



World Federation  
of Jewish  
Child Survivors  
of the  
Holocaust

# World Federation News Update!

May, 2010

From the Executive Committee of the WFJCSH: President—Stefanie Seltzer; Executive Vice President—Steve Adler; Vice Presidents—Chana Arnon, Anita Ekstein, Jacques Fein, Kurt Goldberger, Max Arpels Lezer, René Lichtman, Daisy Miller, Henri Obstfeld, Melita Svob; Secretary—Marianne Kronenberg; Treasurer—Isaac Kot



## The 21<sup>st</sup> International Conference: Generation to Generation —L'Dor V'Dor

The 21<sup>st</sup> International Conference of Child Survivors, Second and Third Generations, Spouses and Families, held October 30–November 2, 2009 in Newton, Massachusetts, a Boston suburb, was an especially successful gathering. Over 400 attendees came from many parts of the world. The **Greater Boston Child Survivor Group** hosted the Conference together with **Generations After** (the Boston Second Generation organization) and the newly formed **Boston 3G** group, grandchildren of Holocaust survivors. Co-chairs were **Marianne Kronenberg** and **Eva Paddock**. Leading organizers of the 2G programs were **Lillian Fox, Isaac Kot, and Janet Stein**. **Boston 3G** was represented by presidents, **Stacy and Matt Seltzer**. Our gratitude goes to the Conference organizers, to the financial contributors and to all participants.

### President's Message

Dear Friends, Brothers and Sisters,

My reference to you as siblings is not just an empty phrase; yes, we are family. I feel close to all of you, and truly regret that we have not been able to send out news as often as we wished this past year. But, as we Child Survivors "mature"—no I don't want to use that other word!—we have had to face illnesses and disabilities. We hope to pick up the pace of communicating with you, especially as we are excited about our upcoming conference in Chicago. Plans are also proceeding for **Conference 2011 in Poland**. Beyond that? As you must know, work for conferences is very demanding and intense, and most of us are running out of steam. We want to discuss various options and brainstorm with you about future conferences when we meet in Chicago.

I urge you to share this publication with your groups so the members know we are "still kicking" and also that we value all suggestions and all help. Please, also keep us posted about all that is happening in your local survivor communities.

With much caring,

Stefanie

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### Conference 2009 Highlights:

- **Elie Wiesel** addressed the Conference in a video presentation. He greeted members of the Second and Third Generation with special warmth and emphasized their role in upholding the memory of the Holocaust for all future generations to come.
- **Deborah Dwork** distinguished Holocaust scholar delivered a moving account of post-Holocaust interviews with children about their lives during the Holocaust.
- **Robert Elias**, a 2G, representing the Orel Foundation, introduced the work of **Maestro James Conlon**, music director of the Los Angeles Opera, whose project, *Recovered Voices: Music Silenced by the Holocaust* focuses on reviving music by murdered Jewish composers.
- **Radu Ioanid**, USHMM, gave an eye-opening speech about the Holocaust and the *politics of memory* in Eastern Europe.
- **Gerald Holton and Gerhard Sonnert**, professors at **Harvard University**, presented results of their research of what happened to the children who fled Nazi persecution. They delineated the trauma experienced by these children but also celebrated the accomplishments of this group, many of whom were in the audience.
- **Deborah Lipstadt**, professor, author, authority on Holocaust denial, gave a riveting account of her recent court battle against Holocaust deniers.
- **Hankus Netsky**, Jewish cultural historian, Yiddishist, musicologist, and Klezmer musician *extraordinaire* explored our Jewish Cultural legacy. Following his wonderful presentation, he and his Klezmer orchestra entertained us and led us in some rousing music and dancing numbers. Several of our talented Conference participants took to the podium as well to sing with Hankus and his musicians.
- **Rabbi Joseph Polak**, who was a mere infant in Holland during the Holocaust, gave a heartrending reading of the night when his family was taken away from their apartment by the Nazis. The presentation was an excerpt from the soon-to-be published memoir of Rabbi Polak, who is the Hillel Rabbi at **Boston University**.

