

child survivors of the holocaust

CONNECTIONS

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Dear Child Survivors of the Holocaust, Welcome to the December edition of our *Connections* Newsletter. We have all travelled the long road back to a reasonably covid safe existence and not without some personal sacrifice. Families have been separated and for

some of us the new technology of zoom type meet-ups has not been the remedy for feelings of loneliness and isolation. I have particularly missed my brother, my last surviving family member who lives in Queensland. I have not been able to visit him since March this year. The CSH stories of separation and courage inspired me to accept our covid situation; unlike Child Survivors of the Holocaust I felt with reasonable confidence my brother and I would be reunited. We agree we both have much to be grateful for.

New addition to our CSH family!

Amongst important information in this edition you will find news about a new addition to our CSH family. Please

welcome Lena Fiszman our new Vice President. Lena has tirelessly prepared our *Connections* newsletters over the past thirteen years and supported me throughout my time as CSH President. Recently retired from her important administration role at the Jewish Holocaust Centre and now with more time on her hands, Lena accepted my invitation to be the CSH, Vice President. Many of you already know Lena and her Holocaust survivor family but it is time for Lena to share her story with us; we look forward to many rewarding and happy years with Lena by our side.

To all our CSH members and families, we wish you a wonderful Chanukah; let's hope we can get together for a wonderful reunion in 2021. Warmest regards, Viv Parry (President) Lena Fiszman (Vice President) Mary Slade (Committee).



Viv Parry, Lena Fiszman & Mary Slade

Child Survivors of the Holocaust new Website

It is with great pleasure that I can inform you that the Jewish Holocaust Centre has been working together with Viv Parry and Lena Fiszman on updating the look and feel of the Child Survivor section on the JHC website.

We will be creating a new heading on our homepage called 'Community' which is where these pages will live and will hold sections including 'Reflections' which will hold pages dedicated to the Tableau Quilt, Time capsule, Tributes portrait exhibition and Kindertransport.

There will also be a dedicated section called 'In Memoriam' where we pay our respects to Child Survivor members who have passed away. The 'Memoirs' section will allow you to locate the growing collection of books written by you with direct links to where these books can be purchased as well as a more in-depth section written by Paul Valent with links to all his work on support to the

Child Survivor community.

There will also be the updated section compete with all the archive of *Connections* Newsletters and a simple sign up form for anyone who wishes to subscribe to this newsletter.

It has been a honour to work on this important area, giving a voice and sharing the valuable efforts of our Child Survivor community from over the years since its inception.

We really hope you enjoy this new design and that the Child Survivors of the Holocaust, Melbourne Group will invite their families and friends to discover the rich history of the group.

Robbie Simons
JHC Audio Video Producer

Lena Fizman: *My life - my story*



Lena and her sister, Anna, with their late parents, Moshe and Franka Fizman in the late 1950s.

My name is Lena Fizman and I am a child of two Holocaust survivors, Moshe Fizman OAM and Franka (Gottlieb) Fizman, who survived the death camps and came to this country as displaced persons in 1949. Both my parents were born in Poland. My father from Radom and my mother from Krakow. From an early age, I and my older sister, were aware that

our large extended family had been murdered during the Shoah. There was always a pervasive feeling of dread and fear as we were growing up which affected our adult lives.

I grew up and went to school in Windsor till the age of 9 and then as my parents were able to afford it, our family moved to Caulfield and I attended Caulfield State School. All my parents' friends were survivors and without grandparents and aunts and uncles – became my extended family.

I have led a varied working life as an actor and also in a variety of administrative positions. I was a founding member of the highly successful comedy cabaret group "The Hot Bagels" during the 1980s. I have also been a member of a theatre troupe "Los Trios Amigos" with Dr Jack Felman and Allen Brostek. Together we have produced and performed in five successful original comedy theatre shows: "The Lighter Side of Growing Up as a Second Generation", "Don't Teach Me I'm Perfect!", "Born Guilty, A Scary Guide to Jewish

Parenting", "You're Driving Me Crazy" and "OMG - Oy Mame Gevalt!" Over the years I have also been heavily involved in the 2nd generation group "Descendants of the Shoah" and more recently in "The Australian Society of Polish Jews and their Descendants (ASPJ)".

For the last 15 years I worked as the Office Manager for the Jewish Holocaust

Centre and only retired at the end 2019. During my time at the Jewish Holocaust Centre I worked with Henri Korn and more recently with Viv Parry on producing the Child Survivors' newsletter *Connections*.

