

# child survivors of the holocaust

# CONNECTIONS

VOLUME 1 NO.2

OCTOBER 2013

## Introduction



Greetings to all Child Survivors and a warm welcome to this edition of **CONNECTIONS**.

These past months have been exciting and challenging as we aim to build a new framework to provide support and care for Child Survivors in our

community.

Lena Fiszman, in charge of graphics, layout and surviving endless planning sessions with me, is to be congratulated for her talent and tireless effort producing **CONNECTIONS**. While the articles we provide are meaningful in many ways, the Child Survivor experience is best expressed through the stories we hear from our many members.

**My Life... My Story** is our opportunity to learn and share your personal journey and to make your voice heard. Importantly your story will educate future generations and continue to honour those whose lives were so tragically

taken.

We welcome your stories and photographs.

Please send to:

Viv Parry

Child Survivors of the Holocaust

Jewish Holocaust Centre

13-15 Selwyn Street

ELSTERNWICK VIC 3185

Tel: 03 9528 1985

or

Email: [childsurvivors@jhc.org.au](mailto:childsurvivors@jhc.org.au)

To any Child Survivors facing health issues and other difficulties, we send you our caring thoughts for better times, swiftly and soon.

Kindest regards,

**Viv Parry**

**Chairperson, CSH Melbourne**

## I Married a Holocaust Survivor

What has it meant to me to have wed a Child Survivor of the Holocaust?

Eva didn't talk much, if at all, about having had to leave Vienna (aged six) in the wake of the Nazis and spending ages 9-15 in horrendous Soviet gulags and also that dozens of members of her family, including a highly prominent Austrian MP, being gassed in Auschwitz.

It was when Eva was 20, and we were in Canada, where I was on British Commonwealth Press Union Exchange to the daily *Montreal Star*, that Eva began to speak about her experiences, especially when she started making zany animals, which caught the attention of Canadians and Londoners. When asked where she learnt to create such engaging creatures, she replied with a stick in the dirt of a Siberian gulag, in between working from dawn to dusk. Journals began publishing her story and she talked more to me about her experiences and the beginnings of a life-long "campaign" to make the gulags and Holocaust known.

And foster understanding and combat racism, hatred and prejudice. Something she continues to this day, writing a book (*A Patchwork Life*) about the gulags and life in Vienna and Australia and speaking to more than 10,000 people, many non-Jewish, in the last 10 years.

Although I knew about the Holocaust, the camps and the sufferings, I knew little about the dreaded Russian gulags. I had been active writing even as a teenager for Jewish and non-Jewish journals about camps, Israel and combating racism and fostering understanding.

My knowledge increased when we both became volunteers, active in almost daily affairs, and being editor of the *Centre News*, at the Holocaust Centre. My daily contact with survivors, in Australia and overseas (including such people as Nobel Prize winning author, Elie Wiesel) gave me incredible insights into the Holocaust.

It was following a disastrous dinner at our Melbourne home that I wrote my London-published novel (*God Gave*

*You One Face*) with a Holocaust theme. By accident a former SS man came to dinner, brought by some mutual friends at the last minute. When we discovered (after much wine) what he had been, the dinner party collapsed. When everyone had left, I asked Eva what she would have done if the SS man had been a dreaded gulag guard she had told me about.

"Probably killed him," she replied. "And you could be jailed," I replied.

It was the catalyst for my novel and a subsequent short story "Ghosts On Brighton Beach" published in Australia-New Zealand. The novel told the story of a camp guard meeting the daughter of parents he had shot in a camp. It was optioned for a film and or TV series, but that's another story.

When people, including students, ask me how I could write about the Holocaust or gulags, without being in either, I explain there were various reasons, a key one being Eva telling me much, opening doors to experiences I could never imagine, and being a Holocaust Centre volunteer.