- **Rabbi Moshe Waldoks**, a spiritual leader, educator, and co-author of the *Big Book of Jewish Humor* used his serious side in conversation about our Jewish future.
- **Restitution issues** were addressed by **Greg Schneider** and **Roman Kent**, of the **Claims Conference**.
- **Workshops**, led by highly qualified facilitators, addressed issues of survivors, spouses/partners, and 2G/3G members.
- **Intergenerational** programs brought together Survivors and members of the Second and Third Generation, the latter exploring their responsibility in carrying the Holocaust heritage into the future..
- A special reunion of Second Generation members was hosted by **Eva Fogelman** who also showed her award-winning documentary: *Breaking the Silence*. **Helen Epstein** portrayed Jewish athletes before the Holocaust in her slideshow *Swimming Against Stereotypes*.
- **Artists Confront the Holocaust** included a round-table discussion and presentations by artists addressing the effect of the Holocaust on their work in various art forms.
- **Jews Rescued Jews** continues efforts to uncover information about heroic acts of resistance by Jewish individuals who rescued other Jews from the Nazis.
- **Jewish Life in Europe: Yesterday and Today** featured international panelists examining the rebirth of Jewish life, as well as the recurrence of antisemitism, in Europe.
- **Geoffrey Brahmer**, photographer, and **Dr. Harold Bursztajn**, physician, a 2G, gave an insight into the courageous activities of healthcare workers under the most inhuman circumstances in the Lodz Ghetto.
- Post-conference tours included a visit to the **New England Holocaust Memorial** and to the **Vilna Shul**, and an all day trip to the **National Yiddish Book Center** in Amherst, Massachusetts.

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### Conference 2010, Skokie, Illinois

Plans are proceeding for Conference 2010, *Lives to Legacies*. It will take place in Skokie, Illinois, a Chicago suburb, November 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>. See our website [www.wfjcs.org](http://www.wfjcs.org) for current information or contact Lillian Gerstner, 847-967-4837. Individual mailings will be sent soon and, as always, the website will be continuously updated as conference news become available.

### European Child Survivors Meet

The annual Conference of the **European Association of Holocaust Survivors** will take place August 13-16 at Parkstead House, Roehampton University, Holybourne Avenue, Roehampton, London SW15 4JD.

For more information on registration and program please visit our website [www.wfjcs.org](http://www.wfjcs.org) or contact [H.Obstfeld@talk21.com](mailto:H.Obstfeld@talk21.com).

### Knighthood for Max Arpels Lezer

It gives us immense pleasure to inform our membership that our friend, World Federation Vice-President, President of the European Association of Holocaust Survivors, **Max Arpels Lezer**, was **knighthed** in Amsterdam. He has been elevated to *Ridder in de Order van Oranje Nassau*, that is, **Knight of the Order of Orange Nassau**. In the presence of his family, he was presented with the documents and regalia by the Acting Mayor of Amsterdam on behalf of H.M. Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands.

Max can be proud of his achievements, and we are proud of him! Congratulations!

### Our Speakers

**Renata Zajdman**, member of our Governing Board, gave a powerful presentation to a group of young people in Sioux City, Iowa about her rescue by Irena Sandler. In their "Thank You" note, the students praised Renata for the "life changing lessons" she had imparted and told her that they "admire your wisdom, courage, and passion to help young people."

### Mazal Tov

To **Harold Seifer**, on his Bar Mitzvah

To **Hanka Kent**, on her significant Birthday

To **Leon Weinstein**, father of **Natalie Gold**, on his **100th Birthday**. He will be doing the Polka, he promised.

### Our Losses

It is with great sadness that we mourn the World Federation Governing Board members whom we lost during the past year:

**Regina Glinzman**—Child Survivors/ Hidden Children of the Holocaust, of Palm Beach County

**Hans Culp van den Broeke**—Association of Unknown Children, The Netherlands