

“My family exists today due to the actions of Chiune Sugihara.” – Dr. George Bluman

VANCOUVER BC – Professor Emeritus George Bluman (University of British Columbia) will deliver the keynote address *A Sparkling Ray of Light in the Depths of Darkness: Chiune Sugihara and his Legacy*, at this year's Kristallnacht Commemoration.

Dr. Bluman will relate the remarkable story of Chiune Sugihara, the Japanese diplomat posted in Lithuania in the late 1930s.

As opportunities to escape the Nazi menace grew scarce, Sugihara — acting primarily on his own initiative — issued transit visas that enabled more than 2,000 Jewish refugees, including Bluman's parents, to escape to Japanese territory, risking his career and the security of his family.

This year marks the 77th Anniversary of Kristallnacht. The Kristallnacht Commemoration will take place at Congregation Beth Israel, 989 W. 28th Avenue, Vancouver on Sunday, November 8, 2015 at 7 PM. Local survivors of the Holocaust will participate in a candle lighting ceremony in memory of those who perished. Admission is free of charge and the event is open to the public.

The City of Vancouver will recognize the date of November 9th as Kristallnacht Commemoration Day. The City's declaration commemorates the violent 1938 incident that is widely viewed as the beginning of the Holocaust.

This Commemoration is presented by the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre in partnership with Congregation Beth Israel and with the support of the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver.

Professor Bluman is available for scheduled interviews in advance of the event.

ABOUT THE VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE

The VHEC is the only independent museum and education space in Vancouver dedicated to promoting human rights, social justice and genocide awareness, and to teaching about the causes and consequences of discrimination, racism and antisemitism through education and remembrance of the Holocaust. The VHEC reaches more than 20,000 students annually. It produces acclaimed exhibits, innovative school programs, teaching materials and online exhibits, many of them with a focus on Canada and the Holocaust.

The Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre was founded by survivors of the Holocaust, whose dream it was to leave a legacy in the form of an anti-racism teaching museum to the citizens of British Columbia.

-30-

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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