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Mothers and Daughters in the Holocaust

DR. SARA HOROWITZ

York University



FALL 2014
ZACHOR Remember

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Dear Readers.

Our fall issue highlights what the VHEC does best: acclaimed exhibits with local connections, innovative approaches to education, and commemorative programs realized through community partnerships.

Moral decision-making is a theme of abiding importance for all citizens, and the VHEC's new exhibit explores this through the story of Carl Lutz, a Swiss diplomat stationed in wartime Budapest. A travelling exhibit presented in partnership with the Consulate of Switzerland in Vancouver is augmented by the testimonies and artefacts of local survivors, offering insights into prewar, wartime and postwar Jewish life in Hungary.

We invite you to join us for the exhibit's opening reception on October 22nd at the VHEC, and to attend our upcoming programs detailed on the inside back cover. The November 9th *Kristallnacht* commemorative lecture, "Mothers and Daughters in the Holocaust," by York University's Sara Horowitz, interviewed in this issue, promises to offer a meaningful context for remembering the "Night of Broken Glass."

We look forward to seeing you soon, and thank you for your continued support of Holocaust education and remembrance.

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Nina Krieger VHEC Executive Director



IMPORTANT NEW FUND FOR CHILD SURVIVORS OF THE HOLOCAUST

The Claims Conference has successfully negotiated a \$250 million landmark agreement with the German government. A new fund will be established, to be administered by the Claims Conference, for Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust. This fund will provide support to Shoah survivors around the world who lived under Nazi occupation and will enable them to receive symbolic financial compensation for the traumas suffered during their childhood. The payment from this fund represents an acknowledgement of the special trauma and hardship endured by children during the Shoah.

Survivors of the Shoah who were born January 1, 1928 or later and who were in concentration camps, ghettos, or for at least six months under Nazi occupation (or 12 months in Nazi Axis countries) in hiding or under false identity will be eligible to receive a special one-time payment of €2,500 (approximately \$3,280).

The fund will become operational in January 2015 and applications will be available at that time.

For additional information: www.claimscon.org

A reminder to also check the Claims Conference website for eligibility criteria for Holocaust survivor pensions from the Claims Conference Article 2 Fund and Central and Eastern European Fund (CEEF), which were broadened in January 2013.

Volunteer lawyers are available at the VHEC to assist Holocaust survivors with claims for compensation and restitution. To request an appointment contact **604.264.0499** or **info@vhec.org**

CARL LUTZ AND THE LEGENDARY GLASS HOUSE

BY KARINA VERTLIB

In 1944 Hungary, Swiss Vice-Consul Carl Lutz launched a rescue mission that spared 62,000 Jews from deportation. Presented on the 70th anniversary of the Nazi occupation, *Carl Lutz and the Legendary Glass House in Budapest* illuminates a little-known story of diplomatic rescue and moral courage during the Holocaust.



A crowd of Jews waits outside a branch of the Swiss legation located in the Glass House on Vadasz Street in Budapest hoping to obtain Schutzbrief that would protect them from deportation.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Courtesy of Eric Saul

This summer, I was privileged to work as the Research Assistant on the upcoming exhibit Carl Lutz and the Legendary Glass House in Budapest at the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre. When I first spoke with peers about my research surrounding Carl Lutz and his rescue mission, I was surprised to hear the following response: "Lutz? Who?" When I would mention that he was a Swiss diplomat stationed in Budapest, they would instantly say, "Do you mean Raoul Wallenberg?" It appalled me that the same response would follow time after time. Digging deeper, I understood that the postwar bi-polarization of the world heavily politicized the issue of Wallenberg's rescue mission. Due to his unwarranted arrest and assumed execution by the Soviets, the West devoted a great deal of media attention to this issue, thereby

spreading awareness to many about Wallenberg's heroic deeds. If after the war everyone spoke of Wallenberg, Lutz only emerged as a heroic figure in 1965, when Yad Vashem declared him "Righteous Among the Nations." The VHEC's upcoming exhibit, Carl Lutz and the Legendary Glass House in Budapest, sheds light on the Swiss diplomat who saved more than 60,000 Jews from imminent death.

Carl Lutz studied and worked in the United States before moving to Palestine, where he witnessed an influx of Jewish immigration because of Hitler's rise in Europe. In 1941, he was assigned a post in wartime Budapest as Vice-Consul of Switzerland. As the Hungarian government radicalized and became increasingly antisemitic, Carl Lutz facilitated the emigration process for child refugees fleeing Nazi occupied countries to Palestine. When the

German army occupied in March 1944, they began to ghettoize and deport Jews at a rapid rate. Britain delegated its foreign interests, including the Mandate for Palestine, to Switzerland, which was a neutral country. By manipulating emigration procedure, Lutz supplied protective documents, schutzbrief, to thousands of people, identifying them as legal emigrants to Palestine. Lutz also supported the Hechalutz youth group, allowing them to set up their headquarters inside the Glass House. This protection allowed them to organize independent rescue missions, and forge protective documents which were distributed to save thousands of more Jewish lives.

In the final months of the war, Hungary's fascist party, the Arrow Cross, overthrew the government. The level of violence shifted from mass deportation to Auschwitz by the Nazi SS to atrocities committed on the streets by the Arrow Cross. Most notably, the Arrow Cross lined up and shot thousands of Jews along the shore of the Danube River during the winter of 1944-1945. Lutz transformed the Glass House from an issuing agency into a protective house, where he and his wife provided shelter and food for more than 3,000 people that cold winter. Despite the extreme situations Lutz was placed in, he adapted and responded in a way that went above and beyond his professional duty.

Lutz's story of courage, persistence and righteousness comes to the VHEC in an exhibit produced by th Glass House Foundation in Budapest. The exhibit speaks to the importance of actions taken by neutral countries during the Second World War. Often overlooked or politicized as "gaining" off the war, Switzerland's neutrality gave Lutz the ability to act when others could not, thereby setting the stage for his rescue activities.

Supplementing the travelling exhibit is the VHEC's own companion exhibit, based on the experiences of local Hungarian survivors. Through the narrative formed by their photographs, testimonies and artefacts, the companion exhibit presents the experiences of those who Lutz touched, and unfortunately, those who he could not.



Consul Charles (Carl) Lutz poses at the gate of the "evacuation quarters" of the Swiss legation in Bicske, Hungary. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Courtesy of Eric Saul

In their testimonies, David Ehrlich and Eva Kero recall experiencing a rise in antisemitism as children and not understanding the context or the gravities of the situation.

