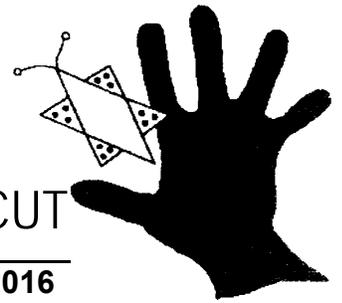


A publication of THE HOLOCAUST CHILD SURVIVORS OF CONNECTICUT



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The Holocaust Child Survivors of Connecticut We are the Jewish children who survived Hitler's killing machines. Our group is indispensable in helping us deal with our loss and our pain. We also come together to celebrate our existence and our survival. We are involved in teaching the Holocaust to schools and interested groups. It is our firm conviction that our story must be told so that it will never be repeated.

Organizational News

Purim Party

On March 24th we celebrated Purim at Temple B'nai Israel with good food and entertainment. The entertainment was provided by Rayhan and Igor Pasternak. Rayhan looked charming in a gypsy outfit with her violin and Igor with his long side curls drooping out of a hat. Some of you danced the horah. There was a raffle that is always a popular event.

Theater Party

On May 5th we had a nice lunch at Zody's before attending the play: City of Angels at the Curtain Call Theater in Stamford. Despite of the heavy rains we all had a good time.

Picnic

We were able to have our traditional picnic on July 17th, thanks to the generosity of the Reens who let us use their backyard for the occasion. We had a new caterer and the food was delicious. The salmon in teriyaki sauce was everybody's favorite. We were joined by some new members who blended well in the crowd. Everybody had a good time. God was kind to us and the rain that was forecast stayed away.

Purim Party



Rayhan and Igor Pasternak, Eva Fodor and friend musicians

Picnic



Bonnie and Manny Lobel, Hedi Kopeki and her daughter Judith, Marianne Strachman, Betty Deutsch

Membership News



Judith Altmann receiving honorary doctorate from Fordham University

Our busy vice president, Judith Altmann, who spoke to thousands of people this year received an honorary doctorate from Fordham University in May. Well done Judith! We are all very proud of you.

We wish a refuah sh'lema to Paula Reens who was in the hospital while we had our picnic in her backyard.

Four of our members moved away.

Viki Blank moved to an assisted living facility in Hamden.

Fran Schaff is now living in Boston.

Richard Sheramy moved to his daughter to New Jersey after Cecil had a stroke

Daniel Vock moved to Armonk, NY

Organizational News *continued*

The LA Conference

The 28th annual conference of the World Federation of Jewish Child Holocaust Survivors and Descendants will be held in Los Angeles from November 4-7. Registration fee is \$375.00 until September 30th and \$400.00 after that. This includes all programs and all meals. We will be staying at the Warner Center Marriott. For more information go to holocaustchild.com on the internet.

Homecare Increase

Although the Claims Conference takes credit for this it is a result of lobbying by attorney Sam Dubin and Mike Rubin z'l and a number of survivors that the German government increased the 25 hour homecare hours to 56 hours for Holocaust survivors who were in camps, ghettos and hiding. However, dental care, hearing aids and other badly needed services remains the same \$2500-3000 per year per person.

With the help of lobbying by Sam Dubin and Mike Rubin z'l and of congresswoman Eliana Ross Lehtinen, congressman Peter Deutsch, senators Nelson and Marco Rubio both the senate and the house voted to call on Germany in writing to increase their funding so that elderly survivors should be

Homecare continued on page 5 ...



We mourn the passing of our friend and board member Anita Schorr. Anita was a fabulous speaker and always ready to do whatever was needed for HCSC. Anita was a survivor in every sense of the word. Yes, she survived Auschwitz and other camps as a teenager, but she also fought the invincible cancer for three years. She

never lost faith that she will conquer the disease. Her ebullient character always lit up the place wherever she was. Anita we will miss you.

Our condolences to the families of members who passed away within the past few months:

Elisabeth Melamid

Liz Goldfarb

Joseph Macy

Bella Pollak

Kay Nabel

Erna Slen

Ben Slootskin



May their memory be for a blessing

A Trip to the Past

In June I travelled to Hungary. On Friday night I attended services with my mother's cousin, Ivan, who happens to be 12 years younger than I. The Dohany synagogue is the second largest in the world. It is truly a very beautiful temple now fully restored. Men and women sat separately, but without a wall between them. The service was like an orthodox service with ashkenazy pronunciation. There were a couple of hundred worshippers. The cantor had a beautiful voice. After the service in another building there was an oneg Shabbat. There was a table in the middle of the room with lots of food. The table separated the men from the women. Men and women didn't mix during the oneg. I found this a bit strange.

The next day Ivan drove me to another city, Pecs, because there was a Klezmer concert in the brand new big concert hall. The large hall was so full there wasn't an empty seat. I probably could count on my two hands all the Jews in the audience. But the audience was very enthusiastically clapping after every number. To my surprise the klezmer group was incredibly well received in a country that has a lot of anti-Semites.

On Monday we drove to Sziget with my nephew in pouring rain. My ancestors on my father's side came from there and I wanted to do some research into the family. As soon as we passed the border from Hungary into Romania it was like going from the 21st century back to the 18th century. There

were mostly dirt roads with lots of mud. Car traffic was slowed down by the horse and carriage conveyances of the locals. After six hours of driving we arrived in Sziget. After parking the car near the hotel we were walking in mud and ankle deep puddles on the sidewalk. The hotel was just a couple of houses away from the



Eli Wiesel Museum. The next morning the woman I hired as a guide met us at our hotel. She is one of the employees of the museum. In the pouring rain she escorted us to the museum. She is not Jewish, but her knowledge of Jewish history and customs are phenomenal which she studied at the university of Cluj. The museum is the house of the Wiesels that was extended to accommodate the exhibit. The rooms contain authentic furniture pieces from Jewish homes as well as pictures of families and religious objects.

