

Zachor

Remember

VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE NEWSLETTER | NUMBER 2 | APRIL 2007

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A SPECIAL THANK YOU

TO OUR VOLUNTEERS, JANUARY -MARCH 2007

OUTREACH SPEAKERS:

Janos Benisz, Lillian Boraks-Nemetz, Alex Buckman, Marion Cassirer, Mariette Doduck, David Ehrlich, Serge Haber, Katy Hughes, Robert Krell, Chaim Kornfeld, Inge Manes, Jack Micner, Peter Parker, Claude Romney, Ruth Sigal, Bronia Sonnenschein, Louise Sorensen, Peter Suedfeld, Tom Szekely, Bente Thomsen, Robbie Waisman, Danny Wollner

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SPECIAL PROJECTS:

Zac Bell, Ilana Carmeli, Karyn Gold, Sol Kauffman, Gerri London, Sharon Meen, Rachelle Pullmer, Yvonne Rosenberg, Stan Taviss, Gloria Waisman

VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL



THE RAPE OF EUROPA

The Rape of Europa

This documentary is an absolute must-see for anyone interested in art, art history and how masterpieces of European art became casualties of World War II. The film tells the epic story of the systematic theft, deliberate destruction, and miraculous survival of Europe's art treasures during the Third Reich. Filled with startling historical images and silent heroes, the film interweaves the history of Nazi art looting with the stories of contemporary restitution cases.

4:15 PM, SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2007

FIFTH AVENUE CINEMAS – 2110 BURRARD STREET

PANEL DISCUSSION: Art, Theft & Restitution

Moderator: Prof. John O'Brian, Art History, Visual Art & Theory, UBC

PANELISTS:

Colin Browne, Assoc. Director, School for the Contemporary Arts, SFU
Randy Lee Cutler, Assoc. Dean, Integrated Studies, Emily Carr Institute
Sadira Rodrigues, Adult Programs Coordinator, VAG

Q & A TO FOLLOW.

TICKETS:

Adult \$12.50 Students / Seniors / Matinees \$ 8.00

Box Office Ticket Hotline 604.488.4300

www.vijff.com or www.festivalcinemas.com

Vancouver Jewish International Film Festival

Sponsored by the Lövi Memorial Fund of the VHEC

Zachor

Remember

VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE

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YOM HASHOAH COMMUNITY COMMEMORATIVE CONCERT

Please join us for Holocaust Remembrance Day

YOM HASHOAH

COMMUNITY COMMEMORATIVE CONCERT

THE FUTURE MEANS REMEMBERING THE PAST

AN EVENING OF SPECIAL MUSIC AND
PERFORMANCES COMMEMORATING THE HOLOCAUST

7:30 PM SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2007
Wosk Auditorium at the Jewish Community Centre
950 West 41st Avenue, Vancouver

Reception to follow at the VHEC

The internationally observed day to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust is Yom HaShoah, which is the Hebrew term for the Day of (remembrance of) the Holocaust. It is marked on the 27th day in the Jewish month of Nisan. The date was selected by the Knesset (Israeli Parliament) on April 12, 1951. Although, the date was established by the Israeli government, it has become a day commemorated by Jewish communities and individuals worldwide to acknowledge and remember the depth and enormity of the loss that Jews experienced in the Holocaust. On October 2003, the Canadian House of Commons voted, in a rare incident of unanimity, to create Holocaust Memorial Day, to be observed on the day corresponding to the Jewish calendar's Yom HaShoah. The bill was sponsored by one Member of Parliament from each of the political parties. Similar memorial days have already been proclaimed in every province, including British Columbia.

The Yom HaShoah commemorative event offers the community an opportunity to collectively remember the millions of people who perished during the Holocaust and the communities, the culture and the way of life that was lost. The event brings together survivors, members of the second and future generations, as well as members of the Jewish and non-Jewish communities in support, reflection and hope.

This year, the theme for the 2007 Yom HaShoah Commemorative Concert is *The Future Means Remembering*

The Past. This theme reminds us of our obligation to recall the events, to remember those who were murdered and to insure that it never happen again.

The Yom HaShoah Commemorative Concert, produced by Wendy & Ron Stuart (WRS Productions) will feature Warren Kimmel, singer and actor of national renown, who appeared most recently as the Beast in *Beauty & the Beast*, and who will sing several Yiddish songs including *Mayn Shvester Chaye* (My Sister Chaye). Actor Rosy Frier-Dryden, who played the role of a Holocaust survivor in *Bag Lady*, will read excerpts from Martin Sherman's one woman show *Rose* inspired by the real story of Sherman's maternal grandmother, who was a Holocaust survivor. The Vancouver Jewish Men's Choir, directed by Stan Shear and featuring soloist Cantor Yaacov Orzech, will also perform as will violinist Nancy DiNovo, a former member of the St. Louis, Toronto and Boston Symphony Orchestras and the founding concertmaster of the Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra. Also featured on the program will be a number of talented local young people performing Yiddish and Hebrew songs. As it is every year, a central element of the program will be the candle lighting ceremony in memory of the six million who perished.

‘Let it be an act of remembrance, for that is what the victims wanted: to be remembered, at least to be remembered.’

— Elie Wiesel



Above: The Vancouver Jewish Men's Choir

Sponsors: The Gail Feldman Heller Endowment Fund and the Sarah Rozenberg-Warm Memorial Endowment Fund of the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre, Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver, Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver & The Jewish Community Foundation, with financial assistance from the Province of British Columbia

YOM HASHOAH CEMETERY SERVICE

BY JACK MICNER & ROBERT KRELL



20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF THE HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL, 1987

Twenty years ago on April 26, 1987, a dedicated group of Holocaust survivors, their families and supporters unveiled a monument to remember the Holocaust as well as those members of their families who had perished. This year's 20th Anniversary Cemetery Service will take place at 11AM, Sunday, April 15, 2007 at the monument at Schara Tzedek Cemetery.

Although the initial vision of a Holocaust memorial began with a small group of survivors in the 1960's, it wasn't until the 1980's that a concrete proposal was in place. When Robert Krell proposed the building of a Holocaust Education Centre to members of the fledgling Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society (VHCS), several survivors remembered this job undone - that of a memorial to honour the memory of their loved ones who had perished. David Shafran z'l and Robert Krell asked Jack Kowarsky to chair the committee to build a memorial. They did this with the support of the Holocaust Society.