As docent-led school groups visit both exhibits, they will learn a great dal abou prewar, wartime and postwar Hungary. Most importantly, students will learn about the remarkable courage of one man during the Holocuast. Perhaps the greatest tragedy of the Holocaust in Hungary was that it happened so late in the war, at a time when so many Jews had already perished and awareness was much more wide-spread. Nevertheless, the cattle cars were busily on schedule to Auschwitz, as the world watched. Carl Lutz acted.



Karina Vertlib is a double major in Modern European Studies and History at the University of British Columbia. She was a summer Research Assistant at the VHEC and has transitioned into the Administrator position at the Centre.

REFLECTIONS ON THE GLASS HOUSE

BY JANOS MATÉ

A local family's connection to the rescue efforts of Carl Lutz, a Swiss diplomat stationed in Budapest during the war and the focus of the Centre's new exhibit, offers an intimate story of loss and survival.

Life can be all so fragile. From one year to the next, indeed within a few months, a family's life can shatter on the edges of history.

Shatter as easily as the windows of Jewish businesses, homes and synagogues vandalized during *Kristallnacht*, or the "Night of Broken Glass."

History is strewn with examples of families left behind as piles of shards of glass, shards of painful memories.

Our mother, our "Anya," Judith Miriam Melzer Maté (née Lõvi), was invited in 1996 by the Shoah Foundation to revisit her shards of memories, and to record her family's story of death and survival during the Holocaust in Hungary.

In her video interview, Anya is asked how she managed to save herself. Without hesitation, she replies, "I didn't do much...it just happened by chance, by fate. The fate was that I wasn't shot or killed. I didn't do anything myself."

In actuality, my mother made a series of life saving moves in response to horrific events that shattered the meaning of "normal" in her life, and decimated the Jewish population of Hungary.

Anya was born March 7, 1919 in the town of Kosicze (Kassa) which was alternatively part of Hungary and the Czechoslovak Republic. During the Second World War, the town reverted to Hungarian rule.

Mom grew up in a Jewish upper-middle class, orthodox yet modern, intellectual and cultured European milieu. Her father, Dr. Joseph Lõvi, was a highly respected physician and a man of letters. He was active in the fledgling Zionist movement and a close associate of Vladimir Ze'ev Jabotinsky, the well-known charismatic

leader of the Revisionist wing of the Zionist movement. This connection to Jabotinsky inadvertently played a significant role in mom's story of survival.

Mom gave birth to her first son, Gabor, on January 6, 1944. At the time she was virtually a single mom, as our father, our Apa, Andor Melzer Maté, served in the Jewish Forced Labour Brigade of the Hungarian army.

Gabor's *brith milah*, or circumcision, was delayed until the first week of March so that Apa, along with Mom's parents could attend. This special occasion was the last time that Anya saw her parents. It was also the last time she saw her husband until the end of the war.

On March 19, 1944, Hitler invaded Hungary, a German ally, to prevent the country from switching allegiances in the war. Soon the Jews of Hungary were ordered to wear the yellow star insignia. They were evicted from their homes and ordered to move into "Yellow Star Houses." Anya and Gabor moved into a two-room apartment with seven other family members and one Christian woman.

Within weeks the full-scale deportation of Hungarian Jewry to Auschwitz began. Jews from the provinces were taken first. Anya's parents, Dr. Joseph and Anna Lövi, and her sister Dr. Marta Lövi, were transported on cargo trains to Auschwitz from Kassa on June 3. Her parents were immediately murdered in the gas chambers.

Mom recalls: "My parents were among the very last Jews in Kosicze to be taken to the brick factory where the Jews were corralled prior to being taken by trains to Auschwitz. They intended to commit suicide instead of facing deportation. My mother swallowed the poison. My father was in the process of writing a goodbye letter to me when their door was broken down. Mom was taken to hospital where her stomach was pumped, and they were both taken

to the brick factory. Their suicide attempt was reported in the Hungarian newspaper of Kosicze."

On October 15, 1944 the Hungarian Nazi Party, the Nyilas, or the Arrow Cross, took power in Hungary. By this time the defeat of Germany was all but a forgone conclusion. The ascent of the Nyilas, nevertheless, invigorated the Hungarian genocide. Within a few months another 80,000 people were deported to Auschwitz, and some 10,000 to 15,000 were simply murdered, many shot into the waters of the Danube.

Mom and Gabor moved into the newly established Budapest ghetto at the end of November. Gabor was sick and emaciated; there was virtually no food. Anya desperately sought shelter in the Glass House, a diplomatically protected building a few blocks from the ghetto at Vadász Street 29.

Some foreign diplomats took extraordinary and heroic measures, sometimes at great personal risk, during the latter half of 1944 to save Jewish lives in Hungary. They issued protective passes to Jews, and sheltered thousands of Jews in buildings designated as annexes to their respective



Janos Maté's mother, Anya, with her son Gabor, 1944. Courtesy of Janos Maté

governments. The Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg is perhaps best known, but others include the Italian Georgio Perlasca acting on behalf of Spain, and Carl Lutz, the Swiss Vice-Consul in Budapest.

Carl Lutz established up to 76 safe houses around Budapest, including a shelter in a glass factory that became known as the *Üvegház*, or the Glass House.

The Glass House was partitioned according to Zionist affiliations. When Anya, with infant Gabor in her arms, knocked on the doors of the Glass House, the building was crammed with over 2000 people. Mom was initially turned away. But when organizers from *Beitar*, the youth wing of Vladimir Jabotinsky's political organization, heard that Dr. Joseph Lövi's daughter and her baby were seeking shelter, they made room in their part of the building.

Gabor and mom were together in the Glass House for only a few days. It soon became apparent that Gabor would not survive the overcrowded, unsanitary conditions in the building. He needed better nourishment and urgent medical attention.

"There was no food," recalls Anya. "There was no water to even wash a diaper." To save her baby, Mom entrusted a stranger, a Christian woman, to deliver Gabor to relatives living under somewhat better circumstances in another part of Budapest.

The stranger delivered Gabor to Anya's relatives and leaving the baby carriage by the door departed in haste. This random act of human kindness saved Gabor's life. Mom never learned the woman's name.