I grew to appreciate more about how Holocaust survivors (of all ages) had survived and, above all, built such



rewarding lives and contributing so much to Australia. And, as with Eva, humour and an ability to laugh had played a role in their lives. To appreciate while I as a school boy was kicking a football around a Melbourne school, millions of people were being kicked and tortured to death and life-long suffering.

**By Stan Marks OAM**

## Past Resurrected



It is not often that people have the opportunity to relive the past and to be transported back to the days of their youth. With this comes the ability to only not see oneself all those years ago but, more significantly, to see what one's views once were, how one's perspectives have shifted or memories

become more or less distinct. It is for this reason that the Testimonies Department at the JHC is now making available to child survivors the recordings of previous Child Survivors group meetings. Some of these recordings date back to the very first meetings and all are now in the process of being transferred from their original VHS tapes onto DVD so that they are easily accessible to all. This is part of a much bigger project in which all of our testimonies and functions are digitised and preserved. This provides a tangible timeline of the group as a whole, charting its inauguration, its development and the continued involvement of its members over time.

Perhaps more importantly though, it also records each individual child survivor's story as recounted in the meetings. These stories have been captured and preserved in the intimate and trust-filled environment in which

they were told. In this, they often provide very different accounts from that of the formal testimony interview for they can delve deeper not only into the events but also into the character of the individual telling their story. The recording of this spontaneous testimony is therefore of unique value not only to the child survivors but also to their family and descendants. I will be only too pleased to make an additional DVD copy for those interested to obtain one. I also continue to conduct interviews with child survivors, interviewing many survivors for a second time subsequent to their first interview years ago. This is part of a recent project called the 'Impact of the Holocaust' in which we are interested in seeing how people's perspectives continue to develop over the years. It also gives us another invaluable opportunity to record our testimonies for generations to come – as a survivor myself, I am forever convinced of the importance of continually speaking for those who were not able to tell the world their story.

These interviews are conducted every week and I am always most grateful to anyone who wishes to offer a testimony, whether it be for the first or second time. This provides an invaluable resource not only for the survivors and their families but also for researchers and students involved in the study of the Holocaust. In particular, it is the opportunity to leave a message behind for future generations - one that imbues each testimony with such

value and importance. This is fulfilled as all survivors at the end of an interview are specifically asked to offer their insights and understanding to future generations and suggest to them what they have learnt through their trials and traumas about the real meaning of life.

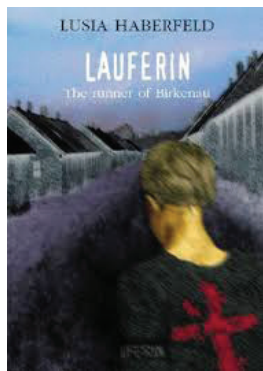
To arrange either a DVD copy of the Child Survivors group

meetings or for an interview, please contact me via email at [Testimonies@jhc.org.au](mailto:Testimonies@jhc.org.au) or by phone on 0401 737 620.

**Phillip Maisel OAM**

**Head of Testimonies Department  
Jewish Holocaust Centre**

## Book Review



**Title:** *Lauferin : the runner of Birkenau*

**Author:** Luscia Habermeld

**Copyright:** 2002

Even the inscription penned by the author sets the agenda (and odometer) for this fast-paced memoir; "(This book is) my gift to the Holocaust Centre, which is doing such a wonderful job of

combating racism."

Luscia's fight began at the impressionable age of eight, when the Germans occupied Poland, forcing her family to flee from Lodz to Warsaw, in a failed bid to escape to Russia.

The memoir is divided into three chapters: Childhood, Childhood's End and The New Life.

It is childhood's end where most of the story lies. While Luscia as narrator occasionally affords herself moments to lament, she mainly leaves it to the protagonist - her

childhood self, to carry the story.

