

child survivors of the holocaust

CONNECTIONS

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Dear Child Survivors,
We trust you and yours are all going well. We have a very interesting edition of *Connections* this month: **Dr Amy Williams** has returned with a follow up piece about her astonishing findings after discovering the lost

Kinder lists at Yad Vashem. We are truly grateful to Amy for sharing her important work with us.

CSH Coffee Club: Our Coffee Club is proving to be a great success with our members, we share more photos of the August meetup.

Carole Czermak volunteers at the Caulfield RSL where the **CSH Coffee Club** meets each month.

Carole noticed our CSH banner and asked if there are

any child survivors from the Stutthof concentration camp in the group. Carole is looking for any Stutthof survivors or survivor family members who can add to her knowledge of the camp.

I asked Carole to write her family's story for *Connections*.

Carole shares not only her family's wartime experience but also writes about Melbourne in the 1950s .

As New Year approaches, we wish all our Child Survivors and their families and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Chag Sameah!

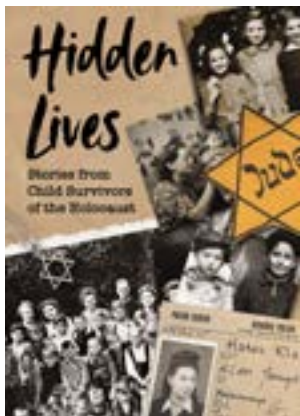
Best wishes from Viv and Lena.



Lena's Desk

Telling the Stories That Need to be Told:

Maplewood Resident's Book Features Child Survivors of the Holocaust



Rachelle Goldstein's book, a finalist for the National Jewish Book Awards, is a collection of first-person accounts published over three decades in a newsletter about the Holocaust's youngest survivors.

A Maplewood resident of more than 50 years, 86-year-old Rachelle Goldstein recently published her first

book. *Hidden Lives: Stories from Child Survivors of the Holocaust* shines a light on the unique experiences of a group whose histories have often been neglected. Child survivors have stories that are wildly different from those of their parents. Some 1.5 million children were murdered in the Holocaust. Many parents made the difficult decision to send their children alone into hiding for any hope of survival.

Goldstein was one of those children. Born in Brussels, she was hidden from the Nazis at the age of three. At the time, she did not understand that she was even in hiding,

or that her childhood was different from anyone else's. *Hidden Lives* features the stories of some of Goldstein's family members including her husband, Jack Goldstein, and her brother, Jacques Silberman, among dozens of child survivors. "There were so many that it was hard to pick. Each one is special in its own way, and tells a story that's unique to that person," Goldstein said in an interview with the Village Green.

"Nobody ever talked about children during the war," she said. "We were sort of a nonentity, and I never thought of myself as a survivor. We had no place in the historical context of this whole thing."

The stories in *Hidden Lives* were originally published in a newsletter that Goldstein has edited since 1991, when the Hidden Child Foundation was started with the Anti-Defamation League. Goldstein first connected with the ADL when she attended The First International Gathering of Children During World War II in May 1991 in midtown Manhattan. "It was an amazing, life-altering event. It was a point that changed our lives completely, because all of a sudden, we had a name for us," Goldstein said. "We could find others who had the same oddities we had." "The Hidden Child" newsletters, now stored in the

National Holocaust Museum archives in Washington, are filled with personal accounts, photos, poetry, and in early editions, columns for people trying to find lost family, or those who had hid them. In the first edition of the newsletter, Abraham H. Foxman (now the ADL's National Director Emeritus) said: "We need to tell our stories. We need to clarify why we see the outside world the way we do. We need to tell our children, and their children, about our long-hidden secrets. Facing this together will start the process of healing our long buried wounds."

