



St. Catharines Torch Club

November 2014 Newsletter

Julia A. Frankel

Next Meeting

- **When:** Wednesday Nov. 12, 6 pm social hour, 7 pm dinner.
- **Where:** Best Western, St. Catharines.
- **Menu:** Pork schnitzel with rolls, salad, herb roasted potatoes, vegetables, and strudel.
- **Cost:** \$25.
- **Speaker:** Julia Frankel
- **Topic:** The Holocaust: a Personal Perspective
- Please let your phone captain know whether you are coming.
- If you require a special meal, please contact Doreen Peever or Julia Frankel.
- If you need a ride, contact David Warren at 905-934-9765.

J. A. Frankel was born in 1935 in what was then Czechoslovakia, in a village now called Batorove Kosihy (formerly known as Bator Keszi, Batorove Kesy, Vojnice). She is a holocaust survivor. She lost her father, both grandmothers and most of her family in the holocaust. Her mother survived and they both eventually came to Canada.

All her education (or the lack of it) happened to be in Slovakia (a few months of first class elementary school in 1941) and then nothing till the end of WWII. After WWII ended, she attended Gymnasium (the name by which secondary/high schools of classical education were/are known in most of Europe) and studied Russian and Slovak Philology at Comenius University of Bratislava.

Subsequently she worked at the Slovak Pedagogical Publishing house as one of the editors responsible for the publishing of all Russian textbooks from elementary schools to university level. She also taught Russian at a Vocational Construction High School.

In 1965 she and her mother were lucky to arrive in Canada as landed immigrants. She taught at the University of Alberta 1965-1966, and from 1966 till her retirement at Brock University. Her fortes were Russian literature, language and culture.

She retired from Brock University in 2006.

The Holocaust: A Personal Perspective

My talk will concentrate on the memories of a child-survivor. It will recount the years 1938-1945. The Holocaust had not yet started in 1938, but the Munich conference already spelled trouble for the then Czechoslovakia.

After the Munich Agreement of Sept. 30, 1938, Hitler was allowed to annex the Sudetenland. The allies stood by and did nothing in an attempt to appease Hitler. The Paris/Versailles accord of 1919 was no longer honoured. After the declaration of independence of Slovakia from Czechoslovakia in 1939, Hun-

gary annexed parts of Southern Slovakia. And then came the Holocaust.

The general history we know. My talk will address only one family's and especially one child's individual fate. I emphasise, this is not going to be a general recapitulation of the well-documented history of those terrible years known as the Holocaust.

Meeting Oct. 16, 2014

Date: October 16, 2014
Location: Best Western
Time: 6:30 - 9:30 PM
Attendance: 33 including 6 guests

Welcome: Anne Elliott (President)
Reminded the Club to keep the membership drive going.

Invocation: quiet meditation (Dave Sydor).

Toast to the Queen: in a troubled world (Dave Sydor).

Business:

- Planning for the Seasonal Social in December (Anne Elliott),
- Vote and agreement on a lunch meeting for January 8 (Anne Elliott).
- Request for personal stories or testimonials regarding Torch (David Warren).
- Request for Torch Foundation donations (John Meyer).
- Reminder for Community Care items on November 12.
- Seasonal Social: Unitarian Church, catered meal and music (Doreen Peever).

Speaker Introduction: David Warren (touching and personal).

Evolution and "I" by Abraham Rempel

Much of the written paper was historical: showing the progression in scientific thinking from Darwin's time and his own doubts concerning the *Cambrian Explosion*; the monumental, 20th century discovery of DNA by Watson and Crick; the Neo-Darwinian hope for mutations in explaining Evolution; over a century of laboratory work with the *Drosophila Melanogaster* fruit fly; to the historical and modern challenge to the theory of Evolution from the proponents of *Intelligent Design*.

The paper began and ended by complimenting the Torch Club members for their intelligence – academically, professionally and personally. For the speaker, their success demonstrates deliberate choice, planning and purposeful application. In effect, the members are also "intelligent causes."

The discussion period involved at least eight members of a very attentive audience. While their challenges ranged widely, they were all thoughtful, erudite and well-intended.

Reminder: Community Care Items

Please bring non-perishable food items for Community Care to the November meeting.

Preview of Our December Social

Date: Thursday, Dec. 11.

Place: Unitarian Congregation of Niagara, 223 Church St., St. Catharines.

Time: Doors open 6:30 pm, dinner served at 7:00.

Cost: \$35, includes dinner and entertainment. Bring your own wine or beer if you wish. Tickets must be purchased in advance — you can get them at the November dinner.

Menu: Served Family Style

Fresh Artisan Bread & Whipped Herb Butter
Butternut Squash Soup with Lime & Ginger
Petite Beef Shoulder Tender Medallions with Bordelaise Sauce
Mashed Potatoes, Roasted Root Vegetables
Ice Wine Panna Cotta with Berry Coulis
Coffee and Tea Service

Entertainment: Catherine Willard, Piano.

A concert of Chopin and Bach primarily will be provided by Catherine Willard, who is a professional musician.