In the Warsaw Ghetto, Luscia retained her humanity and sanity by attending a secret school to continue her learning. There she was taught English and German; both of which would prove vital assets upon reaching Auschwitz-Birkenau. In Birkenau, Luscia is appointed as the camp's laufferin; a messenger girl to the Kapo, Frau Schmidt. Her position affords her better living conditions. Even after Luscia is caught for stealing and distributing clothing, the Kapo's genuine affection for Luscia buys her another chance.

Luscia's narrative is one that encapsulates the resilient, determined child she was, whose wit, inventiveness, nimble feet, moral strength and the goodness of those who risked their lives to preserve her own, allowed Luscia to tell her story today.

"I am just very grateful to be here. I could have been dead at twelve."

**By Julia Reichstein**

**JHC Library – Librarian Information Manager**

## From the Library Shelves



A visitor to the Jewish Holocaust Centre Library is not merely a visitor. Visitors are a breadth of learning in their own right, and contribute just as much to the ongoing development of the library's Holocaust resources and collection. In a recent discussion with child survivor and author Halina Zylberman, I

asked her to elaborate on her lifelong love of literature

**Q:** What do libraries mean to you?

**HALINA:** Libraries are a place of learning and nostalgia. Though today, I no longer go to libraries to find nostalgia. The world became too quick and too overloaded with information

**Q:** Are there still books that bring you that nostalgia you seek?

**HALINA:** Yes. These titles always take me back to the childhood of Poland I loved before the war and before the Holocaust. Books about children's experiences:

- *Autumn in Krakow* by Nathan Gross (Translated by Marcel Weyland)
- *Gullivers' Travels* by Jonathan Swift – particularly the stories focusing on the donkey
- *The Tiger and the Jungle* by Sienkiewicz
- *The World of Yesterday* by Stefan Zweig

**Q:** And what of Halina Zylberman today? What are your current reading interests?

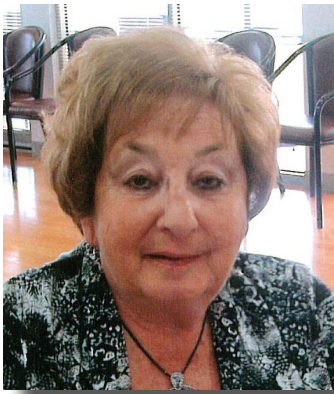
**HALINA:** Books about and by Janusz Korczak.

**By Julia Reichstein**

**JHC Library – Librarian Information Manager**



## My Story... My Life



I was born in Warsaw in March 1934. I was the only child of very loving cultured parents. My father was an accountant and we lived very comfortably.

I had extended family in Vilno and Bialystok. I loved my outings with my father on Sundays. All this changed in September

1939 while on holiday with my mother. War broke out and the German invasion of Poland began.

We returned to Warsaw. I was too young to realise what my parents feared but even they did not believe the Germans planned to exterminate an entire people.

We fled to Bialystok and lived with my aunt, uncle, cousin and grandmother

Hitler had a pact with Stalin and the Russians occupied Bialystok. Seventy five per cent of the population of Bialystok was Jewish. It was a bustling metropolis and Jews were leaders in commerce, professions and the arts. After the war a handful of the Jewish population were left alive

In June 1941 the Germans broke the pact with the Russians and occupied the rest of Poland. In Bialystok on the first Friday two thousand Jews were herded into the Great Synagogue and the building was set alight. It was a taste of things to come. Soon the Germans ordered the Jewish population to move to a ghetto. The ghetto was in a selected area of the city, closed with barbed wire.

Our little family shared an apartment with four other families. There was little food, much disease and soon there were rumours of concentration camps. My uncle was the head of the Jewish hospital and my father worked in the ghetto. On the 16 August 1943 the liquidation of the ghetto began. I was nine years old, and we were ordered to leave immediately with few belongings and assemble in a large compound.

On that day the Bialystok uprising began. Jews did not march like sheep to the slaughter. The Bialystok Uprising was the second after the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. The ghetto fighters were outnumbered and had little to fight with but these beautiful and courageous young people showed unimaginable heroism. Many fighters were killed, but some escaped to the partisans. They were all true heroes.