The reviews for *Hidden Lives* have been positive and Goldstein hopes that will help the book find its way into libraries, especially those in high schools and colleges. The book was a finalist for the National Jewish Book Awards, presented by the Jewish Book Council, which says of *Hidden Lives*, "...the compilation of stories covering such a broad range of wartimes ages, situations, and locations powerfully conveys both the diverse experiences of hidden children as well as the similarities that bind such survivors together."

In its review of the book, the *Library Journal* calls *Hidden Lives* a powerful collection of first-person stories. "The book's literary quality is brilliant through authentic, genuine accounts that combine history with deep personal memories, inviting readers into these young survivors' worlds... This work serves as an essential educational tool and a profoundly moving tribute." And *Kirkus Reviews* says, "This is a book of alchemy, a set of stories of young people who turned fear into faith."



Rachelle Goldstein (Photo by Laura Griffin)

Inside the critical perspective these child survivors provide, the simplest of truths can be found.

"I want [the reader] to understand that humanity is one," Goldstein said. "We must tell our stories so that people will understand we're all alike under the skin."

Editor's Note: Rachelle Goldstein is Village Green Editor Laura Griffin's mother-in-law.

Writer Ella Levy is a 12th grade student at Columbia High School and is working with Village Green as part of a grant from the New Jersey Civic Information Consortium. Rachelle Goldstein with her book "*Hidden Lives: Stories from Child Survivors of the Holocaust*". The page is turned to her family's story told by her older brother Jacques and includes a picture of Rachelle while in hiding.

Reprinted from the Village Green

Discoveries beyond the Kindertransport lists by Dr. Amy Williams



Newcastle Chronicle 25 Feb 1939

the then mayors of the towns, chaperone lists, train schedules, Youth Aliyah lists, Kitchener Camp lists, case files and letters, ferry information and Harwich arrival lists, internment lists, government records, committee files, newspapers, the 1939 register, enemy alien files, adoption lists, lists of Kindertransports which were meant to happen but never did, deportation lists,

Since finding the Kindertransport lists I've accessed about 250,000 files from around the world. These files include: Evian and Polenaktion files, incarceration files after Kristallnacht, Kindertransport lists, Gestapo files, lists of emigrating Jewish people compiled by

remigration files, finance files, army service files, postwar Kindertransport lists, international tracing service files, and compensation files.

Some of the key findings have been around the stories of the chaperones. While I am still researching their stories, what has already become clear is that around half of the adults survived. The Kindertransport in many ways saved their lives too because they were able to obtain a visa to remain in the UK, for example. Some of the male chaperones were incarcerated in Dachau and Sachsenhausen before aiding the children on the Kindertransport. Other chaperones were deported to Terezin, Auschwitz, and Bergen-Belsen where many of them perished. One of the female chaperones was pregnant when she accompanied a transport. Irma Zanker, who was on the first transport from Germany to the UK, later managed to get her son to safety in the UK on a Kindertransport. She made multiple trips accompanying refugee children via ship and by train and ferry. She continued to do so even when her son had

arrived in the UK. She had several visa numbers to travel forwards and backwards to the UK, but she was unable to leave herself. She was deported to Terezin in 1943 and then to Auschwitz at the end of 1944. This is where she tragically perished. During the war many chaperones were interned by the British government as enemy aliens and deported to Australia and Canada. Some emigrated further to America or British Mandate Palestine. The chaperones played a crucial role in the Kindertransport. We have files which tell us about how they had to have been trained already or go on a course of at least two hours before they could supervise a Kindertransport. They are informed by the committees in their homelands about what to expect and what they needed to do. We also know how much their travel costs were and that their passports were taken off them at the Dutch border so that they would return if they did not have a visa. Over 80 years on we can now recognise and fully thank them for their astonishing efforts to help rescue Jewish children from Nazism.

