

# VOICE OF THE RESIDENTS

VOL. XXXI, No. 5

BROADMEAD, COCKEYSVILLE, MD.

January 2010

## A LIFE IN THE SHADOW OF THE HOLOCAUST

by Elborg Forster

On December 3rd the furniture in the Lounge was rearranged to form a semi-circle in front of the bookcase. A table covered with a fine cloth, bearing a vase filled with flowers and three candles, was placed in the middle. It was here that Gail Rosen, an accomplished professional story teller, told the moving and frightening story of Hilda Stern Cohen, a survivor of the Lodz Ghetto and the Auschwitz concentration camp. The event was sponsored by the Multicultural Committee.

The tone was set with the recitation of one of Hilda Cohen's poems, a kind of prayer, both in the author's German and in English translation. Ms. Rosen based her performance on extensive interviews she conducted with Hilda Cohen, who died in Baltimore in 1997, and on her writings in prose and in powerful poetry. Written, or perhaps put on paper, after the author's release from Auschwitz, this poetry was discovered by her husband after Hilda's death. Through a series of strange circumstances it came to be translated by Broadmead resident Elborg Forster.

"I am not Hilda," Ms Rosen began her story, but she also pointed out that Hilda had charged her with telling it, because it is important that it not be forgotten, lest it happen again. It begins innocently enough, with a bright little girl growing up on a farm in the German province of Hessen in a Jewish family fully integrated into the rural community. Yet this community falls apart when Hitler comes to power. The little girl's friends no longer play with her. Soon her family's land is expropriated. They move to the city of Frankfurt, and one day they are all rounded up and transported to the ghetto of Lodz. It appears that of the 1300 persons on that transport, Hilda Cohen was the only one to survive. Conditions in Lodz are horrendous: hunger, dirt, and disease take their toll and carry off Hilda's mother, father, grandparents and fiancé. The next step is the transport to the Auschwitz concentration camp, where Hilda received the tattoo on her arm that she bore for the rest of her life. More hunger, more dirt, more disease,

and the ultimate horror - the gas chamber. Gail Rosen seamlessly fits some of the author's poems into the narrative. She also periodically interrupts the flow of the story with the recitation of a short Hebrew prayer. It is a way of opening a wider perspective and also an homage to Hilda Cohen's deep religious faith. That faith, which grew in fervor after the Liberation and Hilda's move to America, her marriage, and eventually the births of her three daughters, became the focal point of her life. It enabled her to envision a new life, one in which there was some room for hope, perhaps even happiness. It also enabled her to go out into the community and share her memories.

Gail Rosen has brought great mastery to the telling of these memories. They deeply moved the Broadmead audience.

### MY HUNGER SONG

*By Hilda Stern Cohen*

*Translated by Elborg Forster*

I tightly cradle a wolf in my arm  
Close to my naked breast.  
My breast grows cold, its fur grows warm,  
It nestles in sweet repose.

My hunger song, your slumber song  
I sing to you. Sleep, sleep my little wolf --  
Dent de lion and thistle are in bloom, And many  
hungry sheep are bleating.

So sleep, my little wolf, sleep tight,  
The hungry sheep will die,  
And if your teeth stay sharp and quick  
Their bones will be for you.

My hunger song, your slumber song,  
Little wolf, my end is near.  
Your pulse is lively, radiant your fur --  
My bosom and my hands are icy cold.

## THE FACE OF POVERTY, HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS

By *Kitty Stierhoff* OK

Bill McLennan, Executive Director of Paul's Place, located in the Washington Village/Pigtown area of Baltimore City, gave a very insightful talk at the Open Forum lecture in December. Bill showed us with facts and figures the cruel extent of poverty on increasing numbers of individuals and families. His emphasis was on Baltimore City and specifically the neighborhood of Washington Village/Pigtown, which according to the 2000 Census, has the seventh highest concentration of urban poverty in the United States.