Mom describes life in the Glass House: "Inside the Glass House, we couldn't do anything. We could barely move. We were just sitting in one place. If you got a piece of bread then you ate. There were over two thousand people in the Glass House. We stayed in the basement. We couldn't be upstairs because bombs were falling. At that time the Russians had Budapest surrounded and they were bombing the German positions. The basement was our bomb shelter. There were seven layers of bunks, up to the ceiling, so that people could sit and lie down. The

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A CONVERSATION WITH SARA HOROWITZ

BY SYDNEY SWITZER

The keynote speaker for the upcoming community-wide *Kristallnacht* commemorative program offers a preview of her upcoming talk, centered on a theme of universal import.

What can people expect from your talk on November 9th?

I'm going to focus on women in the Holocaust. The Nazi genocide targeted both men and women, not because they were men or women, but because they were Jews. At the same time, what people experienced — in some sense — had to do with gender. The way that the experience of the Holocaust had a later impact on survivors also has something to do with gender, in the ways that women experience things, survived or didn't survive, remember, and cope with traumatic memories. I'm looking in particular at relations between mothers and daughters, because that's a very telling way to talk about women's experiences.

In what way do you think that the mother daughter experience is a focal point for us to explore the Holocaust?

In a way it creates a bridge because mother daughter relationships are things that are all around us. At least half of us in the population are daughters, maybe somewhat fewer are mothers, but people know daughters and mothers, people see that relationship. By looking at mother daughter relationships during the Holocaust and the way in which that relationship, even after the Holocaust, is affected by experiences during the Holocaust, we're offered a bridge to begin to understand on a personal and an intimate level what it was like to be caught up in the web of genocide during the Holocaust. In addition, it offers us a fuller and more complex picture of what happened to people during the Holocaust so we don't just think of the victims as one undifferentiated clump, but we get to think back about them and capture their humanity and the details of their lives.

Sometimes people say, 'If you focus on women, if you focus on gender, aren't you saying that their gender is more important than the fact that they're Jewish? Are you making it into a feminist issue, saying that the Jewish

aspect is not so important?' I don't think that that's true at all. It's a way of exploring in greater detail the circumstances that Jews went through, and putting them back into a human context. One of the things that the Nazi genocide did was try to remove them from their human context, deny them their humanity. When we remember them back in their familial connections, we're remembering very valuable parts of them. We're also finding a means to give more understanding to survivors and what they faced as they tried to build their own families.

How do you think that the relationship between mothers and daughters has shifted from the Holocaust to the postwar era to the modern era?

It depends. Roughly 40% of Canadian Jews are either Holocaust survivors or their direct descendants, so the impact of the Holocaust — I think most people agree — is felt in the family, not only in the sense that descendants carry stories with them, but also in the way that these relationships are shaped. There are resonances in the mother-daughter relationships in those families that come later, where you see the impacts of the Holocaust in how they relate to each other.

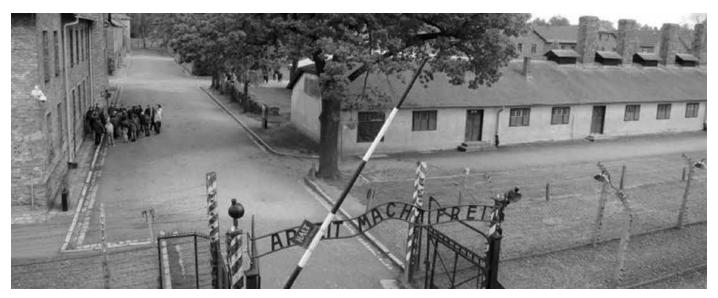
Many women who survived were in their late teens, and they very much credit their mothers with helping them stay alive. In some instances their mothers also survived, in some instances their mothers didn't make it, but the daughters remember their mothers, and continue to remember them as they become mothers themselves after the war. They remember the importance of their mother in their own survival, so that affects the way they think about the past, and it affects the way they remember their family. When they begin their own families, if they survived and

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WITNESSING AUSCHWITZ: CONFLICTING STORIES AND MEMORIES

BY BOZENA KARWOWSKA

One of the most pressing issues in Holocaust education today is the question of how we will teach about the crimes of Nazi Germany when there are no survivors left to share their eyewitness accounts with younger generations. Professor Bozena Karwowska, from the University of British Columbia, and Alicja Bialecka of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum have initiated a partnership between their respective institutions directed at young, promising scholars who will, in turn, educate others.



Site lecture and study tour at Birkenau. Courtesy of Dr. Bozena Karwowska

During the Spring 2014 term, a group of seventeen UBC Faculty of Arts undergraduate students were given the opportunity to conduct research on site in Warsaw, Oswiecim, and Krakow, Poland, whence a new model of Holocaust education was borne. This was possible thanks to the generosity of UBC Go Global, the Faculty of Arts, the Polish Consulate in Vancouver and anonymous donors. The Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre hosted an undergraduate student conference (co-sponsored by the Department of Central, Eastern and Northern European Studies, CENES) where students shared their findings. Students will also have the opportunity to volunteer in support of the Centre's educational activities in the future.

The international seminar, "Witnessing Auschwitz: Conflicting Stories and Memories," is designed to encompass tangible issues, rather than explain the incomprehensible — the mass killing of Jews in Nazioccupied Europe. Auschwitz was a place in which several agendas of Nazi Germany, frequently at cross purposes, intersected: it was an industrial compound, a concentration camp, a medical research site and an extermination facility; it served to imprison, terrorize, enslave, and kill. Auschwitz stands today not only as a geographical location, but also remains a site of conflicting memories that raise the question of how, and if at all, it can be remembered and commemorated in ways that resist



ICEAH staff and 2014 Witnessing Auschwitz students displaying their diplomas. Courtesy of Dr. Bozena Karwowska

both sentimentalization and the recourse to conventional literary or cinematographic imagery.

In Poland, students gained direct access to historical archives and museums as well as to leading experts in all relevant disciplines. The group attended a two-week seminar in Auschwitz, took part in lectures, seminars and workshops in Krakow and Warsaw, and worked closely with specialists from the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw and the Polish Center for Holocaust Research of the Polish Academy of Science. An important part of their studies was devoted to Jewish life in Poland before the Holocaust and prewar Jewish literature and culture.