Something which is incredibly complicated to work out is the finances of the Kindertransport. Overall, the transports to the UK cost in today's money around £3,000,000. Now, this is without the £50 deposit or guarantee. The £50 was for the remigration of the child but the government relaxed its rules about the children having to move on before the outbreak of the war. The most expensive emigration costings I've found for a child are around £16, which is far less than what was estimated. £50 in today's money is about £4,000- £5,000 and the train and ferry tickets combined cost around £400- £500 in today's money. Many families in Vienna, for example, were living on less than £50 a month so it was rather miraculous that the children were able to escape. The funds were often paid for by the parents, the Jewish communities in the children's homelands and host nations, as well as non-Jewish individuals and groups. In some cases, we have itemised bills for taxis, trams, and paying the porter and train conductor. It was the German railway who gave the Jewish community quotes for the travel, which of course had to be paid for. Over a period, the prices increase.



Peter Jonas' enemy alien file



Walter Kaufmann's case file from the World Jewish Relief archive

What I've found extremely heartbreaking are the stories of children who pass away not long after arrival – within a year of their landing on British soil. One child caught meningitis. A rabbi was contacted to conduct the funeral, but he could not arrive on time because the child was sent to a very rural location. Instead, the local priest conducted the ceremony from the Old Testament. I thought about how his foster family and the priest had come together to ensure that the little boy was buried with dignity. From his case file I saw that his parents were informed about his passing. In fact, only his mother was alive, his father having already perished in a concentration camp after Kristallnacht. I also found out that his mother had been able to register his brother, but he never arrived. I wonder if she could not bear to part with him after having already lost her husband and son. I've found out that several other Kinder were killed during the Blitz as their foster homes received direct hits from German bombs. Other Kinder were killed storming the Normandy beaches during the D-Day landings. The children's wartime contributions are still to be fully recognised, as so many of them worked on the Home Front and in the Armed Forces. I was recently at Bletchley Park where many Jewish refugees, including those who arrived on the Kindertransport were breaking the Enigma codes. Others were stationed in Malta, Egypt, and Italy, listening in on German troops and sending their findings back to Bletchley where they were decoded. Many of the children (then young adults) left the UK for continental Europe via Felixstowe, a port not far from Harwich where they arrived. Some who went back with the armed forces actually then found and even liberated their parents from the concentration camps. Before the Kindertransport began in late 1938, over 500 children had arrived in the UK between 1936 and Kristallnacht. I found out from the British refugee committee's July 1939 report that their numbers were retrospectively amalgamated into the Kindertransport figures. Over 80 years on, it is important to bring their stories back into the narrative of the Kindertransport. Likewise, there are lists of children who had places, but



Hanna Zack Miley's registration card in the World Jewish Relief archive

who were unable to flee. There is a little boy who is 2 years old who is listed with his older siblings to journey on a Trans-Siberian Kindertransport (Vienna – Russia – Japan – America), but it is indicated by the Austrian refugee committee that he is too young to make this journey even though his paperwork had been filled out. As a result, the siblings do not get out. They were deported and probably shot in a forest in the east. The term Kindertransport is so synonymous with rescue and survival but in 1942 after the Wannsee Conference and the Vel' d'Hiv roundup the Nazis used the term to refer to the deportation of children. Not every child who

was deported was sent on Kindertransports to death but there are deportation Kindertransport lists. One of the latest transports I've found was on 5th January 1945 from Buchenwald to Bergen-Belsen. Some of the children who had escaped to Holland, France, and Belgium on rescue Kindertransports were then sadly deported on Kindertransports to the east. I've found that, after the war in 1947, Dutch newspapers were reporting about Kindertransports but in terms of deportation. I had previously thought that, in the postwar period, it was not until the Eichmann Trial that the term Kindertransport was first used to mean deportation. But it seems that these Dutch newspapers were writing about this well before the 1960s.

These are only a few of the many findings we have found and continue to find. To keep up to date with new stories you can follow my blog: <https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/author/amy-williams/>. I'm working on a new co-author book with Prof. Bill Niven for Yale University Press about the history of the Kindertransport as well as a new Kindertransport database for the Association of Jewish Refugees, UK. Please get in touch via: amy@ajr.org.uk.