Bill pointed out that there is "Absolute Poverty" with a lack of human needs such as nutrition, healthcare, clothing and shelter, and there is "Relative Poverty", a condition of having fewer resources or less income than others, which can happen to anybody. Both are seen in the Pigtown neighborhood, which has a 20% unemployment rate. On any given night there are 2,600 people homeless in Baltimore City. Some crash on others' couches or go to shelters or sleep on the streets. Many cannot make ends meet on one job. The average income in Pigtown is \$17,000 (\$15,000 after taxes). This must cover taxes, average rent of \$700/mo. and average utilities of \$300/mo. This doesn't leave much for other basic needs. In Baltimore City the average income needed to cover basic needs is said to be \$36,000.

The 2000 census shows that 38,900,000 people are in poverty in the US and 22,100,000 children under the age of 18 are living in poverty. In Baltimore alone, 19.6% of the total population is below the poverty line. At Paul's Place, 53% of their guests self-reported monthly income of less than \$500, 57% reported government assistance as their main source of income; and 65% reported not being employed in the last 12 months.

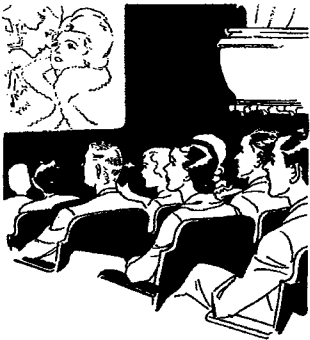
Poverty causes homelessness, deterioration of health, malnutrition, limited access to health care and limited educational opportunities. Poverty presents challenges with transportation, child support, long applications for

federal or state aid, little knowledge about available social services programs, lack of financial services and food and housing costs (predatory lending and higher insurance costs), among others. Bill gave us a run down of why people are homeless - including domestic violence, unemployment, low paying jobs, lack of housing, foreclosure, health, etc. He also gave figures showing who is homeless, broken down by age, gender and ethnicity.

The areas of focus for Paul's Place are: basic needs, education and wellness, children and youth programs. Its core program is its soup kitchen, with over 300 guests a day, but by the end of the month, as funds run out, it serves over 500 meals per day. Many volunteers are involved, some preparing casseroles that are brought in, others picking up and delivering food from other outlets and some serving meals.

Paul's Place serves a diverse population. It serves children with after-school programs and summer camps, offering tutoring, mentoring and field trips to 33 elementary, 15 middle, and 15 high school students. There are adult programs to help adults finish their education (GED programs) and a computer lab to learn skills needed in the 21st century. There is a Nurse's Clinic and wellness program, a women's support group with graduate students who help women socialize and not feel so isolated. There is a gift shop at Christmas so parents can pick out presents for their children and children can make tree ornaments for their parents. They maintain a clothing bank (Nordstrom's of Pigtown), which is free to all. Paul's Place has acquired 15 burnt out houses and works with Habitat for Humanity to rehabilitate them. There are now seven new homeowners in the area and 10 more are expected by spring. This has upgraded the neighborhood, which is now drug free. In 2009 Paul's Place helped 120 households with eviction assistance and helped 160 households with utility needs.

Paul's Place is indeed a stabilizing and helpful influence in Pigtown.



# BROADMEAD MOVIES

In the Auditorium  
at 7 p.m.

*Tuesday movies*  
by *Gretel and Leo Weiss*  
*Saturday movies*  
by *Jeanne Stephenson*

**Saturday, Jan. 2      A TALE OF TWO CITIES**  
Sidney Carton is a lawyer who gives his life to keep another man beside the woman he loves. Set amidst the tumult and terror of the French Revolution, the film stars Ronald Coleman, Elizabeth Allen and Basil Rathbone.  
1935                      N/R                      120 minutes

**Tuesday, Jan. 5                      JULIE AND JULIA**  
Amy Adams stars in this truth-inspired tale as Julie Powell, a disenchanted government secretary who decides to enliven her uneventful life by cooking all 524 recipes outlined in Julia Child's culinary classic *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*. Meryl Streep plays legendary chef, Julia Child.  
2009                      PG                      123 minutes