When assembled at a compound where I was separated from my parents, as were all the children. It was physical

and mental torture.

The population of Bialystok were mostly taken to Treblinka and exterminated.

The children were taken back to the ghetto and housed in an apartment block opposite the Jewish hospital where my aunt and uncle were located. There were about 1,200 children, some of them only babies that we slightly elder ones looked after. Miraculously my aunt was able to rescue me and get me over the road to the hospital. These same children were later transported to Theresienstadt and Auschwitz and then murdered.

I am the only survivor of that group of children.

I spent the rest of the war with my aunt and uncle, who lost their only daughter.

We survived two camps: Blizyn and Warta (Czestochowa). Fortunately both were only labour camps. My aunt put my age up to 12 and I was officially expected to work, and survived.

The camps were places of horror, disease and torture. There were also instances of heroism and humanity. My uncle was a true hero and saved many lives.

Miraculously the Russians came to Czestochowa on the 16 January 1945 and we were freed from the hell that was the camps. But there was little joy in freedom as people realized the extent of the tragedy.

I lost my parents when I was only 9 years old and they never saw me grow up or knew their beautiful grandchildren.

We never returned to Bialystok. Bialystok was a cemetery. My uncle, aunt and I came to Australia in 1946. I was educated and at 21 married a wonderful human being, also a Holocaust survivor. We had two sons and three beautiful grandchildren; we had a most loving relationship. Sadly after 57 years of marriage my dear husband passed away in February, leaving me with the most wonderful memories. We had a traditional Jewish home, supported Israel and knew that the Jews are a resilient people.

Last October our grandson married a beautiful girl and my husband and I danced at their wedding.

So out of the ashes of the Holocaust and despite their tragic past, survivors have rebuilt their lives. They have established dynasties, helped in the communities they live in and were instrumental in the growth and establishment of the State of Israel.

**By Helen Granek**

**Please note:** The Jewish Holocaust Centre is currently screening in the museum a specially created film on the Bialystok Ghetto, which comprises original footage and a number of testimonies from Bialystok survivors.

# Hatzolah



**Hatzolah** is there for the Child survivors of the Holocaust and Melbourne's entire Jewish Community 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. To access our emergency medical services, all you need to do is call our emergency number, **9527 5111**.

## History of Hatzolah

The name Hatzolah is derived from the Hebrew word, lehatsil, meaning to save. The organisation of Hatzolah originated from a First Responder agency formed by Orthodox Jews in New York in 1973 to provide a service to their local community. They were trained in basic first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and were equipped with oxygen.

From its humble beginnings, of a single man with an oxygen tank in Williamsburg NY, Chevra Hatzolah branches have opened around the world. They now operate throughout America, Israel, South Africa, Mexico City, Panama, Belgium, Switzerland, Canada, the United Kingdom and, of course, Australia.

Since its inception in 1995, Chevra Hatzolah Melbourne has responded to a wide range of medical emergencies and is on the scene of an emergency within an average of three minutes of receiving the call.

Hatzolah responders are trained and equipped to deal with any medical emergency and attend cases such as chest pain, bleeding, full arrest, household accidents, asthma and road trauma. Responders continually update their clinical expertise in order to be able to deliver the best in emergency care to all our patients.

Hatzolah responders are trained by Ambulance Victoria and are equipped with oxygen and semi automatic defibrillators. When seconds count, Hatzolah has saved lives. Hatzolah operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year (including Shabbos and Yom Tov). In the event of any medical emergency, call our emergency number **9527 5111**.

## In the event of an emergency:

Upon calling Hatzolah's Emergency Number, 9527 5111, your call will be answered by a professional call takers. You will be asked a series of questions which may include:

- What is your telephone number?
- What is the address of the emergency, and the closest intersection?