Others who were dedicated to the task included Jack Lutsky, architect, Naomi Spiers, artist, Ralph Schwartzman, engineer and Renia Perel who took on the huge task of gathering the names of family members to be inscribed by Vancouver families. Rob Krell chaired the VHCS and worked with committee members: Leon Dales z'l, Mariette Doduck, David Ehrlich, Lili Folk, Rome Fox, Bill Gluck, Paul Heller, Leon Kahn z'l, Freda Kaplan, David Shafran z'l, and Robbie Waisman. Leo Lowy and Jack Perel were also involved.

The memorial was finally unveiled on Yom HaShoah, April 26, 1987 in the presence of 1300 members of the community. The survivors finally had a "metzeivah", a burial site albeit symbolic, to visit and at which to grieve.

The monument is located at the Schara Tzedek Cemetery in New Westminster, and sits at the top of the main hill. The monument is striking, a tall black structure, with two birds of peace shown in flight at the top. The monument rests on a large, round base on which is recorded the names of the concentration camps at which Jews were murdered during the years of the Holocaust. In front of the monument, are granite blocks inscribed with the names of the murdered family members.

The monument gives the community a physical place to mourn, and remember. It was built for, and by our Holocaust survivors but also for future generations, in the effort to ensure the Holocaust is not forgotten.

At the time that the monument was built, the late Leo Lowy z'l, and others believed that there should be an annual ceremony to remember the Holocaust. They believed that we should gather on the day of Yom HaShoah to observe and remember, as well as on the Sunday between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, a Sunday that is traditionally observed as a time of the year to remember those who have passed away.

Since then we have been gathering at both these times of the year at the monument to conduct a service and hear opening remarks delivered by a member of the Second Generation and a hesped (eulogy) delivered by one of the community Rabbis. We also stand for a moment of silence, which is followed by the chanting of the El Moleh Rachamim, and the reading of the Tehillim. We conclude by reciting the Kaddish.

On Yom HaShoah day, we also light memorial candles in memory of the six million murdered souls. The service is designed to both remember and also to not forget. We remember by listening to the participants. With the involvement of as many members of our community as possible in the service, we hope that the Holocaust will not be forgotten.

It is a labour of love, and of hope. We hope that by organizing and participating in the services, that this indescribable event that ended only sixty-two years ago will not be repeated.

YOM HASHOAH CEMETERY SERVICE

20TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION

The Yom HaShoah Cemetery Service will take place at 11 AM, Sunday, April 15, 2007 at the Schara Tzedek Cemetery.

TO INSCRIBE NAMES ON THE MEMORIAL

Names of Jewish family members who perished during the Holocaust can still be added to the monument.

For more information call the VHEC 604-264-0499.

YOM HASHOAH — BC LEGISLATURE, VICTORIA

BY ALEX BUCKMAN

This year, Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, falls on April 15, 2007, as determined by the Jewish calendar.

It is a day set aside to remember the horrors of the Holocaust and to honour and commemorate the six million Jews that perished during that horrible time in history.

On April 12, 2000 the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia voted unanimously to pass Bill 5 – 2000, the Holocaust Day Memorial Act, throughout the province of British Columbia.

Each year since then, the Legislative Assembly in Victoria has recognized this important day by noting it during the business of the Legislature. Canadian Jewish Congress, Pacific Region, the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre and Victoria Holocaust Remembrance Education Society organize this event yearly to take place in the Legislature with the help of the Premier's office.

This year, Yom HaShoah will once again be acknowledged in the Legislature on Monday, April 16th. On this day, various members of the Jewish community including Holocaust survivors from Vancouver and Victoria will be present in the legislature and will be recognized from the floor. Names of the survivors present in the gallery will be read out loud during business in the Legislature.

The Honourable Gordon Campbell, Premier of British Columbia, will address survivors and their guests at a special ceremony to be held earlier that day at the Rotunda in the Parliament Building. The event will feature messages from the British Columbia Government and the leadership of the Jewish community in British Columbia, as well as an address by a Holocaust survivor.

The event is organized by the VHEC, the Victoria Holocaust Education and Remembrance Society and Canadian Jewish Congress Pacific Region.



Premier Gordon Campbell and survivor Lola Apfelbaum
Victoria 2006

VICTORIA TRIP

RESERVATION DEADLINE — MARCH 30, 2007

For those planning to attend this event in Victoria or for more information please contact, Alex Buckman, chair of the YomHaShoah Victoria Event, at 604.980.7761 or at abuckman@shaw.ca.

Reservations must be made with Alex Buckman before March 30, 2007.

TRANSPORTATION

(Bus & Ferry) – \$24 fee for return trip. Free for those over age 65.

SCHEDULE

The bus will leave the JCC Parking Lot at 7:15 AM, Monday, April 16, 2007 and return at 6:30 PM.

HIRSHKE GLIK:

A CHAPTER FROM THE MEMOIR OF SHMERKE KACZERGINSKI
TRANSLATED BY SEYMOUR LEVITAN

INTRODUCTION

Hirsh Glick, the author of the famous Partisan Hymn, *Zog nisht keynmol az du geyst dem letsten veg* (“Never say you walk the final road”), was born in Vilna, Lithuania. He was a talented student of the poet Shmerke Kaczerginski and a second generation of the group of Yiddish writers known as “Yung Vilna”. Hirsh Glick was only 23 years young when he was murdered by the Gestapo. The following piece is condensed from Kaczerginski’s memoir *Ikh bin geven a partisan* (I was a Partisan), Buenos Aires 1952.

Shmerke Kaczerginski, the author of this account, was my late father’s best friend. He survived the war but was killed in an airplane crash in 1954 while on a return flight from Tel Aviv to his home in Argentina, following a JNF speaking tour. He was 46 years young.

I met Shmerke in April 1953. It was my first and last meeting with my fathers’ closest friend. Shmerke was a poet, renowned for his memoirs of the war years and for his lyrics to a number of the most enduring songs of the Vilna Ghetto. His famous poem on Ponar was quoted in the proceedings of the Eichmann trial in Jerusalem in 1962–63.

