

# child survivors of the holocaust **CONNECTIONS**

VOLUME 4 NO. 2

JUNE 2016

## Melbourne Child Survivors Website



Dear Child Survivors

Welcome to the June edition of Connections!

The CSH Forum *'Children Remembering Hurt'* was once again a great success. To all who attended, we thank you for your support. For those who were unable to attend

there is a DVD recording which can be ordered by calling Phillip Maisel at the Jewish Holocaust Centre, 9528 1985. The Child survivor web site is progressing and we will keep you informed.

### Child Survivor Anthology and Register

We are delighted to announce the CSH have received a substantial donation to create a CSH anthology of stories (approximately eighty). We are hopeful child survivors, including those who have not written their Holocaust story, will take advantage of the writing team provided by the Jewish Holocaust Centre Library, to finally have their stories

recorded and published. We will let you know in good time when this important project is about to commence.

The Child Survivors of the Holocaust Melbourne Group is going from strength to strength.

The need to ensure the history of child survivors and the memory of those past and present is honored is one of our most important duties, through our CSH website and now a special anthology we are well on the way to keeping our commitment

To any child survivors or their family members who are unwell at this time we send you our sincere wishes for a speedy recovery.

Leave me a message or let me know your thoughts by contacting me by email: [viv.parry@bigpond.com](mailto:viv.parry@bigpond.com)

Mail: Viv Parry

CSH, C/- Jewish Holocaust Centre

13-15 Selwyn Street, Elsternwick VIC 3185

Viv Parry, Chairperson, CSH

## Child Survivors Compensation Claim Update

We are constantly checking with Jewish Care on the progress of our child survivors' applications for compensation. Our latest advice is the applications are taking from 18 months to 2 years to process. We have heard from child survivors who have made an application that their claim has been approved and the money has been placed in their bank account.

If you feel enough time has passed since you have applied and you would like to know how your application

is progressing, please call Jewish Care on 8517 5777 ask for the team looking after child survivor compensation then provide your details for the team member to check with Claims Conference NY on your behalf.

For those child survivors who may not have been eligible for the child survivor compensation one off claim, there is another opportunity: The Hardship Fund, that you might be eligible for, please phone Jewish Care to make inquiries.

## Child Survivor World Conference Los Angeles 2016

World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust & Descendants invite child survivors and their families to attend the 28th annual conference to be held in the Woodland Hills Neighborhood, Los Angeles, California at the Warner Centre Marriott Hotel, November 4-7, 2016.

For Registration forms and all details visit WFJCSH&D at <http://www.holocaustchild.org/index.php/category/news/upcoming-conferences/> or phone Susan Dubin, USA 1.818.606.0793.

## Assistance for the Homeless/Youth in Crisis

The child survivors who know me well are aware I also support the Homeless Drop In Centre on the corner of Chapel Street and Carlisle Street, St Kilda. The Centre will be closing for 6 months from July 1st for much needed renovations. The homeless community who usually attend for hot meals and shelter will be literally out in the cold 24/7 this year.

If any child survivor has a warm coat/jumper or jacket to spare (men's or ladies in good condition), a spare blanket or warm scarf/hat, the 100+ regulars (including homeless Jewish people) will be most grateful. Please phone viv on: 0419 819 131 to arrange collection.

**Please note: The deadline for donating goods is until the end of June.**

## CSH Forum 'Children Remembering Hurt'



Shraga Lewetan and Dr Paul Valent.



Floris Kalman, Dr Paul Valent and Viv Parry.



Netty Tepe and Ena Lewis-Krant.



Dini Dee with her grandmother, Floris Kalman.



John Chaskiel.



Viv Parry and Richard Rozen OAM.



Viv Parry and panelists: Richard Rozen OAM, Floris Kalman and Dr Paul Valent.

*The CSH are grateful to Margarita Riaikenen for her wonderful photography.*



An attentive audience at the CSH Forum 'Children Remembering Hurt'.



## My Story... My Life... Cesia Goldberg



Cesia's parents Cyrlla Lieber and Chaim.

My name is Cesia Amatsztajn and I was born in Lodz 1929.

My mother Cyrlla Lieber and my father Chaim together with my older brother Abraham and sister Hela lived at Number 5 Zydowska Street and I attended a girl's school in my neighbourhood.

Life was good and our apartment on Zydowska Street was large and comfortable with a balcony overlooking the street. I was very content living there. I was never troubled by being small; my girlfriends always watched over me. I was always known for being happy!



Cesia (girl in the middle seated) and family before the war.

My father had a workshop in our large apartment. One of the rooms was used to make soft leather slippers which were very popular.

I was ten years old when the war started and because we lived within the area of the Lodz Ghetto we felt we were safe for a while. All that changed very quickly when the



Cesia Goldberg with her older brother Abraham and sister Hela.

actions (round ups) began.

