

# יד ינו Yadeinu

A PUBLICATION OF THE  
HOLOCAUST CENTER OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
WINTER 2010

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## A Message from HCNC President Rhona Edelbaum Sloan

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff of the Holocaust Center of Northern California, I want to thank you for your loyal support. This has been a very challenging year for all non-profits, including the Center. Still, the Center remains dedicated to maintaining local programs where educators, young people and the general public can learn about the Holocaust in meaningful ways. Since its founding in 1979, the Center has recorded more than 2,000 oral histories, brought survivors to tell their eyewitness accounts to more than 325,000 students and Bay Area residents, trained more than 2,000 teachers and touched 75,000 people through cultural programming.

In this very difficult climate, HCNC will continue to fulfill its mission, but it will do so with less. The Center has proactively trimmed expenses to make it the right size for its current revenue reality. The staff has been reduced from seven to four. HCNC will reduce duplication of effort by partnering more with sister agencies, so that together we can deliver excellent Holocaust educational and cultural programs.

In the long term, the Holocaust Center will pursue strategies that secure the legacy of Holocaust education and remem-

brance in the Bay Area. We will preserve HCNC's priceless assets—the library, archives and oral history collection—that we have built during the past 31 years. We are working to secure a permanent home for these assets at an academic or cultural institution.

The collection will remain a resource for education and research, as well as for local cultural and educational programming.

In addition, the HCNC Board is working to build an endowment to support a Community Holocaust Educator, who will be located at a sister institution, and who will be responsible for coordinating and partnering with Bay Area schools, synagogues, and religious, civic and cultural institutions to bring our community the kind of Holocaust education and cultural events you have come to expect.

We believe that this new operating structure can serve as a national model for the delivery of high-quality Holocaust education and cultural programs. And we believe this new model will allow us to focus on program delivery, rather than on the work required to maintain a standalone institution. This new vision ensures that the Center can deliver engaging and relevant Holocaust education for the 21st century. (Continued on page 4)

# News & Events

## UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 27, 2010

### **International Holocaust Remembrance Day**

MARCH 6, 2010

### **The Pink Triangle Project**

World premiere of an original musical composition by Stefan Heucke, honoring homosexual victims of the Holocaust

APRIL 11, 2010

### **Yom HaShoah**

**Call 415.777.9060 or check our website for these and future events: [www.hcnc.org/events.html](http://www.hcnc.org/events.html)**

### **Editors**

Judith Janec  
Debbie Kahn  
Leslie Kane

## **HCNC Fall Lecture and Film Series**

This fall, HCNC hosted three events as part of its annual Fall Lecture and Film Series.

### ***A Children's Odyssey*— Film screening and discussion in September**

This documentary told the little-known story of Jewish children who escaped the member of HCNC's community, Joseph Rosenbaum. (HCNC's Oral History Project interviewed Mr. Rosenbaum in 1994 and then again in 2009. See page 3 for more information about Mr. Rosenbaum and his experiences.)

### ***The Lost Cellos of Lev Aronson*— Book talk by author Frances Brent in October**

HCNC welcomed Frances Brent, who discussed her book about the cellist Lev Aronson, his experiences during the Holocaust and the instruments that passed through his hands during those years.

### **Kristallnacht Commemoration: Shanghai—A Refuge for the Stateless in November**

John H. Stutesman, American Vice-Consul in Shanghai from 1946–1949, and Rabbi Ted Alexander, who spent the war years in Shanghai, joined Director of Community Outreach Rachel Isquith for a conversation about the emigrant Jewish community of Shanghai during and after World War II. (See page 6 for a related article.)

### **Mark Hanis speaks at a Lunch-and-Learn at HCNC**

Mark Hanis, director and founder of the Genocide Intervention Network, spoke at a "lunch-and-learn" at HCNC on July 28, 2009. Co-sponsored with the American Jewish World Congress, the talk was attended by educators and activists interested in the work of Mr. Hanis's organization. Mr. Hanis advocated for deploying political activism not only to stop genocide, but to prevent it from happening in the first place. Genocide Intervention Network provides tools and programs that enable ordinary citizens to educate, organize, and advocate in their communities to prevent genocide. To learn more about the work of the Genocide Intervention Network, visit their website at <http://www.genocideintervention.net/>.