This model of multi-disciplinary inquiry also impressed upon students a mindfulness of their social responsibilites as researchers and professionals. "The program creates a unique opportunity to prepare students to inform others, to provide them with a basis for their own research and to help them to keep the discourse about the Holocaust alive," reflected Anja Nowak, PhD student and teaching assistant accompanying the group. Participation in the seminar turned out to be not only an academic endeavour, but also a life-changing experience for students. Audrey Tong stated: "This study abroad experience has completely changed my outlook on life, and has impacted my attitude towards my studies as well. Understanding the importance of dialogue, I realized that my role in Auschwitz as a

Chinese-Canadian was not simply just to remember and commemorate, but to also live in the present and undertake my responsibility as a global citizen. Now as an ambassador to the International Center for Education about Auschwitz and the Holocaust (ICEAH), I find it extremely important to educate my family, peers, and community about this event and encourage others to do the same." A fellow participant, Lea Duranseaud, similarly expressed that the program fulfilled its educational goals in that she now "wants to teach people about this subject, to spread the awareness and to have everyone know more about the victims of Nazi viciousness. It's important to see these people as more than just victims, to spread their stories and commemorate them in that way."

Scholars in Poland frequently noted the uniqueness of our research-based program and its very high academic and educational values. "We could all feel that being at this authentic site was not just another project for these Canadian students, but also an important personal experience," writes Mr. Andrzej Kacorzyk, Director of International Center for Education about Auschwitz and the Holocaust, adding, "such a long and complex seminar is a unique event." Currently, UBC is the only North American university offering this type of program, which [also] includes a certificate of completion (70 hours of Holocaust Education and Study Tours) signed by both institutions.

The 2015 Witnessing Auschwitz group of students will follow local survivor Michel Mielnicki's memoir, *Bialystok to Birkenau: The Holocaust Journey of Michel Mielnicki* (Ronsdale Press & Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre Society, 2000), as a resource to guide their research and educational projects.

Information about the 2015 seminar is available at: http://students.ubc.ca/career/international-experiences/global-seminars/witnessing-auschwitz-conflicting-stories-memories



Dr. Bozena Karwowska is an Associate Professor of Polish and Slavic Studies at the University of British Columbia. She is the program director of the Witnessing Auschwitz International Seminar and teaches the course Representations of the Holocaust in the Department of Central, Eastern and Northern European Studies.

BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE — HISTORICAL THINKING CONCEPTS IN HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

BY ADARA GOLDBERG

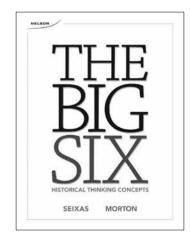
This July, the VHEC's Education Director joined a diverse group of 45 museum educators, classroom teachers, academics, and graduate students from across North America for the Historical Thinking Summer Institute.

On the first morning of the institute, delivered by Professor Peter Seixas and the University of British Columbia's Centre for the Study of Historical Consciouness, participants engaged in a breakout activity. Going around the table, individuals presented a single item and described its historical (and personal) significance in the beholder's life. I assumed that my artefact — a pair of pink mittens knitted by my late grandmother when I was in her care as a child —

would be of little relevance to the week's work. After all, how could a simple pair of mittens facilitate critical engagement with historical thinking?

By week's end, the institute gleaned new insight into participatory and reflexive history education. The mittens, like the rings, Turkish coffee makers, journals, and photos showcased across the room were all examples of primary source trace evidence. My mittens, for instance, revealed clues about traditional women's roles (knitting and caregiving), the environmental conditions in which I was raised, and gendered stereotypes of the 1980s. Through an application of the Big Six' historical thinking concepts, personal items came to life as teachable artefacts that shed insight onto a broad spectrum of traditions, cultures, and experiences across time and place.

The brainchild of Professor Peter Seixas and Tom Morton, the 'Big Six' are deceptively complex. Representing a new direction in history education, the concepts challenge the more conventional, single-perspective textbook approach



that has traditionally driven classroom instruction. To think historically students need to be able to develop critical evaluation skills around core pillars: historical significance and perspectives; primary source evidence; continuity and change; cause and consequence; and the ability to understand the ethical dimensions of history.

Under the guidance of our expert Teacher Advisory Committee, which includes Seixas and Morton, the Centre

incorporates Historical Thinking Concepts into Teacher' Guides, professional development offerings for teachers and docents, and support materials. The VHEC's exhibit-based school programs and teaching materials facilitate student engagement with primary sources and eyewitness historical accounts, and include critical thinking exercises that bridge the gap between the Holocaust, other genocides and students personal life experiences.

Insight gleaned from the institute will increase the Centre's capacity to provide best practice markers in history education and assessment, anchored in pedagogical objectives. By proactively responding to the needs of students and teachers as we enter a new era of Social Studies curricula — in which historical thinking concepts are expected to feature prominently — the VHEC will continue to serve a leader in Holocaust-based learning.



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

REMEMBERING THE ROMA VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

BY GINA CSANYI-ROBAH

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the liquidation of the "Gypsy Family Camp" at Auschwitz-Birkenau, the VHEC presented a commemorative program marking Roma and Sinti Genocide Remembrance Day.

In recognition of the annual International Roma Holocaust "Pharrajimos" Commemoration Day, the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre and the Canadian Romani Alliance co-hosted a film screening, discussion, and candlelight vigil for victims of racially motivated violence.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the genocide committed against Roma during the Second World War, commemorated annually on August 2nd. On this date, more than 3,000 Roma were murdered in the evening of August 2, 1944 in gas chamber V of "Zigeunerlager BIII" at Auschwitz–Birkenau. The total number of victims is often pinned at 500,000 people. Due to the frequently unregistered births and official documentation of Romani people in Europe, most Roma believe the number of victims to be much higher.

The Nuremberg Trials — the investigation of Nazi crimes that took place following the Second World War — did not include any testimony from the Roma community.

On the evening of August 7, 2014, nearly eighty people gathered at the VHEC to commemorate the victims and hear from the survivors featured in the award winning documentary film, A People Uncounted. Filmed in 11 countries and featuring Romani Holocaust survivors, historians, activists and musicians, A People Uncounted brings this Romani history to life through the rich interplay of our poetry, music, and compelling first-hand accounts. It also illustrates the centuries of intolerance and persecution in Europe, including contemporary neo-Nazism and ethnic nationalism. Produced and directed by Canadians Marc Swenker and Aaron Yeger, the film has won many human rights awards. The musical score was created and performed by an award-winning Canadian—Hungarian Romani musician and former refugee, Robi Botos.

Attendees at the VHEC, including the former Premier of British Columbia, Mr. Ujjal Dosanjh, arrived to the guitar being played by a Hungarian refugee, named Zoltan, who was seated between two Romani flags. The VHEC's Executive Director, Nina Krieger, gave a moving welcome for British Columbia's first Roma Holocaust or "Pharraijmos" (Great Devouring) commemoration. The turnout was fantastic — standing room only.