— Myer (Ben Tzvi) Grinshpan



Shmerke Kaczerginski centre, back row, Myer Grinshpan (age 11) centre, front row. Montréal 1953

HIRSHKE GLIK:

A CHAPTER FROM THE MEMOIR OF SHMERKE KACZERGINSKI

TRANSLATED BY SEYMOUR LEVITAN

Hirshke Glik was among those captured by the Gestapo. I keep thinking of him. Just a few days before he was taken, I spoke to him about his poems.

It's so odd in the Ghetto. You'd think everyone knows that his own end is coming, and yet we all speak with regret about those taken and killed. We hold memorial services for them. Just a little while ago there were even public tributes to the memory of Dr. Tsemekh Shabad (died before the war), for Dr. Kowarski (died just after the Nazis occupied the city), for the teachers Gerstein and Fludermakher. People made speeches and recounted memories.

I went to a beys medresh (house of prayer) not long ago, and I was overwhelmed with fear when the entire congregation stood to wail kaddish (memorial prayer) at the end. I had the nagging thought that the dead are lucky, really; at least they have someone to say kaddish for them for the time being. Who will say kaddish for us? or remember us?



Shmerke Kaczerginski, 1953

But life goes on. And makes demands. Hirshke, Hirshke Glik. 15 year old Hirshke first spoke to me after a "Young Vilna" evening at a public auditorium. "I write too," he said softly, "and along with me there are others who write, a whole group."

Hirshke was the "lion of the group"—even though he was the youngest of these youngsters. I remember him in short pants and low boots laced up tight, sunshine flashing from his blue eyes, his hair cut short. His appearance didn't change in the Ghetto. He wasn't there very long. He was sent some distance from Vilna to White Vake, a work camp where he was forced to dig turf along with a few hundred other Jews. The very difficult living and working conditions strengthened his resolve to describe this experience in an artistic form. And late at night, after work, in the dark shed

where the Jews slept on hard bunks under a torn up roof, he didn't sleep, he wrote. Glik was twice awarded the prize in competitions organized by the literary union in the Ghetto. From time to time he came into the Ghetto, to the Youth Club, the only place where he felt at home, and read his work to his young audience with great success. The work camp was liquidated at the start of 1943, and the Jews were transferred to the Ghetto. Extremely difficult times began, yet Glik continued to create his poems.

What sort of time was it – 5th April 1943? The sun rarely looked down into the lowest floors and the little alleys. Its pale rays over the Ghetto ignited longing for a bit of green, sun, air and water. Standing not far from the Ghetto gate, immersed in this great longing, I suddenly noticed a bloodied young man slip in from the street and disappear quickly into a gateway. We tore his clothes off, washed the blood off him, bandaged his wounded shoulder. "I come from Ponar," he hissed, understanding that we didn't want to disturb him with questions just then. We were stunned. "Everyone, everyone was shot." Tears rolled down his washed face. "Who? The four thousand who were going to Kovne/ Kaunas?" "Yes!"

This happened at dawn on April 5, 1943. For a year and a half the situation in the Ghetto had been “stabilized”. The Jews thought that the *aktsie* (action) directed against hundreds of old people, against individuals and small groups had nothing to do with the ongoing existence of the Ghetto. There were even people who believed that the Germans considered Vilna Ghetto a “chosen” ghetto. Those four thousand Jews slaughtered at dawn suddenly set death before the eyes of the believers. Death that spares no one.

The mood in the Ghetto grew more intense a few weeks later when we received the news on the underground Polish radio station “Shvit”, that – “Hello, hello, the Jews remaining in the Warsaw Ghetto have begun armed resistance against the Nazis. The ghetto is in flames!”

There were only a few lines to the secret news-bulletin from the partisans. We didn’t know any of the details. There were only those few word-sparks -- but we visualized the flames of the Warsaw Ghetto and the Jews battling with weapons in hand for our honour. The news about the uprising lifted our morale and strengthened us.

Days passed and we had no news at all about what was happening there. But we imagined our comrades battling. It was painful for us to know that the battle was not an equal one. But it made our own difficult time easier to endure. As if we’d been given wings. We looked proudly back at the Nazis and our tormentors. They knew what that look signified. They understood, and surely more than one of them thought, “Who knows? I may have to fight the Jews of Vilna and be killed by them.”

On Shavl Street on the night of May 1st we organized an “evening” which we called “Spring in Yiddish Literature”. “Spring”— an innocent name, but the hundreds who attended knew that they had come to celebrate the first of May.

One speaker after another, one song after another, everything was imbued with the spirit of the Warsaw resistance. “While we join together to celebrate the first of May here at this local, the Warsaw Ghetto is in flames,” declared the evening’s chairman, Herman Kruk. “Honour to the fighters! Honour to the fallen!” Suddenly we all rose. The spirit of the Warsaw resistance fighters stirred in the crowded hall. We knew that tomorrow or the next day the radio would announce to the world that the Jews of the Ghetto of the Jerusalem of Lithuania had begun their uprising against the Nazis. There was dead silence in the hall, and then the trembling, grieving voices of the ghetto actors. Without my noticing, Hirshke Glik had come up beside me.

“Well, what’s the news, Hershl?”

“I wrote a new poem, do you want to hear it?”

“A poem in the midst of things? Well, read it”

“Not now, tomorrow. I’ll come up to your place, tomorrow. The poem is a song lyric.”

Hirshke arrived quite early the next day. “Listen carefully,” he asked of me. “I’ll sing it right now.” He began singing quietly, but with heart. His eyes flashed fire: “Kumen vet nokh undzer oysgebenkte sho / The hour we are yearning for will come.” Where did this certainty come from? Hirshl didn’t give me time to think. His voice lost its quaver, he hammered the words out with confidence, tapping his foot as if he were marching: “Dos hot a folk tsvishn falndike vent / dos lid gezungen mit naganes in di hent / A folk emerging from collapsing walls / sang this song with pistols in their hands.”

“Wonderful, Hirshke, wonderful.” I pressed his hand. In these words I felt the impact of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising on him.

And then May, June, July and August passed. But for us partisans it was still April, the time of the uprising. Partisan headquarters in Vilna decided to make the song its fighting hymn. But they really didn’t need to wait for a decision on it; the song had spread quickly in the Ghetto.

Glik had written quite a few songs and longer poems. Few of them are still known. So far as I know, his strongest poem is *Zog nisht keynmol az du geyst dem letstn veg / Never Say You Walk the Final Path*. The public understood and valued it as such, and for that reason I believe it will be the song that like a call to wakefulness will rouse coming generations to remember and to stand on guard.