The terrible scenes of war and violence hit me very hard, I was constantly frightened and I understood everything that was going on and could see how upset my parents were.

My parents learned that an action was about to take place and all the children and older people would be taken away. Our neighbour on Zydowska Street, Mr Szance, was a good friend. He lived in a big house with a tall roof and made sweets for a living.

We heard he had made preparations for his wife and baby to hide in the roof if he learned his family was going to be rounded up. My parents begged him to hide me as well which thankfully he agreed to.

The next day all the streets around us were blocked off. Going from house to house the German's arrived at our neighbour's door, screaming and shouting for the elderly and children to come outside.

The Nazi soldiers entered the house and started firing their guns up at the ceiling where we were hiding above in the roof. The baby cried out and we thought we were going to be discovered and killed. Quickly the child's mother grabbed a piece of cloth and pushed it into the baby's mouth and there was silence again. We were shaking with fear but we were spared.

Our family was finally forced out of our home on May 1, 1940. We moved into a tiny room we shared with another family and the life we had known before was gone forever. We were starving. The rations we received barely kept us alive. The shocking conditions and the devastation around us was a nightmare existence I remember to this day.

At the beginning of August 1944 the liquidation of the Lodz ghetto started and I was transported by train to Birkenau

on the August 21, arriving two days later on the 23. There is so much more to tell of the fate of my family but I would like to conclude by writing about the aftermath.

I met my wonderful husband Abe in Brussels and we were married in 1947. Not wanting to stay in Europe we left Brussels by ship, on the "Sorrento". We arrived in Australia in 1951.

Life in Australia has been kind to us. We were blessed with two wonderful children, our daughter Helen and our son Charlie. We have three beautiful grandchildren: Danial, aged 22; and Helen's twins Daly and Nastassia, aged 28. My husband and I have devoted our lives to maintaining the memory of the Holocaust and those that perished. Abe was one of the founders of the Holocaust Centre and I ran the Wednesday Club at the Kadimah for 30 years. I am still a member.

My final message is; "We hope for a better world with peace and happiness for everyone."



Cesia & Abe Goldberg with their grandchildren: Nastassja, Danial and Daly.

Cesia Goldberg (nee Amatensztajn)

## JHC Calendar of Events

**Sunday 12 June**

***First Day of Shavuot***

**MUSEUM CLOSED**

**Monday 13 June**

***Second Day of Shavuot / Queen's Birthday Holiday***

**MUSEUM CLOSED**

**Thursday 16 June, 11.15am**

**JHC Social Club**

**Najaf Mazari**

***co-author of "The Rugmaker of Mazar-E-Sharif"***

**Enquiries:** 9528 1985 or [admin@jhc.org.au](mailto:admin@jhc.org.au)

**Saturday 18 June, 7.30pm**

**ACMI, Clipped.TV and The Jewish Holocaust Centre**

present the premiere screening of

***"Berlin Calling" (2016) 81 mins USA***

**Tickets:** Full \$17.00. Concession \$13.00,

ACMI Member \$10.00.

**<https://www.acmi.net.au/berlin-calling>**

**Venue:** ACMI, Federation Square,

Flinders Street, Melbourne

**Sunday 26 June, 3.00pm**

**Glen Eira Storytelling Festival**

***In conversation with***

***Magda Szubanski and Leah Kaminsky***

Smorgon Auditorium

**Enquiries:** 9524 3333 or [arts@gleneira.vic.gov.au](mailto:arts@gleneira.vic.gov.au)

**Book online:** <https://www.trybooking.com/Booking/BookingEventSummary.aspx?eid=197161>

**Sunday 3 July, 2.00pm**

**JHC Film Club**

***"As If It Were Yesterday (comme si c'était hier)"***

***(1980) Belgium, 85 mins***

**Enquiries:** 9528 1985 or [admin@jhc.org.au](mailto:admin@jhc.org.au)

**Sunday 3 July, 7.00pm**

**JHC Friends Film Screening**

***"Persona Non Grata (Sugihara Chiune)" (2015)***

**Entry:** \$25.00

**Bookings:** Sue Lewis on 0408 324277 or

Rosi Meltzer 0414 328272

**Please note:** Allocated seating is numbered.

**Enquiries:** 9528 1985 or [admin@jhc.org.au](mailto:admin@jhc.org.au)

## JHC Film Club: *As If It Were Yesterday (comme si c'était hier)* (2015)



**Sunday 3 July, 2.00pm**

***As If It Were Yesterday (comme si c'était hier)***

**Belgium 1980, 85 min, French (English Subtitles),**

**Directed by Myriam Abramowicz & Esther Hoffenberg**

***As If It Were Yesterday*** documents the little-known heroism of the Belgian Resistance who, during the Nazi occupation, hid over 4,000 Jewish children rescuing them from deportation and extermination often at the risk of their own lives. With interviews and anecdotes from those taking part in the resistance effort, a story unfolds with great understatement, complementing the modesty of these individuals who risked everything because they could not let others die.