- Is the patient conscious, breathing, bleeding, or in pain?

Please answer the questions as they are asked, in a calm manner. The call taker will then dispatch the nearest available Hatzolah Responders to attend the emergency. The call taker/Dispatcher may also contact Ambulance Victoria. If transport to hospital is required, this will be undertaken by Ambulance Victoria.

## Planning ahead for an emergency:

To be best prepared for any medical emergency, Hatzolah recommends having your medical information available in a convenient location (such as on the fridge) for Hatzolah and Ambulance Victoria. This should include:

- medical history
- current medications
- allergies
- GP name and contact details
- any other relevant details, such as family or specialist contact details

Remember to update the information when medications/doses change.

## Personal Alarms

There are many personal alarm systems available on the market, from systems with a daily-call monitoring service, to special telephones that can be programmed to automatically dial numbers following an emergency button press.

By putting Hatzolah as a contact for a personal alarm system, we are able to have a responder out within minutes to you or your loved one.

Contact Hatzolah's office on 8534 0100 for further information on personal alarm systems, or how to list Hatzolah as a contact on your alarm.

## Ambulance Victoria

Hatzolah enjoys a strong relationship with Ambulance Victoria, and we recommend everyone has an Ambulance Victoria membership (a small cost per year) to ensure that if ambulance transport is required, no added financial burden is added. Ambulance Victoria Memberships can be contacted on 1800 64 84 84 or <http://www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/Membership.html>.

## First Aid Training

Hatzolah can arrange accredited First Aid Courses, including CPR, Provide First Aid, Apply First Aid, Defibrillation, and Anaphylaxis. For further information please contact our office on 8534 0100.

# Have your say

We welcome Child Survivor / Holocaust-related articles, comments or questions.

We will publish contributions in future editions of **CONNECTIONS**.

## Holocaust Logo



I have completed thirty six works on Holocaust themes. **HOLOCAUST LOGO** is unique in that it evolved from a splash. When it dried I could see that I could turn it into a Star of David or a map of Europe. I decided to let it remain ambiguous and concentrate on the centre where I placed a fragmented golden Star, a dominant JEW in English (now the international language), a superimposed fragile Swastika and a pencil-thin Cross. The foundations for the work are the maps from *Atlas of the Holocaust* by Martin Gilbert, a wonderful little drawing by Paul Klee made in 1934 titled *Forced Emigration*, as well as "*Christian Anti-Semitism - A History of Hate*" by William Nichols. I was quite satisfied with the painting but found it a little too graphic I finally put in a rip on the right that I felt added that degree of discomfort that turned it away from a purely graphic image. The rip represents the Keriah, the cutting during the funeral service that expresses grief.

**Danial Kogan**

Danial would be pleased to receive any comments regarding his work and can be contacted at [danialkogan@hotmail.com](mailto:danialkogan@hotmail.com).

## Last Jew in Bialystok



On the left (pictured) is Shimon Bartnovski by all accounts the last Jewish person living in Bialystok (Jewish pop. 60,000 prior to WW II) in front of his apartment house at 12 Zabia Street, Apt 6, Bialystok, Poland. Pictured on the right is the exterior of Shimon's apartment house on Zabia Street.

I was made aware of Shimon's existence in Bialystok by Tomasz Wisniewski back in the early spring of 2000. Tomasz spoke to Shimon for me briefly. Shimon told him that his Bartnovski family was from Bialystok, but he remembered hearing before the war that there was a Bartnovski branch in Zabłudow (my family). However, Shimon said that he knew nothing at all about them, nor what specifically the connection might be between the Bartnovski's in Bialystok and those in Zabłudow. After hearing this I soon made an effort to have someone in Poland conduct a more in-depth interview of Shimon. Several people were kind enough to make an effort to accomplish this for me. None of them was successful in contacting Shimon though I had his postal address and his phone number. Soon I received the sad news that

Shimon Bartnovski had died about month earlier.