And now when I remember Hirshke, it is entirely because of that song. It doesn’t allow me to rest. The youngster took a Cossack melody and so wonderfully fitted his words to it that it seems there could be no other melody for those words and no other words for that melody.

Where is Hirshke now? Where all of us will be! I answer myself.

HIDE AND SEEK

BY MARION CASSIRER

During the summer of 1943, I was hidden with the Beelen family on a very small farm in the south of Holland, near Nijmegen. I was six-and-a-half years old.

The whole family had straight blond hair and light blue eyes, a big contrast to my pitch-black curly mop and chocolate brown eyes. Because I looked “too Jewish”, I could never go outside or even be seen whenever strangers came to the farm.

It was a very primitive farm by today's standards. No electricity or indoor plumbing. Water came from a pump outside in the front yard. I loved to pull on the handle, forcing the water to splash out in a large stream into a bucket or pot. Because I was very small and the pump's handle was very high, I had to jump up to grab it. When it came down it was like being on a seesaw. For light we used kerosene lanterns, which emitted a strong odour I really didn't like. During cold nights, or all winter long, the only heat came from a large wood stove in the kitchen, which was also where Moeke (a diminutive of mum in Dutch), did all the cooking.

When the weather was very hot, all the windows and the Dutch-style half-door were kept open for fresh air. The barn was attached to one side of the kitchen, but no cows were kept there in the summer. The barn also had a separate area where a large board with a few round holes cut out of it, served as our toilet.

I especially remember one day during that summer. I was playing under a small kitchen table with a straw-stuffed doll, that Moeke had made from rags. Moeke was ironing that day and thank God, she was facing the front door with its top portion open, because without warning, a German patrol had come up the path to the house on foot. Usually they came by truck and could be heard from far away. We never knew when they would appear in town to “inspect” the farms in the area for hidden Allied soldiers, deserters from the forced labour brigades, and of course, Jews. Moeke said it was mostly an excuse to take whatever food they could find. This time they had approached so silently across the fields that we had no warning. There was no time for me to hide in my hole dug out under the living room floor. This was the only room with wood planking, and not a straw-covered dirt floor as in the rest of the house.

Quickly, Moeke grabbed the sheets she had already ironed and dropped them over the small table, draping them down to the floor, with me hidden underneath. “Keep quiet and don't move,” she whispered. I hugged my doll and curled up like a little rabbit. I couldn't see the soldiers, but I heard them lumber into the kitchen with their heavy boots. They started to shout at Moeke in German, but she pretended she didn't understand. She told them “I cannot understand” in Dutch. One of the soldiers, who sounded very young, switched to a very badly accented Dutch. They wanted to look around the house and barn, he said.



As if she had a choice, I thought to myself. I could hear the swish of the iron as Moeke continued to smooth her sheets. She must have finished another one because I could feel the movement of another sheet being added to the pile already on the table. The soldiers' boots stomped around the room and into the adjoining barn.

“There go the eggs” I heard Moeke mumbling. “Dirty moffs” she continued. Moffs was the word used for the hated German soldiers, but never to their faces, of course.

While they looked around, and probably stole the eggs from under the hens, Moeke calmly continued to iron, draping more sheets over my hiding place. I was shaking in fear, but did not utter a sound. That was a lesson I had learned well.

When they returned to the kitchen, I trembled even more, but Moeke just kept ironing and adding sheets to my white tent. I heard the lower door slam shut as they returned to the front yard.

“I hope the eggs break in their pockets” Moeke whispered.

I knew not to move until she told me it was safe. She would make certain first, that they were far away, and not coming back as they sometimes did, trying to catch us off guard. Of course, they never succeeded, but this time it had been a close call.

Finally, Moeke lifted the sheets and I crawled out. She gave me a quick hug and then I helped her fold all those sheets. These were not just ordinary sheets, but extraordinary life-saving covers for a very frightened little girl under a table, playing a deadly game of hide and seek.

Top: image “Sister” Grada, Moeke, “sister” Rie
Bottom: image Marion (Remie) - 8 years old in 1945

WEBSITE LAUNCH

BY DENYS YUEN

The Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre (VHEC) is proud to announce the launch of its new website, which visitors including members, students, teachers and the wider public can find at www.vhec.org. People often form their first impressions of an organization from its website. Website visitors develop immediate and strong opinions about the work of an organization based on the site's aesthetic appeal, the clarity of its content and the ease of its navigation.



The VHEC homepage

VHEC staff decided that the old site was much in need of an update and began work to redesign it and add much needed functionality. The website redesign was a collaborative effort with the goal of making it much more than just a cosmetic facelift but a comprehensive update of all the content as well. The redesign was also intended to develop a new fundamental infrastructure as a necessary first step in the development of all future multimedia and informational resources.

With this in mind, the website was redesigned with a cleaner look and a more organized and intuitive navigation. On the homepage visitors will find a number of featured pages from the VHEC website. These features will change several times during the year to reflect current news or upcoming events.

To the left of the page visitors will find the navigation menu, which acts as a table of contents and breaks up the website by subject into eight thematic sections: *About Us*, *Exhibits*, *For Teachers*, *Events*, *Resources*, *Survivor Services*, *Publications* and *Support Us*. Each of these sections help visitors find pages of specific interest to them easily. A search box at the very bottom of the navigation is available on every page as an alternative to the categorized links. The user can also search the content of the website by entering a keyword into the blank field and the website will bring up all the pages where that word appears.

Teachers can now stay informed easily by using the links listed in the *For Teachers* section of the website. Here they can browse through our classroom book sets, discovery kits and teachers' guides. In our *For Teachers* section, teachers can also keep updated about professional development opportunities offered by the VHEC, request times for school bookings and join our educational mailing list. Websites are an extremely accessible medium for information sharing and can be easily adapted to make a variety of educational tools widely available.

Our *Vancouver's Schindler Jews* teachers' guide is the first of our teachers' guides to be available online in PDF format. This is a particularly useful resource in terms of being easily shared and duplicated. The teachers' guide can be downloaded and emailed to educators who would not normally have access to a physical copy such as those in other provinces or countries or parents who may be home schooling their children. Schools without a budget to purchase teaching materials can print the guide inexpensively on any printer. The teachers' guide can also be printed to make a classroom set. Our goal is to post all future teachers guides online in addition to having some printed copies available for sale.