Throughout the duration of the 1.5 hour film, the full room was in utter silence as they watched, listened, and learned about the genocide committed against Roma during the Second World War — by far the greatest tragedy in Romani history. Few know about this painful time, as much of the knowledge about Roma remains shrouded inside misinformed, often negative Gypsy stereotypes.

Following the film, I participated in a Q&A moderated by Adara Goldberg, the VHEC's Education Director, shedding light on Roma as a people. When asked, "What makes someone a Gypsy?" I responded by asking, "What makes someone Chinese?" It's culture (language, customs, identity) and a shared history. I pointed out that the diverse Romani diaspora have common origins from Northwestern India, a language called Romanes that has many dialects, a flag, and a national anthem.

As the event came to a close, attendees were provided an opportunity to participate in a candlelight vigil for all victims of hate, and invited to share in a prayer for peace in our world.



Gina Csanyi-Roba is the founder of the Canadian Romani Alliance and a Canadian delegate of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. For her outstanding service to Canada's Roma community, she was awarded the Queen Elizabeth the 2nd Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012.

THE STORY OF THREE GLASS BOTTLES

BY KATIE POWELL

Among recent archival donations to the VHEC, the Centre was gifted a set of three bottles manufactured at the Haberfeld Vodka Distillery and Factory in Oświęcim, Poland. While it later became known as Auschwitz under the German occupation, the city of Oświęcim, had a thriving Jewish population that dated back centuries. The Haberfeld family had lived in the city since the mid-1700s, their mansion a city icon. In 1804, Jakob Haberfeld established a vodka distillery. By the interwar years, Jakob's grandson Alfons Haberfeld ran the family's business. He married Felicia Spierer from Krakow in 1936.

In 1939, Alfons and Felicia departed on what was planned as a three-week business trip to New York for the World's Fair. Their two-year-old daughter, Franciszka Henryka, remained in Poland in her grandmother's care. When the couple tried to return home, they were redirected to England just two days before their intended arrival and informed that Germany had invaded Poland.





The Haberfelds' returned to New York where they tried to send money to their relatives in Poland. Gradually, they received fragments of news. Both Franciszka and her grandmother had fled to Krakow after the invasion and were living in the city's ghetto with the rest of Felicia's family. It was not until 1944 that the Haberfelds learned that both Franciszka and her grandmother had been murdered in Belzec death camp. Both Alfons and Felicia remained in the USA and worked in their later years to have the family home in Poland returned to the Haberfeld family. These bottles are a reminder of not only the destruction and loss of the Holocaust, but also as a symbol of a vibrant community and a family legacy in prewar Oświęcim.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all donors for their ongoing contributions to the VHEC's museum and archival collections. Your support and generosity enables continued research and work in support of Holocaust education and remembrance.



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

(Reflections On The Glass House, continued from page 5)

toilets were completely plugged up. So latrines were dug in the courtyard of the building, and men and women alternated each half hour using the latrines."

Diplomatically protected safe houses could not provide total security against marauding fascist gangs. On December 31, 1944, thugs of the Arrow Cross Party raided the Glass House bent on an evening's entertainment of killing Jews. The Jews were ordered out of the building. The Nyilas began to shoot them at random. Some were executed at the Danube. Mom picked up an abandoned little boy and by sheer luck her life was spared.

Mom stayed in the Glass House for approximately six weeks. She didn't see her son during that time: "I was reunited with Gabor on the day of liberation [January 17, 1945]. Gabor did not recognize me."

"Liberation was a strange feeling. I didn't know anything about my family, my parents and sister, or my husband. I didn't know for what was I liberated'. Only for my son."

Seventy years later, my brother Gabor is a physician, internationally acclaimed author and public speaker. And to this day the trauma of his first year in life is constantly with him. It shapes his perception of the world and his emotional orientation to life.

"As a professional I fully understand how early childhood trauma can affect a person throughout a lifetime," Gabor says. "Not to be dominated by the negative emotional tone toward life that I must have felt as an infant is still on-going work for me. As an infant, I would have perceived and believed that I had been abandoned by my mother. Her sadness and grief in that first year of my life and her act of love and courage in sending me away with a stranger would both have struck my infant self as incomprehensible rejection."



Janos Maté (M.A.) formerly a social worker and therapist, is a longtime peace, environmental, social justice and animal rights activist. He was one of the founders and a Co-Director of the Chutzpah Festival. He established, with his family, the Lövi Memorial Fund of the VHEC. He is

the recipient of awards from the Governor General of Canada, the United Nations Environment Programme, and the United States Environment Protection Agency. (A Conversation with Sara Horowitz, ontinued from page 6)

their mothers hadn't, they feel very bereft. They feel that not only they've lost somebody that they love, but they've lost the very person that could give them guidance as they begin to support their own families. So for many women it's a bit of a crisis. The happy thing happens, they get to marry after the war, they start to build a new family, but so much of their formative years were lived in abnormal circumstances. They didn't see families start, they didn't see mothers raise small children, and they don't quite know what to do since their own infancy and childhood are so far behind them. They were robbed of their childhood, and their own mother may not be around to ask. So there's a disconnect here. They're cut off from valuable resources. They have to figure that out on their own, and that's very different from conventional mother daughter relationships that develop in happier circumstances without genocide.



Sydney Switzer is a second-year student studying photography at Emily Carr University in Vancouver and a member of the VHEC's Kristallnacht Committee.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS FEATURING PAST KRISTLLNACHT SPEAKERS

Doris Bergen

Chancellor Rose and Ray Wolfe Professor of Holocaust Studies, University of Toronto

University of British Columbia Rudolf Vrba Memorial Lecture

Holocaust Survivors and Holocaust Scholars: A Changing and Challenging Relationship

Buchanan A101 1866 Main Mall, UBC

NOVEMBER 17 + 7PM

David Halton

Retired Foreign Correspondent, CBC

Vancouver Public Library Barbara Bluman Memorial Lecture

Dispatches from the Front: The Life of Matthew Halton, Canada's Voice at War

Alice McKay Room VPL Central Library

NOVEMBER 19 • 7PM

HOW BRICHA VOLUNTEERS SAVED MY LIFE

BY MEYER (BEN-TZVI) GRINSHPAN



Ha-Madrich, "the leader who made our lives liveable." Meyer is the second child from the left in the last row. Courtesy Meyer Grinshpan

In mid-1946, Poland was a very dangerous place controlled by a communist regime, with the threat of extreme antisemitic violence growing every day. The Jewish survivors of the Shoah were in a state of shock and fearful of pogroms. In July 1946, the Kielce Pogrom made living in Poland a death trap.