Coffee Club - August 2026

Our CSH *Coffee Club* on **Wednesday August 5th** honoured CSH **Richard Rozen, OAM**. We were delighted that **Rysia Rozen OAM** could be with us. The monthly catchup is proving to be not only a great place to meet up with fellow child survivors, it also allows

us to share events in our lives with a group of CSH friends who understand us so well.

Our volunteer **Anne Josephsberg** wrote a poem about the meeting; Anne captured the mood exactly:

Around The Table

*Around the table
they went,
each of them
talking about Richard,
the man who represented them,
as child holocaust survivors,
the man
who showed his passion
for this selective group.
They praised his wife
Rysia,
who stood by him,
in all his endeavors.*

*The memories
were profound
and emotional.*

*They demonstrated
the bond
between these individuals.
The photograph
shown by Bernadette
of that class
in 1951, held a special interest
for them all.*

*I am a bystander,
listening and watching
all of this.
I am fortunate
to be in this position.
I am grateful
that I can be
an observer
of this very special group
of people.*



Bernadette Gore talks to the group about the early days of the CSH.



Many people attended this month's Coffee Club.



Bernadette Polak shares stories of her friendship with Richard and the family.



Bernadette Gore holds the photo Richard gave her of the two of them aged 16.



Bernadette speaks about the first CSH meeting in 1990s.



Rysia Rozen listens to Bernadette speak.



Dita speaks with Judy Kolt by her side.

KNOWN and UNKNOWN by Carole Czermak



My Dad, Wladyslaw 'Mak', 1945-1946.

Father Wladyslaw CZERMAK (Ladislav CERMAK) and son Wladyslaw (Mak) CZERMAK both born during the Austro-Hungarian Empire Period. (Officially, Austro-Hungarian Monarchy), when Poland did not exist. Wladyslaw Czermak was born close to Prague within the Bohemia Region (today known as the Czech

Republic or Czechia). He joined the Imperial and Royal Army at the age of 23 in 1905.

Finding his love match with Roza IWANSKA and putting a ring on each other's finger in November 1916 to create a bond full of cheekiness, belly laughs and family.

However, World War I reared its head earlier. After WWI, 7 July 1919 Wladyslaw fluent in a number of languages with military expertise went into the Polish Army, retiring from military defence a decade later as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1929, living in Torun Poland.

Then, World War II reared its head and, on the 21 November 1944, Wladyslaw was arrested in Torun, 'interrogated' and imprisoned. One month later on the 21st December 1944 he was deported to Stutthof as a political prisoner and died four weeks later on 17 January 1945 at Stutthof Concentration Camp.

Has the world learnt from past and present evils? - No Wladyslaw 'Mak' Czermak was born near what is known today as Sanok Poland. He had a life filled with Army duty, happiness, young friends and new friends he met up with at the many dances at that time.

As a 2nd Lieutenant with seniority (Polish Officer) in 1939 Wladyslaw served with the Heavy Artillery division, was mobilized with his military horse in Krakow, was a survivor at the outbreak of WWII and survived numerous POW (prisoner of war) camps - OFLAG's (Officer POW camps). On a forced march to Lubeck, Germany on the 2 May 1945 Dad was liberated to the sounds of bagpipes. After being liberated, Dad was in hospital being visited by Artur (Arthur) Z. another Polish POW survivor.

After many visits from Arthur and some 43 years later in 1988 when the Australia Bicentenary Tall Ships sailed into Sydney Harbor; I was in Sydney. Dad received a call from Arthur Z. (his eldest son Jerzy 'George' Z. had received a letter earlier from Dad because of his family's uncommon surname. They were living in Sydney and Arthur had

married Ursula from Lubeck, the German nurse from 1945 whom had been looking after my Dad.

