

2008 Pride of CASE V Awards Program

Abstract

Title of Entry: “Defying Darkness: Three Children Who Survived the Holocaust”

Web link to article: <http://www.grinnell.edu/offices/ce/magazine/pc/holocaust/>

40. Excellence in Feature Writing, Individual

Institution: Grinnell College

Submitted by: Jacqueline Hartling Stolze, editor, *The Grinnell Magazine*/editorial director

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1. **Budget:** \$1,425 for photography.

2. **Staff**

- **Writer/editor** — Jacqueline Hartling Stolze
- **Art director/graphic designer** — Jim Powers

3. **Measures of Effectiveness**

- This story generated considerable positive response from our readers. The following are samples of the letters we received:

“I wanted to let you know how much I appreciated your profiles of Holocaust survivors in the Grinnell Magazine. ... Harold never spoke of his early experiences, so I had no idea, knowing him only as a quiet, reserved, and academically intense man. Your article was perfect, letting him and the experiences speak for themselves. It moved me to tears. Thank you.” AJ Morey '73.

“I was deeply touched to read Harold Kasimow’s story of survival and hope in ‘Defying Darkness: Three Children Who Survived the Holocaust.’ As a student of Prof. Kasimow, I never knew or guessed his history. He is a man of sharp intelligence, quiet wisdom, and overflowing compassion. This was never more clear to me than when I took his Interreligious Dialogue class. He is deeply committed to breaking the barriers of misunderstanding and hatred through open and empathic dialogue. Knowing his story now gives me even greater appreciation for his greatness of spirit than I had as his student. Harold Kasimow is truly an inspiration, an example of the triumph of the human spirit. He has been an example to me and, I am sure, to the many others whom he has touched in his life and his career.” Janaki Sullivan '07

“Brilliant ... very nicely done.” Raymond Britt '82

“Thanks for the particularly moving Holocaust stories in this edition of the *Magazine*. I am sure this story will bring out many other similar stories of Grinnellians who survived. One such person is my grandmother’s first cousin, Elisabeth (Beth) Weiss Snortum ’51, who happened to graduate from Grinnell. (I didn’t come here because of her, but was delighted to find out she was a graduate when I picked Grinnell.) Beth has an equally amazing story to tell of her life during many of the atrocities (including Kristallnacht), and her family’s escape. They were very lucky – as were my grandparents and other family – to have gotten out of Germany alive. Perhaps there can be a weblog with accounts from other alumni who lived to tell the tale. Thanks again for including this very well-written piece.” Joyce M. Stern ’91