Shimon has been described as "clearly a vibrant man of inner strength and conviction". My information is that Shimon along with several thousand other Jewish Bialystokers were deported from the Bialystok Ghetto to the Pruzany Ghetto on January 31, 1943. He was later deported from the Pruzany Ghetto to Auschwitz.

Shimon was born 23 February, 1921. His father's name was Yankel Bartnovski, and his mother was Szyrma Menucha. According to his prisoner registration form his occupation was "Tinker".

In recent years Shimon was active doing what he could to preserve local Jewish cemeteries, and other Jewish monuments. He would frequently meet Jews visiting the Bialystok area from overseas, and there are many stories of his helpfulness to 'foreign' Jews searching for their roots in Bialystok. Shimon also took part in official ceremonies such as the August 1992 Bialystok Ghetto Uprising Ceremony, and the 1995 dedication of the Memorial to the Bialystok





Great Synagogue which was burned to the ground by the Nazis in June 1941, with many persons locked inside. [Click here to read about Shimon's activities with "foreign" Jews in 1977.](#)

I have been told that Shimon's father Yankel was a blacksmith, the same occupation as my family in Zabłudow. I will probably never know the exact relationship between Shimon and myself. Perhaps Shimon's grandfather and my great-grandfather were brothers. It appears that my great-grandfather Shmuel may have left Bialystok in the late 19th century for trade or marriage, and established a blacksmith shop in Zabłudow. There are no records of Bartnovski's in Zabłudow other than my great-grandparents and their offspring, and no records of Bartnovski's as having been

located in Zabłudow before my great-grandfather Shmuel. I regret never having had the chance to meet Shimon Bartnovski, survivor of the Bialystok Ghetto, Pruzany Ghetto, and Auschwitz.



**By Tilford Bartman.**

**"Lunch in Symon's apartment"**  
**Photos by Alice Saitzeff Grossman**  
**taken on trip to Poland June, 1996.**

**The Concert**  
 A MUSICAL NARRATIVE OF THE VILNA GHETTO.

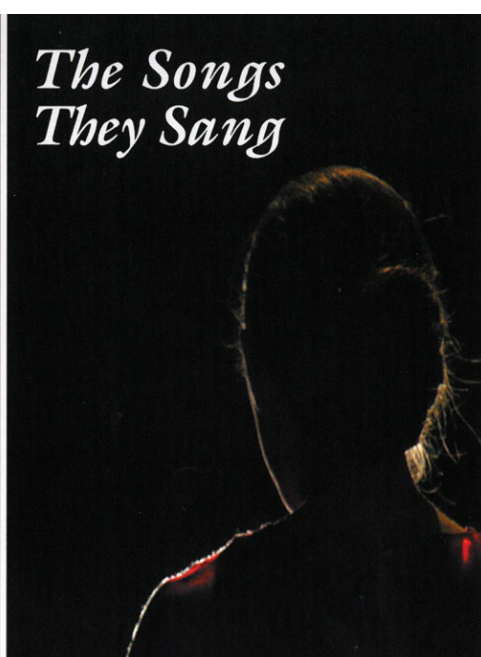
**Sunday 20 October 2013 • 2pm**  
**South Melbourne Town Hall**  
**Bank Street, South Melbourne**

This concert will feature songs from the Vilna Ghetto, Lithuania during the Holocaust, arranged by Australian composer Joseph Giovinazzo.

Deborah Kayser (SOPRANO)  
 Michael Kieran Harvey (PIANO)  
 Alistar Barker (CELLO)  
 Elizabeth Sellars (VIOLIN)

*The Songs They Sang* CD will be launched by Moshe Lang, renowned family psychotherapist.