I was five years old with my parents in Poland, fearful for our lives. One dark evening my parents grabbed me and

we got into a large canvass-covered truck. I was held in my mother's loving arms. I can still hear my mothers voice in Yiddish, "Meirayl zei shtil, vein nisht, mir vellen bald zein frei" (Meyerl, be quiet, don't cry we will be free soon).

All night we drove with *Bricha* (escape) volunteers from the land of *Yisrael* (Israel). By early morning we drove past Checkpoint Charlie into relative freedom in American controlled West Berlin.

We were transferred to a massive refugee camp with hundreds of large wooden barracks that were formerly used by the German military until the end of WWII. Finally we were safe under the sole protection of General Eisenhower and the American military government in West Berlin. Berlin was a dangerous place, especially East Berlin, divided by an electric fence and guarded by Soviet soldiers.

We were lucky — the volunteers from Israel who belonged to the *Bricha* brigade gave us the feeling of safety, especially *Ha-Madrich* (the leader).



Meyer and his mother, near Checkpoint Charlie. Courtesy Meyer Grinshpan

Several months later, with the help of the American army *Ha-Madrich* converted a large brick building into a school with classrooms for Kindergarten, Grades 1, 2 and 3. Then *Ha-Madrich* smuggled in four volunteer Hebrew teachers from the land of Israel. With the arrival of these dedicated Hebrew teachers our life as children changed overnight. With the sound of Hebrew songs, celebrations of Simchat Torah, Purim, Chanukah, Tu Bishvat and class parties, our childhood lives changed drastically. The sounds of Hebrew and our holiday school







Left: Meyer's first Simchat Torah event with Meyer holding the flag, 1946. Top Right: Meyer's first Purim Party, 1946. Bottom Right: Chanukah Party, 1947. Courtesy Meyer Grinshpan

celebrations saved our sombre childhood and made us feel that "there is light at the end of that black tunnel."

Hebrew songs drowned out the constant daily blasts of Russian gunfire attempting to prevent Jewish refugees in East Berlin from escaping to the freedom of West Berlin. I can still remember the words of my father "Vos di Natzis hoben nisht geendikt villen the communisten yetzt endicken" (What the Nazis did not completely finish, the communists want to finish now).

On the eve of November 29, 1947, hundreds of my school buddies and I crowded with hundreds of adults around a large wooden radio with many bulky wooden knobs, and attentively listened to the voice of the moderator broadcasting the news that the General Assembly voted Palestine to be partitioned between Arabs and Jews, allowing for the formation of the Jewish state of Israel.

On May 14, 1948 when Israel declared independence, our entire bunk went wild with excitement. We were hugging and kissing each other. The air was full of spontaneous, overwhelming joy upon hearing this historic, miraculous radio broadcast. The next morning "stark reality" took over. The emotional high of the previous night was replaced by total despair upon the news that seven neighbouring Arab states invaded the new state of Israel.

Within a very short time my father decided to apply for visas to Israel, USA and Canada.

I still remember the argument and fierce debate between my parents. Mother was pleading to make Israel our final destination, father was determined to leave Berlin as soon as possible and the first country to issue a Refugee Status visa to all three of us would be our country of choice.

In December 1948, the Department of National Health and Welfare Canada approved my father's International Refugee Organization US Zone of Germany request for Refugee Status. January 1949 we received our Refugee passport stamp from the Officer in Charge of Refugees in Germany. After a twelve-day journey on the American WWII vessel, the S.S. Marine Shark, we arrived at Pier 21, Halifax, Nova Scotia. There, we received that miraculous stamp from Canadian Immigration in Halifax.

On that historic date, the joy of leaving the dark memories of life as refugees was replaced by the hopes of a new life of freedom from fear in my adopted country, Canada.

Meyer Grinshpan is a child survivor from Poland and a retired math teacher. Inspired by Israeli volunteers who helped him as a child, Meyer joined the Sherut La'am (Service to the Nation) before the Six Day War, and volunteered teaching Israeli students for three years.

MARCH 18 - SEPTEMBER 17, 2014

GET WELL

Robbie Bass, Speedy recovery. Karen & Jack Micner & Family

Becky Fayerman, Speedy recovery. Morley & Fay Shafron

Corinne Gelfer, Get well. Ida & Odie Kaplan

Maria King, Speedy recovery. Rob Haber & Sam

Gerry Morris, Thinking of you. Morley & Fay Shafron

Ed Oser, Speedy recovery. Robbie & Gloria Waisman

Brian Schreiber, Refuah Shelema. The Micner Family

Sam & Tracy Shamash, Thinking of you. Rome & Hymie Fox

Esther Weinstein, Speedy recovery. Sheila Gendis & Jocy Lowy

David Youngson, Speedy recovery. Karen & Jack Micner & Family

Claire Klein Osipov, Get well. Jack & Karen Micner

MAZEL TOV

Rose Folk, Happy Birthday Auntie Rose. Debby & Mark Choit

Syd Cyngiser, On your 90th Birthday. Shirley & Aubrey Hyman

Rita Akselrod, On your '8 over 80' Award. Robbie & Gloria Waisman, Rome & Hymie Fox, Denise Rachelle Pinto Cohen, Lillian Boraks Nemetz, David & Grace Ehrlich

Robbie Waisman, in celebration of your Caring Canadian Award. Howard, Gail & Samantha Feldman, Marilyn & Derek Glazer, Ethel Kofsky

Serge Haber, On your '8 over 80' Award. Lillian Boraks Nemetz

Babs Cohen, On your 90th Birthday. Marilyn & Derek Glazer

Evelyn Kahn, On your Birthday.