**Tuesday, Jan 12                      GOODBYE SOLO**  
When Senegalese taxi driver, Solo, picks up elderly William in Winston-Salem, N.C., the older man hires him for another trip in two weeks. But as they continue to talk, Solo realizes that William plans to kill himself at that time. Befriending his depressed passenger, Solo tries to convince him to change his mind and an unlikely friendship develops between the two men in this moving drama.  
2008                      R                      91 minutes

**Saturday, Jan. 16                      ROOM WITH A VIEW**  
A lavish adaptation of E.M. Forster's novel about a sheltered young English woman who finds romance on a trip to Italy. Julian Sands, Helena Bonham Carter, Maggie Smith, Daniel Day Lewis.  
1986                      PG                      117 minutes

**Tuesday, Jan. 19                      DUPLICITY**  
Julia Roberts and Clive Owen co-star in this curveball-throwing thriller as a pair of romantically involved corporate operatives who are entangled in a bitter rivalry between two mammoth pharmaceutical firms. Paul Giamatti and Tom Wilkinson convinc-

ingly round out the heavyweight cast as warring big pharma CEOs in this intriguing espionage effort.  
2009                      PG13                      91 minutes

**Tuesday, Jan. 26      AGE OF INNOCENCE**  
The film is based on Edith Wharton's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel about manners in 1870s New York society. Daniel Day-Lewis is a well-bred man about town who is engaged to marry a young woman from the same social circles (Winona Ryder). But when a free-thinking beauty (Michelle Pfeiffer) appears, all bets are off.  
1993                      PG                      139 Minutes

## SATURDAY NIGHT PROGRAMS

By Sue Schlenger

At 7 p.m. in the Auditorium

January 9      **"Winged Migration"**  
An outstanding 90 minute movie on bird migration

January 23      **Wesley Herrmann**  
Anthropologist and son of our own Bob Herrmann  
**Historic Indians of Maryland**

January 30      **John Butler**  
Photographer and world traveler  
**Eye on Cape May, N.J. and Its Victorian Homes**

## MUSIC EVENTS

By Phil Schnering

Thursday, January 21, at 7 p.m.  
**LET'S SING**, with Herb at the piano

Sunday, January 24, at 2 p.m.  
**QUINTERA** –  
an ensemble of five woodwinds  
By young ladies playing classical works  
Great music.

## TRY OUT BROADMEAD!

*By Brenda Becker*

As of now, prospective residents have an opportunity to experience life at Broadmead. The Resident Guest Program invites members of the Priority List to visit the campus for four days and three nights. Our guests will have the chance to participate in any activities, programs or social happenings of that week and to temporarily reside in one of the cluster apartments. What better way to fully appreciate the beauty of life in this community than to spend a few days here as a "resident for the day," so to speak? Residents interested in participating in the program should contact Cynthia Ballard, resident coordinator for the program. General questions about the program should be directed to Brenda Becker, Broadmead's Director of Marketing and Resident Life, at 443-578-8010.

*Thank you, thank you, thank you Broadmead resident angels and unsung heroes!*

*Once again you made the community center and the Holly House most beautiful this 2009 holiday season.*

*Behind-the-scenes maintenance workers helped make our job easier by delivering the decorations and trees and assisting in some of the more difficult decorating jobs.*

*Most appreciatively,  
Co-chairs: Alma Smith,  
Patricia Lackey, and  
The Holiday Decorations Committee.*

## BROADMEAD MINI SALE!

**January 22, 2010,  
7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

*Clothes -Men and Women*

*Shoes*

*Furniture*

*Pictures and Frames*

*Linens; Notions*

*Miscellaneous*



# Broadmead

13801 York Road  
Cockeysville, Maryland 21030

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Cockeysville, MD  
Permit No. 5