The *Events* section of the website helps members of the public to stay informed about upcoming community and commemorative events, organized by the VHEC. The *Survivor Services* section lets survivors know what resources and services are available to them.

The part of the website that we expect to grow the most is the *Online and Multimedia* page. Here people can visit the *Open Hearts - Closed Doors* and *Faces of Loss* online exhibits. They can also view the *Canada Responds to the Holocaust* PowerPoint presentation. Also available online is the Centre's video *Touching Hearts, Engaging Minds*, which was commissioned for its tenth anniversary and depicts the achievements of the VHEC, since its founding in 1994. This video takes advantage of new video compression software that makes it available to those even without a high-speed internet connection.

Since it was launched for testing there has been an average of ninety-four visitors a day to the VHEC site, many of these visitors are from outside of Canada. The development of a new website opens doors to producing more extensive and dynamic online exhibits, encourages interest and discussion and educates not only those in the lower mainland but anywhere around the world.

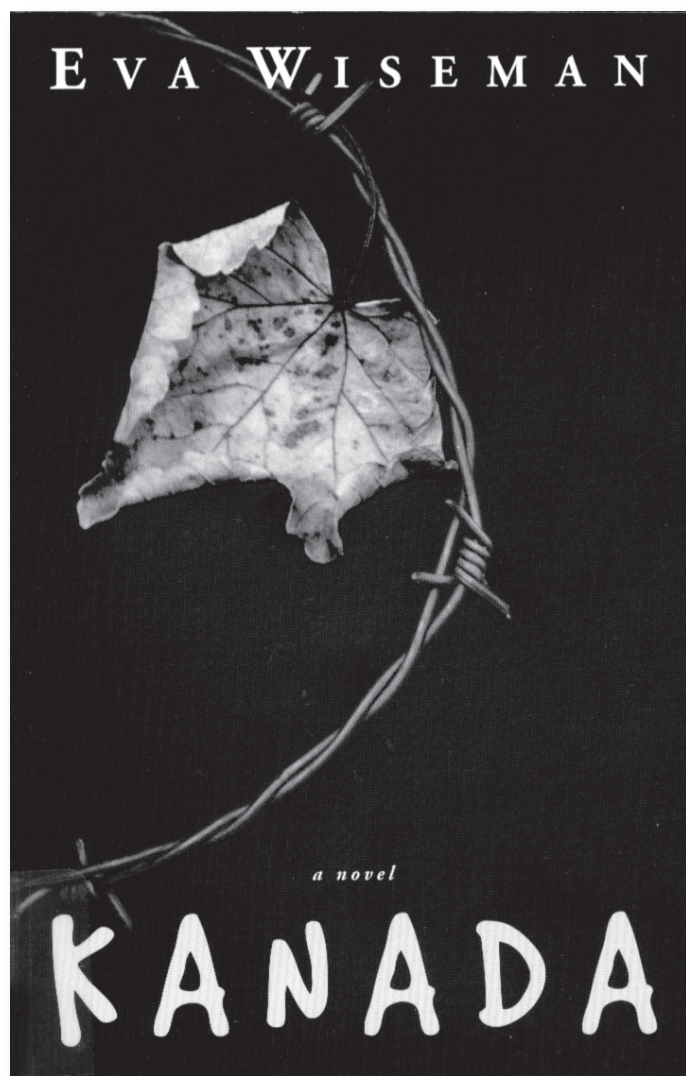


The video *Touching Hearts - Engaging Minds* plays inside of a web browser



The online exhibit *Open Hearts - Closed Doors* is one of our multimedia tools linked through the VHEC website

BOOK REVIEW: KANADA BY EVA WISEMAN
REVIEWED BY SHANNON LABELLE



Eva Wiseman, author of the award-winning *My Canary Yellow Star*, has written another compelling account of the Holocaust with her latest novel for older children, *Kanada*. In *Kanada*, we meet fourteen-year-old Jutka Weltner of Pápa, Hungary. We follow this Jewish teenager's experiences before and shortly after the German occupation of Hungary, in concentration camps during the Holocaust, and in a Displaced Persons (DP) camp after the war. Wiseman states in her acknowledgments that the novel is based on her parents' own wartime experiences.

The Jutka we are first introduced to enjoys spending time with her friends Klari and Miri, excels at school, and is managing as best she can in the face of wartime rationing and in the absence of her father and older brother, who were conscripted to fight in the war. Everything changes in March 1944 when the German forces occupy Hungary. Jutka and other Jews must wear the Star

of David on their clothing, are banned from school, and are eventually forced to move into ghettos. The rapid pace of the Holocaust for Hungarian Jews is clearly described in *Kanada*. Only three months after the German occupation, the ghetto where Jutka lives is liquidated, and Jutka is sent to Auschwitz where she endures the horrors of hunger, hard labour, physical abuse, fear of death, and loss of human dignity. As the Soviets approach Auschwitz in January 1945, Jutka participates in one of the forced marches out of the camp and is eventually interned at Mauthausen until Liberation.

The title of the book, *Kanada*, is emphasized throughout the novel. Jutka initially becomes fascinated with the country of Canada when a distant relative who lives there sends Jutka's family a care package in the mail. The package includes a book about Canada, which leads Jutka to fantasize about this land of "endless blue sky and snowy mountains," where riches abound and "nobody had to wear a yellow star." Jutka's dreams of Canada are contrasted with her father's deep disappointment that this so-called land of promise refused his family's application to immigrate there. While interned at Auschwitz, Jutka is sent to work for a short period of time at the infamous warehouses, collectively known as "Kanada," where the possessions of Holocaust victims were deposited. After the war, Jutka determines she cannot return to Hungary and is torn between her dream of moving to Canada and her feelings of responsibility to support the creation of a Jewish homeland via immigration to Eretz Israel.

Kanada is a significant contribution to Holocaust literature for children, particularly because of the exploration of Jutka's experiences after Liberation. *Kanada* continues the story of Jutka's life where many other books would end. Wiseman depicts life in a DP camp, from the physical conditions to survivors' harrowing searches for family members. She also explores at some length the meaning of "home" in the postwar period. The significant loss of family members meant that "home" no longer existed for some. Ongoing antisemitism made returning to their hometowns an impossibility for others. These issues are presented in a complex manner in *Kanada*, as Jutka, her friends, and those who live with her at the DP camp attempt to rebuild their lives and wonder if they will ever find a home for themselves in the postwar world.