After World War II, Wladyslaw was warned not to return to Poland so he completed further studies in France and worked in Antwerp, Belgium.

In the early 1950s, Wladyslaw 'Mak' arrived in Melbourne classed within the government definition

as a 'Stateless Alien' with over 50 pounds, he was not required to go into the Bonegilla Immigration Camp system for the required two years. The alien part was a source of love and cheekiness growing up in our family. A relative of Dad's, my godfather Ted (Taduesz S.) an Auschwitz survivor and Flossenbürg Concentration Camp survivor had already arrived in Melbourne, Australia. Dad was able to correspond mostly via some written letters (mostly philatelic airmail paper with every space covered with words) and occasional telegram communication with his Mum in Poland until 1956 when she passed, the year of the Olympics held in Melbourne. (Communication over landlines very limited while the internet and mobile phones were not invented at the time). I can only guess the joy that his Mum felt knowing Dad got married (they received a wedding telegram), had a son and knowing that another bub was on the way (not me). My Mum mentioned Dad wore a black tie for a year after his Mum Roza passed.

Dad named 'Mak' by work colleagues in Melbourne, worked as a statistician and forecaster within the Sales and Personnel division at GMH (General Motors Holden) the Melbourne headquarters at Fisherman's Bend. Asked by his boss during the 1956 Olympics for a special project, Mak was fluent in several languages therefore, assigned to translate for the European Holden personnel and associates.

Years before my older brothers and I were born, Dad's sweetness shone through finding his love match at a dance in Earl's Court located at St. Kilda, Melbourne, Australia. Our Mum 'Edna' in a red dress (she made) standing with her girlfriends when he approached and kissed her hand (a Polish sign of respect) saying the words 'stay with me'.

Ephraim 'Roy' back from a business trip and a dancing friend of Mum's warned Mum in a caring way about



My Dad, his parents & sister 'Luta'.



My Dad's parents - Wladyslaw & Roza.

foreigners. Mum's parents (Bert and Lil) and Mak loved and respected each other.

Bert a senior father figure in Dad's life and Dad more than happy to protect Lil; shared many joys within our family after Bert passed. Mak and Edna were still cuddling up, decades and decades right to the end, loving, caring and looking out for each other. Sharing their last Wedding Anniversary cuddling up in their bed with red hearts stuck behind their bed on the wall with a bed covered in red rose petals. Dad was happy (a big romantic) and Mum prepared to tolerate my organizing. Their little bit of prior grizzling forgotten with the big impact of post smiles and memories.

In 1999, I took my Dad overseas to Europe and England. (With the doctor's letter of approval and the boss aka Mum.)

As an Australian Mum with heritage from the '1850s period' she was happy to stay home and for Dad to have a father-daughter/Carer trip. My eldest brother met us for the part, in Torun and Warsaw. Where the three of us had a specially arranged private tour by a Polish Officer at the Torun internal military museum within an area not open to the public; it was the military school Dad had attended. While I was looking at one of the display cabinet's - surprise, surprise - "Dad, there's a photo of you and your horse with another Polish Officer" (surreal and very special). In Warsaw, Dr Jozef Hornowski 1916-2011 (friend to Dad) met Dad and I at the Warsaw airport handing me a red rose and in Polish etiquette, kissed my hand.

When Dad passed, he was buried in the actual double breasted birds eye suit with bow tie he wore when he met Mum, including the actual red dress she wore those many years ago in St. Kilda.

Only in the last decade or so did I really realise that at 21

years young my Dad, never saw his parents again after he was mobilized 1939 in Krakow, Poland.

Yes - Having more dances would improve the world and local relations today.

KNOWN - I had the pleasure of knowing my parents for a long time (never long enough) and my Mum's parents (my grandparents) in Melbourne (never long enough) were a cheeky love pair throughout their lives.