Rita Akselrod

Chaim Kornfeld, On your '8 over 80' Award. Lillian Boraks Nemetz

Jocy Lowy, On your 85th Birthday. Sheila Gendis

Anita Shafran, Happy 60th Birthday, Mom. Jess Shafran

Raquel & Rafi Hirsch, On the birth of your first grandchild. Karen & Jack Micner

Hymie & Rome Fox, On your daughter Aylee's engagement to Sol. Sandy Shuler, Doug, Josh, Brent & Ross

Danya & David, Hymie & Rome Fox, Mazel tov on Danya & David's engagement. Sandy Shuler, Doug, Josh, Brent & Ross

Hymie & Rome Fox, Celebrating both engagements. Ida & Odie Kaplan, Bev Spring & Alan Morinis

Susie Micner & Family, On your granddaughter's graduation.
David Feldman

Rabbi J. Infeld, On becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Susan & Joe Stein & Family

Steven Altbaum, Happy 65th Birthday. Marilyn & Arthur Weinstein

Vera Bakonyi, Happy Birthday. The Wollner Family

Klara Noik, Happy Birthday. Andrew & Betty Karsai

Amalia Boe-Fishman, On your special Birthday. Ronald & Roni Wosk

Leon & Beth Bogner, On your anniversary. Morley & Fay Shafron

Martin Davis, On your special Birthday. Les & Karen Cohen & Family

Lucien Lieberman, On your special Birthday. The Perzow Family

Mariette Doduck, Happy Birthday. Ellen & Barrie Yackness Danny Wollner, Happy Birthday. Vera Bakonyi & Family

Alan Farber, On your special Birthday. Les & Karen Cohen & Family

Luis Guincher, Happy special Birthday. David Feldman

Marvin & Rita Weintraub, On your '8 over 80' Award. Lillian Boraks Nemetz

David Frankel, Happy 40th Birthday. Judy & Neil Kornfeld

Alex Zbar, Happy Birthday. Gail Whitley & Gerry Goldstein

Monty Freeman, Congratulations. Rose Slutsky

Phillipa Friedland, On your special Birthday. Rome & Hymie Fox

Rebecca Rose Laskin, On your Bat Mitzvah. Shoshana & Moshe Fidelman

Lois Gumprich, Happy 75th Birthday. Robbie & Gloria Waisman

Selma Kallner, Happy Birthday. Ivan & Merle LInde

Gloria Hendin, On your special Birthday. Anita, David, Amy & Natalie Wilson

Ida Kaplan, Best wishes. Ruth Wolochow

Charles Krieger, Happy Birthday. Judy & Neil Kornfeld

Israel Moscovitch, On your 90th Birthday. Anita Shafran

Mel Krajden, Happy special Birthday. Aron & Neri Tischler

Ivan Linde , On your Birthday. David, Shari, Jonathan & Daniella Linde

Michael Moscovitch, Happy Birthday. Judy & Neil Kornfeld

Phil Pomerance, On your 90th Birthday. Robbie & Gloria Waisman

David Schaffer, In honour of your VHEC volunteer recognition. Ayal Schaffer & Shauna Brail & Family

Stan Taviss, Happy Birthday. Emil & Elaine Campbell Gloria Waisman, On your special Birthday. Elaine & Harry Friedman

Seth Pollack, Mazel tov. Shoshana & Moshe Fidelman

Nina Krieger& Chris Kowal, On your marriage. Birgit Westergaard & Norman Gladstone, Ivan & Merle Linde

SYMPATHY

Zoe Gropper, In memory of your sister, Myrna. Norman Gladstone & Birgit Westergaard

Sari Zack, Abby & Family, In memory of Dani. Frieda Miller & Danny Shapiro, Rome & Hymie Fox, Aylee, Danya & Aiden, Phillipa, Aaron & Eli Friedland, Odie Kaplan, Judy, Neil, Dory & Megan Kornfeld

Rita & Marvin Weintraub, Condolences on your loss. Lillian Boraks Nemetz

Jana Abramson & Family, In memory of your mother, Maria Lipa. Ted & Shirley Cohn. Tom Szekely & Janice Masur, Dan Sonnenschein, Linda Quennec, Carol Bourne, Philip & Iris Dayson, Jan Sherman, Elizabeth Black, Shirley & Ted

Michael, Jack & Irwin Altman, In memory of your mother, Bessy Altman. George, Frieda & Annette Wertman

Eve Blank & family, In memory of your husband & father, Stanley Blank. Ethel Kofsky

Jackie Capelluto & Family, In memory of Ketty. Rosa Ferera, Lisette & Nora

Naomi Cassirer & Family, In memory of your mother, Marion Cassirer. Jody & Harvey Dales

Jane Cherry & Family, On your loss. Lise Kirchner & Brent, Zachary & Eli Mullin

Nechamia Cohen, In memory of your Father. Eva Szende

Sharon Cooper & Family,

In memory of your father & grandfather, Allan Cooper. Phil & Sherry Levinson

Adam & Alexis Dean, On the loss of your Father. Les & Karen Cohen & Family

Grace & David Ehrlich, On the loss of Grace's brother, Jack. David Feldman, Florence & Harold Morris

Dubson Family, A book has been donated to the VHEC library in memory of Dorothy Dubson. Stuart Michelson

Rabbi Avraham Feigelstock, On the loss of your Brother. Anita Shafran & Family

Craig Finlayson, On the loss of your brother, Clyde. Les & Karen Cohen & Family

Lionel Fishman, On the loss of your Brother. Les & Karen Cohen & Family

Charles Flader, On the loss of Glenês. The Micner Family

Family of Francis Cohen, On your loss. The Lowy Family

Miriam Friedberg, On the loss of Marion. Ronnie & Barry Tessler

Chris Friedrichs & Family, On the loss of your wife, mother & grandmother Rhoda Friedrichs. The Micner Family, Rome & Hymie Fox & Aylee, Rita Akselrod, Vivian & Ben Herman, Dodie Katzenstein & Martin Puterman, Sarah Richman & Family, Irving & Sharon Kates, Robert & Marilyn Krell & Family, Dan Sonnenschein, Carole & Lucien Lieberman, Cynthia & George Bluman, Arthur Dodek

Julie Gutovich, In memory of Henry Gutovich. Susan Berger

Sarah Jarvis, On the loss of your son, Peter. The Micner Family

Rosenhek & Kaplan Families, In memory of Al Rosenhek. Arthur & Judy Dodek, Morley & Fay Shafron

Peter Karasz, In memory of your wife. Lionel & Lyn Eliovson

Tom & Dov Kavadias, In memory of your Wife & Mother. Sarah Richman & Family

Joe Khalifa, In memory of your Father. The Micner Family

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Kirschener, In memory of Sally Kirschener & Nancy's Father. Ellen & Barrie Yackness

Monique & Michael Kliman & Family, On the loss of your mother, grandmother, greatgrandmother, Edith Mayer. Mark & Debby Choit & Family

Hani Kolb, On your loss. Shoshana & Moshe Fidelman Wendy Lightbody, On your loss. Lillian Boraks Nemetz