### **Interns and Volunteers at HCNC**

HCNC welcomed two interns during Summer 2009. Stephanie Ellingson, a graduate student in history at San Francisco State University, and Zoe Stricker, now a junior at Drew School, worked hard on projects as diverse as cataloguing oral history interviews, reorganizing the Center's resources, working in the archives and assisting with events and programs. HCNC is also very fortunate to welcome Ann Armstrong, a recent graduate of San Jose State School of Library and Information Science, who joined HCNC as a volunteer in the summer, and who continues to assist with work in our archives.

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**From left:** Jocelyn Berger, Mark Hanis and Rachel Isquith; Stephanie Ellingson; Zoe Stricker; Ann Armstrong.



# Oral History Project

## From Our Oral History Collection: A “Teheran Child”

HCNC has a rich and varied oral history collection that captures the experiences of a broad range of people persecuted by and witness to the Nazi regime. Many of the testimonies represent little known chapters of Holocaust history. Each of these stories is a precious legacy, and Joseph Rosenbaum’s is one of them.

Joseph Rosenbaum was born in 1931 in Cologne, Germany. He lived with his parents and two sisters until the Nazi regime began to threaten their lives. In late 1937, his father immigrated to the United States with the intention to bring his family over as soon as he could make the arrangements. Joseph’s older sister was able to join their father in America, but time ran out for the rest of the family. In 1938, Joseph, his younger sister Nelly, and their mother were expelled from Germany and sent to the Polish border.

Over the next years they embarked on a long grueling journey that only Joseph would survive. They fled east and were sent to a labor camp in Siberia, suffering from terribly harsh conditions. In a heroic effort to save her children, Joseph’s mother gave them her food, leaving herself weak and sick, only to die in Joseph’s arms. At 9½ years old, he was left with the responsibility of taking care of his young disabled sister.

After being released from the labor camp in 1941, Joseph and the other refugees wandered through Central Asia, arriving in Tashkent, Uzbekistan where he scavenged for food amid appalling conditions and rampant sickness. There he lost his sister Nelly to starvation.

Around this time, an agreement was reached between the Polish government-in-exile and the Soviet government that allowed Polish refugees in Soviet territory to be enlisted in the Polish army. The emigration of twenty-four thousand Polish soldiers and refugees was authorized, and they were taken to Teheran. Among them were about one thousand Jewish children.

One of those children was a hungry, sick, and grief-stricken Joseph Rosenbaum. He became one of the “Teheran Children” and was brought to Teheran where an orphanage was created with the active aid of the Jewish community.

After immigration permits were obtained from the British authorities, the children were brought to Palestine via Karachi and Suez in February 1943. In Atlit (near Haifa), thousands welcomed them with great enthusiasm and they were helped by the youth aliyah organization to regain their strength and get settled.

After his rescue, Joseph had several new beginnings: he was eventually reunited with his father and sister in New York, he served in the Israeli army, started a family, and had a successful career. Today, he splits his time between the Bay Area and Israel and is a proud father and grandfather.



**From top:** The Rosenbaum family; “Teheran children”; Joseph Rosenbaum with family

# Education

## Shalhevet 2010

Shalhevet (“flame” in Hebrew) is an once-in-a-lifetime experiential learning opportunity for Bay Area Jewish teens (11th & 12th grade). Inspired by the international March of the Living program, Shalhevet is a way for local Jewish teens to participate in a program tailored specifically to the educational and cultural environment of the Bay Area.

Shalhevet includes a journey of Jewish history, beginning with the life of pre-WWII Polish Jewry through the Holocaust and the establishment of the State of Israel. The spring semester course culminates in a two-week trip to Poland and Israel in April 2010. Students will travel with a local Holocaust survivor, Rabbi and educators.

Shalhevet is a dynamic collaboration between the Holocaust Center of Northern California and the Bureau of Jewish Education.