UNKNOWN - Both Dad's parents (my grandparents) had passed long before I came along. But, through Dad and other relatives, a small number of photos and Stutthof highlighted their strong love for each other. Their love was cruelly cut short like so many others. I knew them by being cradled in my heart and the bestest (better than the best) hugs from my Dad but, never knowing my grandparents physical touch, individual presence, smell, or love.

Over the years again, WOW!

I wish to 'thank' Stutthof staff and researchers, Arolsen Archives, ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross), Australian Red Cross Tracking Services, Central Military Archives in Warsaw Poland, Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum in the UK, MOD (Ministry of Defence) in Middlesex, UK has the official records of people who served in the Polish Armed Forces in the West. Melbourne's Polish Community, Immigration Museum in Melbourne, ISG (International Settlers Group) at GSV (Genealogical Society of Victoria), RSL (Returned and Services League of Australia), Phillip Maisel OAM (a Stutthof survivor) and many, many others. Polish Philately and Family Military Interest Group in 2027 at the Caulfield RSL 4 St. George's Road Elsternwick (Every even month 2nd Sunday at 2:00pm until 4:00pm) - 14 Feb 2027, 11 Apr, 13 Jun, 8 Aug, 10 Oct, 12 Dec 2027

Also, anyone who was at STUTTHOF Concentration Camp or their family member was - please contact Viv Parry (Co President Child Survivors of the Holocaust Melbourne) or Carole CZERMAK (former Brighton Philately Society President) via viv.parry@bigpond.com



Carole Czermak's parents.

INVITATION

CSH COFFEE CLUB



Dear Child Survivors,

Please join us at the monthly *CSH Coffee Club* meetup.

Date: Wednesday, 2nd September 2026

**Venue: Caulfield RSL
4 St Georges Road, Elsternwick**

Time: 10.30am – 12 noon

Tea and coffee served : Free of charge

We will be in the light refreshment area
to the left of the main doors.

Look for our banner

Calendar of Events

The Australian Society of Polish Jews and their Descendants (ASPJ),

are proud to present

Webinar - **Warsaw Ghetto Museum**
with **Dr Katarzyna Person**,
Director of Warsaw Ghetto Museum.

The Warsaw Ghetto Museum (Muzeum Getta Warszawskiego) scheduled to open in 2027, is dedicated entirely to the history of the Warsaw Ghetto, covering Jewish life in Warsaw before the ghetto, its creation in 1940, the tragic events during World War II and the post-war fate of survivors.

Date: Monday 24th August 2026 at 8 pm AEST.
Teams Link: <https://bit.ly/4vPbf04>.
Website: www.polishjews.org.au.

What's Old and What's New in the "New Antisemitism"?

Since the turn of the century, we have been talking about "the new antisemitism", but since October 7 it has intensified and grown. Although we might call it "new", the antisemitism we are experiencing has many features with long roots in history. In order to understand the newer elements, we must first identify the old. In this lecture, **Dr Robert Rozett** from **Yad Vashem** will explore the historical context to 21st century antisemitism, and provide necessary

background to a deeper understanding of recent events.

Date: 26 Aug 2026 6:00 pm

Entry Fee: \$20 General
Admission | \$10 Concession/MHM volunteer

Bookings: bookings@mhm.org.au | 03 9528 1985

Lodz Ghetto Commemoration 2026

Join the **Melbourne Holocaust Museum** and the **Lodz Committee in commemoration** of the 82nd anniversary of the liquidation of the Lodz Ghetto.

Date: 30 Aug 2026 11:00 am
Entry Fee: \$10 commitment fee

Bialystok and Surrounds Commemoration 2026

Please join the **Melbourne Holocaust Museum** and the **Bialystok Committee** in commemoration to mark the 83rd year since the uprising and liquidation of the Bialystok Ghetto in August 1943.

Date: 30 Aug 2026 3:00 pm
Entry Fee: \$10 commitment fee

Bookings: bookings@mhm.org.au | 03 9528 1985