**Tickets: \$25/\$20 (concession)**  
**Visit: [www.trybooking.com/62879](http://www.trybooking.com/62879)**  
**Enquiries: 0405 164 298**



**The Film**  
 94 MINS, DOCUMENTARY, AUSTRALIA

*The Songs They Sang* tells the story of solace and reflection through music, under the hardship of the Vilna Ghetto, Lithuania during the Holocaust. It explores the resilience of the Jewish people who created art in the face of the most horrific persecutions.

**LIMITED SEASON.**  
 For details contact:

**Classic Cinemas**  
 9 Gordon Street, Elsternwick  
 Box Office: 9524 7900

**Visit: [www.thesongstheysang.com](http://www.thesongstheysang.com)**  
**Enquiries: 0405 164 298**

## The Transport of 1,200 Children from the Bialystok Ghetto to the Theresienstadt Camp

Over the years, various reports of the following story have come to light, all stating that at the end of August 1943 (on the 21st or 22nd), at the time of the annihilation of the Bialystok ghetto and the uprising there, the Gestapo suddenly demanded from the chairman of the Judenrat, Barash, that 1,200 children ages 6-12 be gathered in order to transfer them, so they said, in an exchange deal to Palestine. Four hundred children were removed from two ghetto orphanages and the rest were taken from their parents, who hoped thereby to save their children from death. The Judenrat also arranged for 20 nurses and doctors, headed by Mrs. Haddassa-Helena Levkovitz, Barash's secretary, to accompany the children. It should be noted that in the Bialystok ghetto, already on 26 October,

1942, a woman named Mrs. Yente Leizeron with her two children received permission to leave for Palestine in an exchange deal, and that they did, indeed, reach their destination.

The transport of 1,200 children and 20 adults, escorted by 8-10 SS men, traveled for three days by train - in passenger carriages - and arrived on the 24 or 25 August at the Theresienstadt camp. Upon their arrival, the 20 adults, as well as three other women with their children, Palestinian citizens, were separated from the children and sent on to Auschwitz where they were immediately gassed.

At Theresienstadt the children from the Bialystok Ghetto were placed in a special camp called Crete, which had been built outside the citadel. Fifty-three doctors and nurses,



inmates of the camp, were assigned to the children, including Dr. Blumenthal, Dr. Kowitsch, Dr. Margulis, Dr. Reich and Dr. Weiss. The children's camp was completely separated from the other prisoners, and all contact with them was forbidden. The entire arrangement was shrouded

in mystery. Despite this, rumors circulated that the children, who had arrived starved and exhausted, resisted undergoing disinfection out of fear of being gassed in the showers.

The inmates of Theresienstadt could not understand this fear, but in the Bialystok Ghetto the children had already heard of the shower-like gas chambers in which the Germans killed Jews. Rumors of these began appearing in the Bialystok Ghetto at the beginning of 1943, spread by escapees from Treblinka. The testimony of one of them, Abraham Broide, was spread in the ghetto by Mordechai Tenenbaum and can be found in his Underground Archives. The children were carefully examined by doctors, and those who were found to have infectious diseases were separated from the rest, taken to the small fortress and murdered. The remaining children received excellent care, special food and good clothing. The children's health soon improved and they learnt once again how to smile and be happy. The prevailing rumor at the time was that they were to be sent to Palestine or Switzerland on the basis of some sort of exchange agreement. The doctors and nurses who were assigned to them were obliged to sign a secrecy pact in everything related to the conditions at Theresienstadt, and all signs indicated that the Germans did indeed intend to send the children abroad.

However, one night, on 5 October, 1943, six weeks after they had been brought to Theresienstadt, the children and their accompanying adults disappeared, as mysteriously as they had arrived. The only thing which remained is a list of the 1,196 children and 53 accompanying adults, listed as a

special transport, number Dn/a, to Auschwitz.

Only after the war did it become known that the children were brought to Auschwitz and sent straight to the gas chambers. Was their fate connected to the exchange plan? And if so, what were the reasons for the plan's failure?