Applications will be accepted beginning in November 2009. For more information, contact Morgan Blum at [mblum@hcnc.org](mailto:mblum@hcnc.org) or 415.777.9060 x203.

## Manovill Holocaust History Fellowship

HCNC is proud to announce the second annual Manovill Holocaust History Fellowship (MHFF).

Available only through the Holocaust Center, MHFF offers high school students a unique opportunity to study the Holocaust at a college level. Each year, five fellows are selected. Upon successful completion of the fellowship, students are awarded 60 hours of community service and a \$500 stipend.

**The Manovill Holocaust History Fellowship is generously underwritten by the Lilly Manovill Tauber Endrei Education Fund.**

For more information about MHFF, visit [www.hcnc.org/education/manovill.html](http://www.hcnc.org/education/manovill.html) or contact Morgan Blum at [mblum@hcnc.org](mailto:mblum@hcnc.org) or 415.777.9060 x203.

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## A Letter from HCNC President Rhona Edelbaum Sloan

CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER

We thank you for all your support over the years and we deeply appreciate your continued support as we work towards fulfilling our new vision. Help us preserve and maintain our priceless collections and help us continue to provide the educational programming that has affected the lives of so many.

With thanks,  
Rhona Edelbaum Sloan  
President

## With Appreciation

Our grateful appreciation goes to Anne Grenn Saldinger, Rachel Isquith and Jessica Minturn for their valuable contributions to the mission of Holocaust education, research and remembrance. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors.



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**From left: Anne Grenn Saldinger, Rachel Isquith and Jessica Minturn**

# Survivors Speakers Bureau and Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

In grateful appreciation for their many contributions, HCNC honored members of its Survivors Speakers Bureau, as well as its many volunteers, at a luncheon held in their honor on September 9th at Peninsula Temple Shalom. It was a wonderful opportunity for members of the Survivors Speakers Bureau to get together and talk, for volunteers to meet each other as well as Speakers Bureau members, and for all to enjoy a special luncheon. The program included a talk by Robert Sutz, an artist who creates life masks of Holocaust survivors, and a musical performance by Charming Hostess, with singer Jewlia Eisenberg accompanied by musicians Max Baloian and Jason Ditzian. Special thanks go to the Purple Lady—Barbara J. Meislin—who generously provided funding for this festive event.

**Clockwise from top left:** HCNC Director of Community Outreach Rachel Isquith, Barbara J. Meislin, Stuart Kaplan and HCNC Executive Director Leslie Kane; Dora Sorell and HCNC Director of Education Morgan Blum; Helen Farkas and Leslie Kane; Louis de Groot and Jeannette Ringold; Charming Hostess.



## Members of the Survivors Speakers Bureau

Dina Angress  
Hans Angress  
Alicia Appleman-Jurman  
Chayale Asch Fuhrman  
Herb Barasch  
Alex Bauer  
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Linda Breder  
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Nelee Langmuir  
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Gloria Lyon  
Phyllis Mattson  
Lydia Mednick  
Renee Passy-Zale  
Judith Rabbie  
Jeannette Ringold  
Lily Robinson  
Ralph Romberg  
Morris Rosnow  
Ralph Samuel  
Perry Scheinok  
Paul Schwarzbart  
Lori Shearn  
Mira Shelub  
Herman Shine  
Dora Sorell  
Charles Stevens  
Elizabeth Weidenbach  
Arthur Weil  
Tauba Weiss  
Jacques Wolgelenter  
Anne Marie Yellin

## Volunteers

Ann Armstrong  
Barbara Barer  
John Bass  
Iris Berets  
Diana Blank  
Stephanie Ellingson  
Hildegard Gattmann  
Dorothy Greene  
Geri Kabak  
Virginia Kean  
Zohar Lahav  
Angie Michealis  
Jeff Moskovitz  
Eva Orwin  
John Polt  
Lily Robinson  
Leonard Rosenberg  
Laura Saxton  
Nancy Shelton  
Silvia Sorell  
Rachel Star