Kanada is best-suited for children aged 10 and up (or Grade 5 and up) according to the publisher, but is certainly a worthwhile read for older children and adults alike. Children who read *Kanada* will likely want to discuss some of the issues and themes presented in the story, so it is recommended that parents and teachers read this remarkable book alongside them.

VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST CENTRE SOCIETY
NOTICE OF THE 2007 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7:30 PM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2007
VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE

HONOURING LIFE FELLOWS

Izzy Fraeme Frances Hoyd
Pola Nutkiewicz Aaron Szajman

RECEPTION FOLLOWS

REMARKS BY FITORE JAHA

Fitore's grandparents Dervis and Servet Korkut were recognized as *Righteous Among the Nations* by Yad Vashem for having saved Jews during the Holocaust in Sarajevo. Her grandfather Dervis Korkut was a museum curator who also saved the Sarajevo Haggadah from Nazi destruction.

REPORT FROM YAD VASHEM
SUMMER TEACHER INSTITUTE

Kit Krieger, Holocaust Educator and recipient of the Anita Shafran, Zev and Elaine Shafran and Yosef Wosk Scholarship to study at Yad Vashem's Summer Teacher Institute, 2006.

LEAVE A LEGACY FOR THE FUTURE

The Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre maintains a collection of over 1200 items, including documents, photographs, letters and artefacts. The majority of the collection reflects the experiences of local survivors prior to, during and after the Holocaust. These items are preserved for future generations as documentary evidence of the Holocaust and are used for educational purposes.

If you are interested in donating artefacts to the VHEC collection or for more information please contact Frieda Miller at 604.264.099 or at fmiller@vhed.org.

Your artefacts are precious, invaluable resources which can contribute to the future of Holocaust education in this province and beyond.

DONATE ARTEFACTS TO OUR COLLECTION



Students from New Westminster Secondary take advantage of viewing Else (Zimmerspitz) Dunner's hidden photographs (generously on loan from Barry Dunner) during a school visit to the VHEC

TRIBUTE CARDS

DECEMBER 8, 2006 — FEBRUARY 28, 2007

GET WELL

Rosalie Dimant, Get Well. Karl & Sabina Choit.

Betty Averbach, Get Well. Jocy Lowy

Hildy Barnett, Wishing you a Refuah Shlema. Hymie & Rome Fox

Sheila Bermann, Wishing you a speedy recovery. Gloria & Robbie Waisman

Lillian Broca, Wishing you a speedy recovery. Lillian Boraks Nemetz

Fay Davis, Refuah Shlema. Nora Ferera, Lew & Rachelle Pullmer, Robert & Sam Haber & Arlene Tully

Dr. Murray Kliman, Wishing you a speedy and full recovery. Lili & Izak Folk

Mark London, Wishing you a speedy recovery. Gloria & Robbie Waisman

Curt Marcus, Wishing you the best of health. Alex & the Child Survivor Group of Vancouver

David Schaffer, Wishing you a full and speedy recovery. Alex & the VHEC Child Survivor Group, VHEC Staff & Board

Cecil Sigal, Have a speedy recovery. Tamara Frankel

Herb and Barbara Silber, Thinking of you. The VHEC Board & Staff.

A.J. Silber, Wishing you a speedy recovery. Irv Wolak, Susan & Joe Stein & Family

Harold Silverman, Wishing you a speedy recovery. The Szajman Family

Bente Thomsen, Get well soon. The VHEC Board & Staff

Arlaina Waisman, Wishing you a speedy recovery. Ben & Rita Akselrod, Gerri, Mark, Dana & David London

MAZEL TOV

Richard Ames, Happy Special Birthday. Beth & Leon Bogner

Harvey Bloom, Happy Birthday. Lola Mendelson

Beth Bogner, Happy Birthday. The VHEC Staff & Board

Esther Brandt, Happy Special Birthday. David Feldman, Harold & Bella Silverman, Regina Wertman, Susie & Chaim Micner, Rita & Ben Akselrod, Sarah Mandelbaum & Betty Seror, Art, Sam & Al Szajman

Morry Caden, Happy Special Birthday. Rosa Ferera

Eliana Claman, On the occasion of your Bat Mitzvah. Mark Dwor

Isabelle Diamond, On your special Birthday. Beth & Leon Bogner

Aaron Friedland, On your Bar Mitzvah and Twinning. Susan Albersheim & Steven & Ami Barer

Arthur Hayes, On your Special Birthday. Evelyn Kahn

Martin Hector, In Honour of your Birthday. Lydia Bellan & Ken Dickson

Paul Heller, Happy Birthday. Tamara Frankel, Lillian Boraks Nemetz

Mr. & Mrs. Al Hersh, On your 60th Wedding Anniversary. Jocy, Gary, Steven & Richard Lowy

Matthew Michael Hough, Congratulations on your Bar Mitzvah. Shoshana & Moshe Fidelman

Jack & Evelyn Huberman, Mazel Tov, On the birth of your Granddaughter. Hymie & Rome Fox

Nomi Kaplan, Mazel Tov. Aron & Neri Tischler

Jacqueline Kierszenblat, On becoming a Bat Mitzvah. Ori Nevaes & Family

Jacqueline Kierszenblat, Mazel Tov & In memory of your Grandmother. Janice, Boris & Alannah Korf

Neil Kornfeld, On becoming a QC. Odie Kaplan

Judy Oberlander, On your Special Birthday. Frieda Miller & Danny Shapiro

Mrs. Denise Pinto, On your special Birthday! Susan Quastel

Irv Rootman, Happy 65th birthday. Tamar, David, Teah & Noah Bakonyi

Cecile Shtabsky, In Honour of your Special Birthday! Hymie, Rome, Aylee Danya & Aiden Fox

Bev & Harvey Silverstone, In honour of your Great Niece and Great Nephew. Hymie, Rome, Aylee, Danya & Aiden Fox

Bronia Sonnenschein, In honour of your Great Granddaughter. Susan & Joe Stein & Irv Wolak, The VHEC Staff and Board, Alex & the Vancouver Child Survivors