Arthur Lyons, On the loss of your father, Marvin Lyons. Fay & Morley Shafron

Tanya Marciano, On the loss of your Father. Anita Shafran & Family

Alan Margulius, On the loss of your Brother. Les & Karen Cohen & Family

Jack Micner & Family, On the loss of your father & grandfather, Chaim Micner. Hymie & Rome Fox & Family

Frieda Miller, In memory of your mother, Goldie Miller. Karen & Steve Kline & Family

Florence Morris, On the loss of your husband, Harold Morris. Ida Kaplan, Rome & Hymie Fox

Elaine Nixon, On the loss of your Mother. Susan & Joe Stein

Breena Prater, On the loss of your mother Anna Weishaus. Sarah Richman

Sheila Reicher. In memory of Bernie. Tamar & Gary Lowy

Tammy Rosenblatt, Our condolences. Florence & Harold Morris

Catherine Ryan, Our deepest sympathy. Judy & Neil Kornfeld & Pamela Tito & Stella Saltzmann, In memory of Ketty. Rosa Ferera, Nora & Lisette

Shelley Seidelman & Family, In memory of your mother & grandmother, Rachel Wosk. Rita Akselrod.

Marcie Simons & Family, On the loss of your father & grandfather. Les & Karen Cohen & Family

Michelle & Martin Sugar, On the loss of your Father. Les & Karen Cohen & Family

Gloria & Robbie Waisman & Family, On the loss of your brother & uncle Marvin Lyons. Hymie & Rome Fox, Evelyn & Herb Loomer

Birgit Westergaard, On the loss of your Mother. Odie Kaplan

Roni Wosk, Thinking of you. Amalia Boe Fishman & Family

Carla Zivot & Family, On the loss of your father & grandfather, Alan Cooper. Sherry & Phil Levinson

THANK YOU

Hodie Kahn, With gratitude. Wendy Oberlander

Paul Karasz, For your help & Happy New Year. Art Toft

Eddie Rozenberg, For all your help. Jannushka Jakoubovitch

THANK YOU TO OUR OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

OUTREACH SPEAKERS

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

DOCENTS

Rachel Berko Gabay, Julia Bernhardt, Rajiv Cowasjee, Reva Dexter, Myriam Dinim, Karen Dhaliwal, Sylvie Epstein, Karol Epstein, Phillipa Friedland, Belinda Gutman, Helen Heacock Rivers, Esther Heng, Dodie Katzenstein, Dina Kaufman, Sarah Kharikian, Lise Kirchner, Uma Kumar, Lucien Lieberman, Ivan Linde, Natalee Mangat, Ellen Millman, Herb Mills, Cathy Paperny, Katie Renaud, Meredith Shaw, Gita Silver, Rina Vizer, Anita Willson

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Richie Elias, Amalia Boe-Fishman, Debby Freiman, Shayna Goldberg, Hodie Kahn, Max Kelly, Lise Kirchner, Kit Krieger, Ella Levitt, Lucien Lieberman, Gerri London, Janos Mate, Anita Shafran, Al Szajman, Stan Taviss, Kevin Veltheer, Gloria Waisman

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

Our apologies for any errors or omissions



UPCOMING EVENTS

EXHIBIT OPENING RECEPTION

Carl Lutz and the Legendary Glass House in Budapest

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22 • 6-8 PM OPEN SUNDAY: NOVEMBER 16 • 12-4 PM, GUIDED TOUR AT 2 PM

VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE 50-950 WEST 41ST AVENUE

EVERYONE WELCOME

Carl Lutz and the Legendary Glass House in Budapest travelling exhibit produced by the Carl Lutz Foundation in Budapest. Presented in partnership with the Consulate General of Switzerland.

KRISTALLNACHT

Mothers and Daughters in the Holocaust

Dr. Sara Horowitz, York University

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9 • 7 PM

BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE 4350 OAK STREET

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS ARE INVITED TO LIGHT A MEMORIAL CANDLE

Presented in partnership with Congregation Beth Israel, with support from the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver.

SCREENING & PANEL DISCUSSION

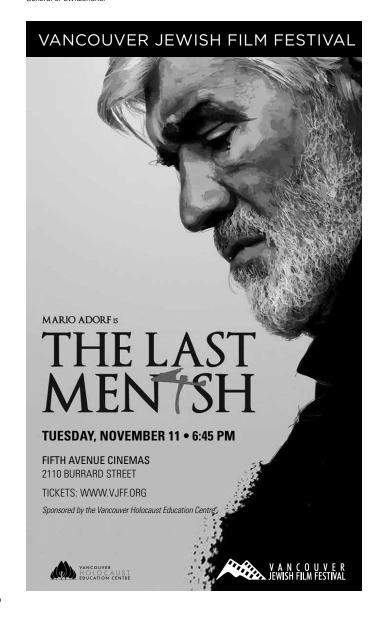
Killing Kasztner

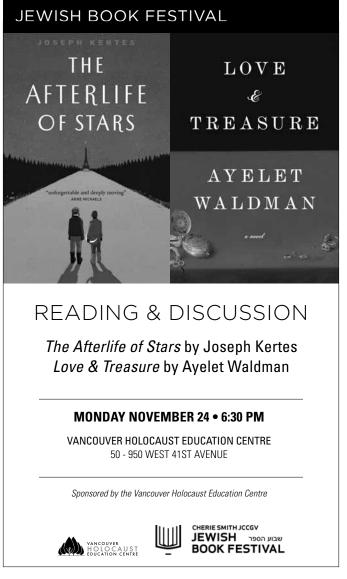
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30 • 2-5 PM

WOSK AUDITORIUM, JCCGV 950 WEST 41ST AVENUE

DETAILS FORTHCOMING

Presented in partnership with the Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver and the Vancouver Jewish Film Festival.





Everything we do at the VHEC is made possible by YOU, our generous supporters.

AS WE APPROACH THE END OF 2014 WE WANTED TO HIGHLIGHT SOME OF WHAT THE VHEC ACCOMPLISHED — WITH YOUR HELP —THIS PAST YEAR.



More than 7,300 students and public visitors viewed the *Anne Frank – A History for Today* exhibit at the VHEC.



More than 1,400 people attended VHEC commemorative programs fostering reflection, education and dialogue.



More than 9,000 students heard a Holocaust survivor Outreach Speaker at VHEC Symposia and school programs.

The 2015 VHEC Membership campaign will begin in November. Watch for it in your mailbox.

DONATE AND RECEIVE A TAX RECEIPT BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2014.



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