According to family lore my great grandmother and her youngest daughter lived across the street from the Wiesels. The large pink house across the street was where members of my family lived. There is one room in the museum that is dedicated to the Wiesel family and contains all of Elie's books.

The guide took us to the only synagogue that is still in use out of the eight that served the ten thousand strong Jewish community that lived there before the Holocaust. Next to it there is also a small shabby Jewish center.

She then took us to the railroad station and showed us the special platform that was used for the deportation of the Jews. That was a dilapidated rickety half rotten wood structure. As I stood there thinking that this is where they

Trip continued on page 4 ...

Trip *continued from page 3 ...*

beat and pushed my ninety year old great grandmother into the cattle car that took her to the gas chambers of Auschwitz I became literally ill. I cannot explain the feelings that overwhelmed me.

After this experience I just wanted to leave this cursed place.

Budapest, however, was a much better experience. Ivan through his connections got me a mini suite in a brand new hotel on Andrassy Street. Many of the hotels are partially owned by Jews. Most of the buildings on Andrassy Street are restored and every one of them is a different architectural style with base reliefs and statues. The city is full of tourists from all over the world. The old Jewish section is the center of entertainment with many restaurants and clubs in addition to the kosher hotels and restaurants. The kosher butcher shop where we used to shop is still in business and the two different Jewish kehillas still have their own buildings. There are lots of synagogues all over the city as the 80,000 strong Jewish population lives in different parts of the city. The house we lived in after the Shoah was only two blocks from the hotel. Of course, now it's a new modern apartment building. Next door is the house where my family had their export import business which now contains a butcher shop selling pork and a striptease club. My nephew's family took me to a now very fashionable restaurant a block away from there. When

I got there, although the building was restored, I realized from the number 7-9 that that is where we lived on the first floor before the Holocaust.

The actor from Son of Saul, Geza Rohrig, which won the award in Cannes as well as the Golden Globe and the Academy awards was signing his books in one of the big chain bookstores. There was a long line, but I got to talk to him and ask him if he would come to Westport to talk to us.

Judith Altmann and I were invited for the weekend of July 22 to Camp Perlman in Pennsylvania to the BBYO (B'nai Brit Youth Organization) as Holocaust speakers and educators. We were each given two "grandchildren", one boy and one girl who helped us get around the place and did everything for us.

The boys and girls were between the ages of 15 and 19. They were a beautiful, polite and pleasant group of 280 children. They treated us with such love and respect that it warmed the heart. They are proud Jews ready to follow tradition. They can't replace the 1,500,000 Jewish children who were murdered by the Nazis, but It was wonderful for us to see these enthusiastic committed young people who will carry on our message to the future.

On Shabat morning we were asked if we had been bat mitzvah. Judith and I both came from orthodox families and did not have a bat mitzvah. During the Torah service

on Shabat we both had our bat mitzvah with the 280 youngsters cheering and clapping and at the end throwing candy at us. It was the most amazing bat mitzvah we could have ever had.

Shabat evening we had an amazing havdala under the starry sky in the dark around an enormous tree. We sang the prayers holding on to one another in a circle and when the prayers were ended the giant tree lit up with hundreds of lights.

BBYO Meeting



Homecare

continued from page 2 ...

able to live the rest of their lives with dignity and in comfort. The federal program announced by the current government of the \$12 million fund to be used for the next 5 years to help the close to 50,000 Holocaust survivors in the US who live in or near the poverty line is nothing but a publicity stunt. Holocaust survivors do not want the American tax payers money. They feel it is the responsibility of the German government to keep the promise of Adenauer who said that as long as any survivors are alive Germany should make sure that their needs are taken care of and they can live out their lives in dignity.

To celebrate the life of our beloved Anita Schorr who educated thousands of children about the Holocaust every year, HCSC has donated \$2000.00 to establish the Anita Schorr Holocaust Teacher Training Program. This will be administered by the Westchester Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center.

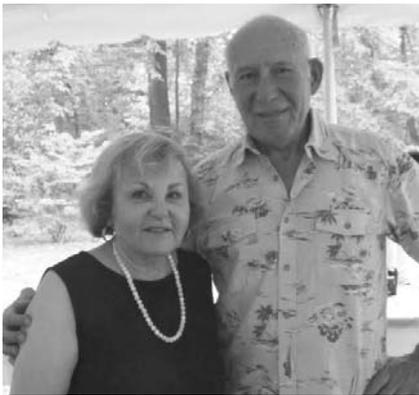


Elie Wiesel

Elie Wiesel passed away on July 2nd at the age of 87. He was the best known Holocaust survivor in the world. Born in Sziget into a very religious family he was deported to Auschwitz in the summer of 1944 together with his family. After liberation he settled in France and started writing in Yiddish. In 1956 he came to the US and was writing for the Forwards. Elie wrote many books most of them in French which were then translated into many languages. He was also a professor teaching at a university in Boston.

He was one of the founding members of the Holocaust Memorial Museum of Washington DC. In 1985 he received the Congressional Gold Medal. In 1986 he was the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. In 1992 President Bush awarded him the Presidential Medal for Freedom which is the highest honor in the US.

More Picnic Pictures



Agnes and Nick Friedman



Agnes and Judith



Leah Ferszt, Aniko Sarkany, Vera Blau

Dear Members,

If you need help call Agnes at 203-226-3092 in confidence.



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