In 2007 my father became a guide at the Jewish Holocaust Centre. He came into his own. His extensive knowledge of the Holocaust – not just of his own personal experience but of World War II, gave him a unique opportunity to share his story with both children and adults of all cultures. He was my inspiration in so many ways – a man of honour, truth and conviction. My mother was the rock that held our family together till her health declined.

My father passed away in May 2019 at the age of 97 and my mother in March 2020 at the age of 99.

It is my honour to be asked to continue working for the Child Survivor group in any way I can.



Lena with her late parents, Moshe and Franka Fizman, with their 'Memory Reconstruction' Project collages at the Jewish Holocaust Centre.

Lena Fizman
CSH Vice President

Latest Holocaust Survivor Compensation Advice from JewishCare

The Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany (Claims Conference), has announced the results of the organization's most recent negotiations with the German Government on behalf of Holocaust survivors. The most recent negotiations resulted in two supplemental payments, each of €1,200 (approximately A\$1,950), for Jewish Nazi victims eligible for the Hardship fund. The payments will be made in each of the next two years for a total of €2,400 (A\$3,900) and the payments will become effective as of October 1, 2020.

This is mainly applicable to Kindertransport survivors, Polish-Russian escapees and other flight cases.

The following are FAQ in relation to the supplementary Hardship Fund payments:

- Q. Who is eligible for this payment?
- A. Hardship Fund one-off compensation payment recipients (e.g. Russian speaking flight cases, Kindertransport survivors, Polish-Russian escapees,

individuals persecuted in Morocco and Algeria).

- Q. I receive an ongoing payment from Germany, am I eligible?
- A. No. Recipients of pension such as Article 2 Fund do not qualify for the Supplemental Payments.
- Q. Do I have to file a claims form to receive this payment?
- A. Yes, you must submit a short application form to be eligible for this payment. In the next few weeks, the Claims Conference is mailing personalized pre-populated application forms to potentially eligible survivors. If you did not receive your personalized form by the end of November, please let contact the Claims Conference directly by sending a letter requesting an application to: Claims Conference PO Box 1215 New York, NY 10113
- Q. How do I send an application back?
- A. Applications can be posted to Claims Conference PO Box 1215 New York, NY 10113. Alternatively, you can send it via email by attaching scanned application form. Do not send photos or inserting application in the text of the email.
- Q. Does my application need to be certified?
- A. Your application will explicitly state if it needs to be certified, or if we require various additional documents (such as a photocopy of your photo ID and birth certificate).
- Q. How much will the Fund pay?
- A. The fund will pay eligible claimants two supplemental payments, each in the amount of €1,200 for a total of €2,400. The first payment will be in December 2020 or 2021, followed by the second payment in 2022.

- Q. What if I received a one-time payment from the BEG? Can I still receive this supplemental payment?
- A. As long as you do not receive any pension payments related to persecution during the Holocaust, you may be eligible for a Supplemental Hardship Payment
- Q. If I am a child or spouse of a Hardship Fund recipient, can I receive this supplemental payment?
- A. Unfortunately, the Hardship Fund recipient must be alive at the time of the Supplemental HF application submission.
- Q. Is there a deadline for applying?
- A. The deadline to apply is December 31, 2022.
- Q. How will the payment be made?
- A. Payment will be made directly into nominated bank account, details to be provided via application form.

Hope this helps. Obviously if in doubt, or if client requires additional assistance with making an application, I'm here to assist.

Here's the link to the article too.

<https://www.jwire.com.au/german-government-releases-further-payments-to-eligible-holocaust-survivors/>

Warm Regards,

Lana Khasin

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World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust & Descendants (New York)

As many (if not all) of you know, we have had to cancel our 2020 World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust & Descendants' conference.

We hope to be able to hold it in St. Louis, as previously scheduled, for November 5th-8th, 2021, at the Marriott Grand Hotel in St Louis.

"Wishing all of you the best these difficult times can offer - your health, ability to keep in touch with family and friends, a resolution of the health crisis. With caring".

Stefanie
World President WFJCHSD, New York

Poem: "What To Wear" by Stan Marks OAM

Broken, worn out shoes for the DEFEATED.

Holes in stockings for the uncertain HOLY days.

Bright BLUE slacks for the sky.

Or BROWN slacks for the storms and struggles.

Blouse without BUTTONS for the uncertainty and REFUGEES.

One sleeve JUMPER for a divided world.

OPEN hat for the climate uncertainty. Or HALF a raincoat.

MULTICOLOURED hair for the world's different peoples.

GLOVES for people, and views, whom to shake hands.

Special lens GLASSES to see an optimistic world ahead.

TALLIS dare one suggest, to remember Adam, Eve (even Eva) and that snake in the grass for the survival of Jewry and ponderings about religions.

AND ???????