The film inspired the creation in 1991 of ***The Hidden Child***, a worldwide network of hidden children which for three decades has organized reunions of formally hidden children with the families who hid them in Belgium during WWII.

**Awards:** *Mention Speciale Prix Fémina Belge du Cinéma, Belgium 1980 & Red Ribbon American Film Festival 1981.*

**Guest Speaker: Dr Paul Valent**, Psychiatrist, Traumatologist & Author. Paul co-founded and is past president of the Australasian Society for Traumatic Stress Studies and of the **Child Survivors of the Holocaust** group in Melbourne.

**Time:** 2.00pm

**Venue:** Jewish Holocaust Centre  
13-15 Selwyn St, Elsternwick 3185

**Cost:** \$10.00

**Enquiries:** 9528 1985 or [admin@jhc.org.au](mailto:admin@jhc.org.au)

*The aim of the JHC Film Club is to view and discuss films about the Holocaust, other genocides and human rights issues.  
Monthly film screenings are followed by guest speakers and informal discussion.*

## JHC Friends Film Night: “Persona Non Grata (Sugihara Chiune)” (2015)



**Sunday 3 July, 7.00pm**

The Friends of the Jewish Holocaust Centre will be screening

***Persona Non Grata (Sugihara Chiune)* (2015) 139 minutes**

**Director: Celin Gluck**

**English, Polish, Russian, German, Yiddish, Lithuanian, Hebrew (English Subtitles)**

***Persona Non Grata*** brings to life the riveting story of Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara, known as the Schindler of Japan, and his life leading up to and after his decision to issue over 2,000 visas to Jewish refugees in Kaunas, Lithuania saving the lives of over 6,000 people.

**Entry:** \$25.00

**Bookings:** Sue Lewis on 0408 324277 or Rosi Meltzer 0414 328272

**Please note:** Allocated seating is numbered.

**Enquiries:** 9528 1985 or [admin@jhc.org.au](mailto:admin@jhc.org.au)



## JHC Social Club: Najaf Mazari



**Thursday 16 June, 11.15am**

**Najaf Mazari**

well known co-author

of *"The Rugmaker of Mazar-E –Sharif"*,

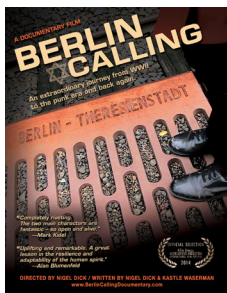
*"The Honey Thief"*, and *Afghanistan to Australia, an Extraordinary Journey*".

Najaf Mazari is the well-known and respected co-author of "The Rugmaker of Mazar-E –Sharif" and "The Honey Thief".

Najaf arrived in Australia as a refugee from Afghanistan and relates his journey from shepherd boy, to forced exile, to Australian detention centre, and finally to freedom.

He was nominated for the Australian of the Year award in 2014. He owns a successful rug shop in High Street, Prahran. A movie about him is soon to be released.

## Premiere Screening: "Berlin Calling" (2016) + Q&A with filmmaker



**Saturday 18 June, 7.30pm**

**ACMI, Clipped.TV and The Jewish Holocaust Centre**

presents

an Australian Premiere screening of

**'Berlin Calling' (2015) 81 mins USA**

*Berlin Calling* is the first film about the Holocaust seen through the eyes of a Clash fan. A punk-chick from Los Angeles traces her father's roots back to pre-war Berlin and confronts her family's dark past. During this voyage she discovers not only how she and her whole family were affected by Hitler's Final Solution - but also that her family is larger than anyone dared imagine.

This screening of this documentary will be followed by an exclusive Q&A featuring filmmaker Nigel Dick.

Book online: <https://www.acmi.net.au/berlin-calling>

## Glen Eira Storytelling Festival: Bearing Witness Across the Generations



**Sunday 26 June, 3.00pm**

**In Conversation with Magda Szubanski and Leah Kaminsky**

Award-winning author and historian Clare Wright joins Magda Szubanski and Leah Kaminsky to discuss the various and profound tragedies of war and the resulting intergenerational trauma it can engender.

Szubanski's memoir, *Reckoning*, unpacks her father's time as an assassin in Poland during World War II while Kaminsky's novel, *The Waiting Room*, follows a woman who is haunted by her mother's memories of the Holocaust. Together these stories frame the background for this compelling event.

Limited places available. Bookings essential.

Book online: <https://www.trybooking.com/Booking/BookingEventSummary.aspx?eid=197161>