds are administered from Toronto. You can apply directly to the agency in Toronto. I can be available to help with the form or to send a letter of referral along with the application.

If you have any questions please contact me, Gisi Levitt at the VHEC 604 264 0499 on most Wednesdays and Fridays.

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## VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE

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