

Freeman Family Foundation Holocaust Outreach Program

New Opportunity for Rural Manitoba Schools

The Freeman Family Foundation Holocaust Education Centre is pleased to announce **a new outreach program** in addition to our presentations in the Holocaust Education Centre located at the Asper Jewish Community Campus. In recognition of the fact that the distance of some schools from our Centre may preclude their ability to come into Winnipeg to hear our presentations, Walter Saltzberg, one of our survivors has most generously offered to travel to schools to tell his story. Walter's overriding concern is provide Holocaust education to as many students as we can, in particular through survivor testimony, and that over the years, we have missed many students living outside of Winnipeg.

The Holocaust Education Centre will fully fund Walter's travel to schools within a radius of 200 km of Winnipeg. For schools that are farther away than that, we would only require that the schools cover Walter's out-of-pocket expenses, such as gas and overnight accommodations, if required, due to the travel time to and from Winnipeg. His presentation, geared to students in grades 7-12, is about two hours in length. Not only does Walter educate students on the Holocaust and his experiences as a child survivor, most important as a key component of the Human Rights and World Issues curricula, he is inspiring as he talks to students of the importance of overcoming tremendous difficulty (as you will see from his bio below). He talks about the importance of hard work and being able to accomplish what you set your mind to do. This is a man who has experienced emotional and physical trauma, who was orphaned, who was left with a disability, and yet through very hard work and perseverance, became a very accomplished man - a civil engineer who taught for many years at the University of Manitoba - a true inspiration.

Please note that Walter is available for these presentations from now until November 17th and then during the months of April, May and June. Remember that only ten spots are available for the 2010/2011 school year, based on a first come - first served basis. To book your presentations, please call the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada, 204-477-7460, or contact the office by email, jewishheritage@jhcwc.org

BIO - Walter Saltzberg

Walter Saltzberg was born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1931. His parents enrolled him in a French-immersion school, so that he could eventually study in France. In 1939, when Walter was eight years old, Germany, invaded Poland in 1939. Walter's parents were able to send Walter to a family friend's apartment, a gentile Polish doctor who served in the Polish underground. Walter hid in the apartment for two years and never ventured outside. The last time Walter saw his parents and brother, he was eleven years old.

During the Polish underground uprising in the fall of 1944, Walter was forced to seek shelter

outside the apartment. He found refuge in an abandoned building. Towards the end of the uprising, the building was bombed. Walter was buried up to his head and his right leg was broken above the knee. Walter escaped but was not able to receive medical attention. Another boy, now living in Toronto, took him into hiding in the sub-basement of another building, with four others, where they survived in a 40-square-foot space for five months.

Throughout this time, Walter hid in the building's sub-basement with a broken leg, which continued to bleed. He was not able to receive medical attention until May 1945, nine months after being injured, when the Russian army occupied Warsaw. Following the Russian occupation, Walter was sent to a Jewish orphanage outside Warsaw. He underwent a succession of surgeries, first at a Russian military hospital and later in Sweden and was left with a permanent disability.

Walter was brought to Winnipeg by distant relatives. He brought with him a book titled *Three Hundred English Words*. For Walter, it provided enough vocabulary to get started. Walter enrolled in the second half of Grade Nine at Machray School in January 1948, some nine years after leaving his family and being forced into hiding. Walter graduated from St. John's School and pursued an engineering education. His post-secondary education was occasionally interrupted in order for him to earn enough money to continue. He graduated in 1957 from the University of Manitoba with a degree in Civil Engineering and joined the Bridge Office on a permanent basis on May 5, 1957 as a project engineer.

He has served as President of the Optimist Club of Assiniboia. President of the Manitoba Schizophrenia Society, and Vice-President of the Schizophrenia Society of Canada. Walter previously received the Optimist of the Year Award. Walter also provided dedicated service to the engineering profession.



Walter Saltzberg in Russian military hospital, Otwock, 1945.