Isaac Thau, Mazel Tov. Aron & Neri Tischler

Frieda Ullman, On the birth of your Great Granddaughter. Hymie, Rome, Aylee, Danya & Aiden Fox

Leo & Andrea Vogel, On the marriage of your Son. Alex & the Vancouver Child Survivor Group

Linda Wener, Happy Birthday. Beth Bogner & Marla Groberman

Irv Wolak, Wishing you a healthy & happy year. Lynne & Rodney Massel

SYMPATHY

In memory of our Mother & Grandmother, Hilda Everall. Catherine Zbarsky & Susan Everall & Families

Tracy Ames, In memory of your Father. Mark Rozenberg

Drora Aronowicz, On the loss of your Mother. Gaby & Shirley Hirsch

Pauline Babins & Family, On the loss of your Husband, Father & Grandfather. Ida Kaplan, Lili & Ignac Folk

Mark Babins & Family, On the loss of your Father & Grandfather. Lili & Ignac Folk

Steven Babins & Family, On the loss of your Father & Grandfather. Lili & Izak Folk

Andy & Mark Babins & Family, In memory of Len Babins. Eddie & Debbie Rozenberg

Ilene-Jo Bellas, In memory of your Mother, Sara Greenberg. Mark Rozenberg & Family

Allan Belzberg, On the loss of your Mother. Mark Rozenberg

Bob & Sheila Berkowitz, On the loss of your Son. Tamar & Gary Lowy

Pauline Bernstein & Family, On the loss of your beloved Daughter. Katie Freilich

Alvin Wasserman & Cathy Moss, Sorry for your loss. Al Szajman

Karl & Mark Choit, Condolences on your loss. Judy & Victor Stern & Family

Karl, Mark, & Felicia Choit & Families, In memory of Sabina. Rose Lewin, Ed & Debby Lewin, Les & Karen Cohen & Families

Karl Choit, On the loss of your Wife, Sabina. Bernice Neuwirth & Family, Izzy Fraeme & Leonore Etkin, Pola Nutkiewicz, Harry & Gloria Harris, Margaret & Jack Fraeme, Chaim & Susie Micner, The VHEC Board & Staff, Sally, Sid & Alex Coleman, Robert & Marilyn Krell & Family

Jeff & Bev Davis & Family, In memory of Leah Wiseman. Eddie & Debbie Rozenberg & Family

Bev Davis & Zavie Wiseman, On the loss of your Mother & Grandmother. Henia & Jack Perel & Family

Marcy Dayan, With Sympathy. Aron & Neri Tischler

Craig & Carrie Diamond & Family, On the loss of your Father & Grandfather. Beth & Leon Bogner, Hymie & Rome Fox & Family

Betty Divinsky, In memory of Mimi. Evelyn Kahn

Lorne Greenberg, Esther Chetner & Family, In memory of Mrs. Greenberg. Debbie & Eddie Rozenberg & Family, Neri & Aron Tischler, Mark, Jacob, Talya & Nirit Rozenberg

Izak Folk, On the loss of your Sister, Sabina. Bernice Neuwirth & Family, Pola Nutkiewicz, Ida, Sherie, Odie & Jordan Kaplan

Ben Folk, On the loss of your Sister. Bernice Neuwirth & Family

Izak & Lili Folk, On the loss of your Sister and Sister-in-law. Rose Lewin, Ed & Debby Lewin, Les & Karen Cohen & Families

Ben & Rose Folk, On the loss of your Sister and Sister-in-law. Rose Lewin, Ed & Debby Lewin, Les & Karen Cohen & Families

Robin Friedlander and family, on the recent loss of your Father & Grandfather. Mark Rozenberg & Family

Edgar Gaerber, In memory of your Wife. Evelyn Kahn & Family

Tiki Goldenberg, In memory of your Mother and Grandmother. Mark Rozenberg, Aron & Neri Tischler

Marla Gropper, In memory of your Mother. Jeanette & Harry Greenhut

William Guttman, In memory of Sybil Minsky. Eddie & Debbie Rozenberg & Family

Ralph Hoffman, In memory of Ria Haberer. Lisa Kafka

Blanche Howard & Family, On the loss of Jack. Beth & Leon Bogner

Sharon & Marshall Hundert & Family, On the passing of your Father & Grandfather. Mark, Jacob, Talya & Nirit Rozenberg

Judy Kornfeld & Family, In memory of your Sister and Aunt, Mimi Divinsky. Hymie & Rome Fox & Family, Aron & Neri Tischler

Joseph Kowaz, In memory of Aliza Kowaz. Mark Rozenberg, Aron & Neri Tischler

Robert & Marilyn Krell, In memory of Marilyn's Father. Lani Levine & Andrew Thom

Nancy & Alan Kruger, On the loss of Nancy's Father. Tamar & Gary Lowy

Mrs. N Laist & Family, On the passing of your Husband & Father. Katie Freilich

Celina Lieberman, In memory of your husband Phillip. Alex & the Child Survivor Group, The VHEC Board & Staff

Jocy Lowy & Family, In memory of Leo Lowy. Steve Chercover

Bayla & Laurie Mainster, On the passing of your Brother & Brother-in-law, Mo. Henry & Julie Gutovich & Family

Mrs. Sarah Mandelbaum, In memory of Sam. Mark & Debby Choit, Regina Wertman, Bessie Wolfe, Bessie Altman, Leslie Spiro, Lili & Izak Folk, Harold & Bella Silverman & Family, Margaret & Jack Fraeme, George & Frieda Wertman, Harry & Gloria Harris, Jocy Lowy

Rosa Marel, On the loss of your Brother. Louise Stein Sorensen

Jack Margalit, In memory of Chana Margalit. Gloria, Gerri and the Survivor Drop-In Group, Izzy Fraeme, Myrna & Barry Rabinowitz

Simon & Janice Margolis & Family, In memory of Celia Margolis. Howard Ehrlich & Leo Herrera, Aron & Neri Tischler, Izzy Fraeme, Mark, Jacob, Talya & Nirit Rozenberg, Marilyn & Derek Glazer

Peppa Martin & Family, In memory of your Father & Grandfather, Phillip. Hymie & Rome Fox & Family