# Archives

## Coincidences

HCNC's current exhibit—*Exodus: Flight from Nazi Germany*—features documents belonging to German and Austrian refugees who fled from Nazi Germany after the November 1938 pogrom called Kristallnacht. The exhibit traces their experiences of exile and emigration through the display of artifacts from HCNC's archives. Among those documents includes a certificate of statelessness issued by the Consulate of the United States in Shanghai to Max Mandl, who fled Germany and sought safety in Shanghai during the war years

While visiting HCNC and viewing the exhibit, Ralph Romberg, a member of HCNC's Survivors Speakers Bureau, took special note of this document. It was of particular interest to him because he recognized the name and signature of the American Vice Consul who signed the document—John Hale Stutesman. In a remarkable coincidence, Mr. Stutesman and Mr. Romberg live in the same apartment building and have known each other for years, without being aware of the other's story.

Mr. Stutesman graciously agreed to participate in a panel discussion about his experiences in Shanghai after the war with Shanghai survivor Rabbi Ted Alexander, which took place November 9, in commemoration of the anniversary of Kristallnacht.

## Wish List for Books

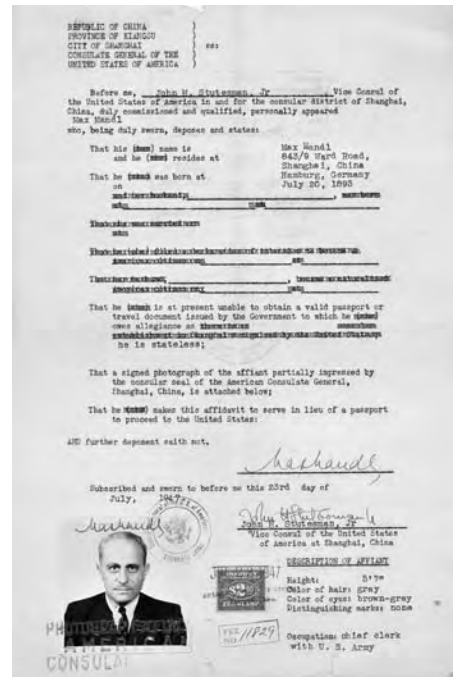
HCNC has created a wish list on Amazon.com for books, dvds and other resources for our library. Because of budget constraints, HCNC has not been able to purchase books for over a year.

To purchase books for HCNC's library, visit amazon.com (by entering the amazon site via HCNC's Contribute page, HCNC gains extra points!) and search for "HCNC Library Wish List" or visit this link: <http://www.amazon.com/wishlist/X1AN8JN9SECO> and be connected directly to the Wish List.

## Yad Vashem Names Recovery Project

Since 1955, Yad Vashem has worked to fulfill its mandate to preserve the memory of the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. Millions of victims remain unidentified. Yad Vashem urgently calls upon Jewish communities to recover their names through a worldwide Names Recovery Project.

For more information, visit HCNC's website at [www.hcnc.org/yadvashem.html](http://www.hcnc.org/yadvashem.html), or visit Yad Vashem's website at [www.yadvashem.org/](http://www.yadvashem.org/)



From top left: John Hale Stutesman; Ralph Romberg; Max Mandl affidavit

## DONATING TO HCNC ARCHIVES

In order to fulfill its mission of education, research and remembrance, the Holocaust Center of Northern California Archives accepts additions to its collections and holdings that document the events of the Holocaust. It is crucial to collect and maintain primary source material relating to the Holocaust. In addition to their historical and intrinsic values,

primary source material confirms and illustrates the events of the Holocaust and is a valuable weapon in the battle against Holocaust denial and revisionism.

For more information, contact Judy Janec @ 415.777.9060 x206 or [jjanec@hcnc.org](mailto:jjanec@hcnc.org).

# Gifts and Donations

The list below reflects donations from May 16, 2009–October 15, 2009. Thank you for your support of the Holocaust Center of Northern California. We apologize for any omissions. Please contact us if there is an error so we can correct our records.

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**Correction:** The last issue of *Yadeinu* misidentified a donation in honor of Dora Sorell. That donation was made in her honor by Margaret and Jim Horn.

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\* Holocaust Survivor