Answers to these questions may be found in documents from the German Foreign Ministry, presented at the Nuremberg trials. This documentation enables us to reconstruct the background to this affair, and to uncover the Nazis' modes of action -their fanatical commitment to the total extermination of the Jews, their manner of holding the children as hostages and utilizing them for propaganda purposes, as well as the mass murder of the children at the end without any hesitation or spark of human feeling, conscience or compassion. Not a single voice was raised in protest against the extermination.

The children from the Bialystok Ghetto were among the last surviving Jewish children in Eastern Europe. Aside from them, a few children still remained in the Lodz ghetto, but they too were led to their deaths in the summer of 1944.

The documentation of the negotiations to save the children and of their extermination, which encompasses an entire year (from April 1943 until May 1944), uncovers a nefarious chapter in German diplomacy. The Germans intended to use this affair to mislead international public opinion, to denigrate England in the eyes of the Arabs and to increase anti-Semitism. The diplomatic correspondence about saving children continues even after there were hardly any Jewish children still alive in all of Nazi-conquered Europe.

**by Bronka Klibanski**

*Bronka Klibanski was born in Grodno. She attended the Tarbut School in Grodno and was a member of the DROR youth movement. During the war she lived as a non-Jew, serving as a courier between the Bialystok, Grodno and Warsaw ghettos. She was instrumental in preserving what archives remained of the Bialystok Ghetto uprising after the liquidation of the ghetto. After the liquidation she served as a partisan in the forests around Bialystok. From 1955 she played an essential role in the founding and organization of*

## 1938 Bialystok Telephone Book

Check out the link to the 1938 Bialystok Telephone Book which lists telephone numbers:

<http://www.zchor.org/bialystok/telephone.htm>

## Personal Notices

Wishing Danial a happy birthday and any other Child survivors who might be celebrating a birthday a hearty Mazeltov!

Please call or email to let us know your important dates, such as anniversaries, etc. We shall be pleased to share these meaningful occasions in our next edition of **CONNECTIONS**.



# Maintaining the Memory by Remembering

Please mark your diary for our upcoming function.



**Speaker:** Ephraim Finch.  
**Topic:** "Maintaining The Memory By Remembering"  
**Date:** Thursday 21 November  
**Time:** 2.00pm – 4.00pm  
**Venue:** Jewish Holocaust Centre  
 13-15 Selwyn Street  
 Elsternwick

Ephraim is Head of the **Melbourne Chevra Kadisha** and for the past 27 years has changed the organization forever. Ephraim will tell us about his ongoing challenge of keeping a record of all the families he meets to retain their life stories for future generations.

We extend a warm invitation to all child survivors, particularly those who may not have yet attended a meeting. Please join us and experience the camaraderie of being with others who know how you feel and understand, without explanation, a shared past.

*Coffee and light refreshments will be served  
 and there will be plenty of time for a catch-up schmooze.*

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

## Upcoming Events at the Jewish Holocaust Centre

**Thursday 17 October**

JHC Social Club

**Viv Parry**

**Volunteer Community Worker**

***The Aboriginal People and the Holocaust***

**Time:** 11.15am

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

**Thursday 31 October**

JHC Film Club

***"Tears of Stone" (1995) 110 mins***

**Directed by Hilmar Oddsonn**

**Time:** 7.00pm

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

**Thursday 7 November**

***Betty & Shmuel Rosenkranz Kristallnacht Oration***

**Time:** 7.00pm

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

**Sunday 10 November**

Friends of the JHC

Fundraising Fine Art Auction

***To Life 2013***

**Leonard Joel**

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**Monday 18 November**

**Public Lecture**

***Ethel Sara Davis***

***Research on Latvian Jewish Heritage***

**Time:** 7.00pm

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

**Thursday 28 November**

JHC Film Club

***"Enemies of the People" (2009) 93 mins***

**Directed by Them Sembath and Rob Lemkin**

**Time:** 7.00pm

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