Goldie Miller, In memory of Avrum Miller. Karen & Stephen Kline

Frieda Miller, In memory of Avrum Miller. Karen & Stephen Kline, Lani Levine & Andrew Thom

Evy Moskowitz, On the loss of your Father. Ed Kroft & Family

Evy Moskowitz, On the loss of your Mother. Ed Kroft & Family

Cathy Moss, On your loss. Frieda Miller & Danny Shapiro

Mr. & Mrs. Allan Nortman, In memory of Harry Nortman. Doba D. Baker

Celina Lieberman & Peppa Martin & Family, In memory of Phillip Lieberman. Mark, Talya, Jacob & Nirit Rozenberg, Leslie Spiro

Gail Rebhan, In memory of Herman Rebhan. Lee & Patricia Leibik

Irv & Barb Rootman, In memory of Zoey. Beth & Leon Bogner

Molly Ross, In memory of Ruth. Grace & David Ehrlich

Tito & Stella Salzman & Family, In memory of your Father. Rosa Ferera, Nora Ferera, Lew David & Rachelle Pullmer

Melanie Samuels & Family, In memory of Joanne Rosenbaum. Mark Rozenberg & Family

Dr. Ben Shore, In memory of Dr. M. Olgemeister. Dr. Stan Karon

Sandy Shuler, In memory of Fran. Hymie & Rome Fox

Mackie & Gladys Shuler, In memory of Fran. Hymie & Rome Fox

Avihu Sigal & Family. Our condolences on the passing of your Father & Grandfather. Mark, Jacob, Talya & Nirit Rozenberg

Peter Suedfeld, In memory of your Brother. The VHEC Board of Directors & Staff

Rosa Tesler-Mabe & Family, On the passing of your dear Husband. Robert Krell & Family

Barry Tessler, In memory of your Father, Marcus Tessler. Hymie & Rome Fox, Malcolm & Judy Weinstein, Alan & Bonnie Reed

Arthur Toft, On the passing of your Mother. Robert & Marilyn Krell & Family

Les Vertesi, In memory of your Father, Nick Vertesi. Alisa Meurrens

Mickey & Rochella Weinstock, In loving memory of your beloved Son, Guy. Evelyn Kahn, Mark, Hodie & Malcolm, Saul & Sheryl & extended family

Helen Aqua & Family & Wendy Aqua & Family, On the loss of your Mother, Freda Aqua. Susan & Joe Stein & Family

Winston Wilder & Family, On the loss of your Mother. Jocy Lowy

Zavi Wiseman, On the loss of your Mother & Grandmother, Leah Wiseman. Mark Rozenberg & Family

Mr Boris Yakobovich & Family, On the passing of your Wife & Mother. Katie Freilich

Yates Family, In memory of your dear Father & Grandfather, Jerry. Marilyn & Derek Glazer

THANK YOU

A donation by Frank Kohner

Alex Buckman, Thank you for coming to speak to our students. Natalie Grunberg, Prince of Wales Secondary

Marion Cassirer, Thank you for coming to speak. Sandi Sanderson and Kingswood Elementary School, Niki Karamessinis, MacNeil Secondary.

Mr. & Mrs. J. Fine, Thank you for including us. Lana & Mendy Landa

Rome Fox, Thank you for being so helpful to me. Lili Folk

Mrs. R. Gales, Thank you for including me. Lana & Mendy Landa

Janos Mate, Thank-you. Chick Snipper

Mr. & Mrs. H. Paley, Thank you for including us. Lana & Mendy Landa

Peter Parker, Thank you for your presentation at our school. Coquitlam Alternative Basic Education

Louise Stein Sorensen, Thank you for coming to speak. Jennifer Wylie and Class, Coyote Creek Elementary School

Tom Szekely, Many thanks for speaking to two school groups on the same day. Nina & The VHEC Board & Staff

Gerry Zipursky, Thank you for many years of co-operation and your guidance and support. Rob & Marilyn Krell & Family, Rita Akselrod & the VHEC Board, Frieda Miller & the VHEC Staff

Karen Micner, Thinking of you and looking forward to your return to the VHEC Board. The VHEC Board

DONATIONS TO THE VHEC LIBRARY

November 2006 - January 2007

Dabba Smith, Frank. *Elsie's War: A Story of Courage in Nazi Germany*. London: Francis Lincoln Children's Books, 2003. Donated by Ronnie Tessler.

Kirschner, Ann. *Sala's Gift: My Mother's Holocaust Story*. New York: Free Press, 2006. Donated by Simon & Schuster Canada.

Lawner, Helen. *Surviving the Warsaw Ghetto: A Three Generational Perspective*. Victoria, Australia: Makor Jewish Community Library, 2006. Donated by Joanie Lawson.

Lemelman, Martin. *Mendel's Daughter: A Memoir*. New York, Free Press, 2006. Donated by Simon & Schuster Canada.

Marton, Kati. *The Great Escape: Nine Jews Who Fleed Hitler and Changed the World*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2006. Donated by publisher.

Nayman, Shira. *Awake in the Dark: Stories*. New York: Scribner, 2006. Donated by Simon & Schuster Canada.

Petropoulos, Jonathan. *Royals and the Reich: The Princes von Hessen in Nazi Germany*. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2006. Donated by Sharen Cherry.

Roy, Jennifer. *Yellow Star*. Tarrytown, NY: Marshall Cavendish, 2006. Donated by publisher.

Wiseman, Eva. *Kanada*. Toronto: Tundra Books, 2006. Donated by publisher.

Zweig, Ronald W. *The Gold Train: The Destruction of the Jews and the Looting of Hungary*. New York: William Morrow, 2002. Donated by Myer Grinshpan.

SAVE THE DATE

FILM: THE RAPE OF EUROPA

4:15 PM Sunday, March 25, 2007

Fifth Avenue Cinemas, 2110 Burrard Street

Vancouver Jewish International Film Festival

YOM HASHOAH CEMETERY SERVICE

20th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Memorial

11 AM, Sunday, April 15, 2007

Schara Tzedek Cemetery, 2345 Marine Drive, New Westminster

YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATIVE CONCERT

7:30 PM, Sunday, April 15, 2007

Wosk Auditorium, JCC, 950 West 41st Avenue

YOM HASHAOH VICTORIA TRIP

Monday, April 16, 2007

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7:30 PM, Wednesday June 13, 2007, VHEC

VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE

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

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