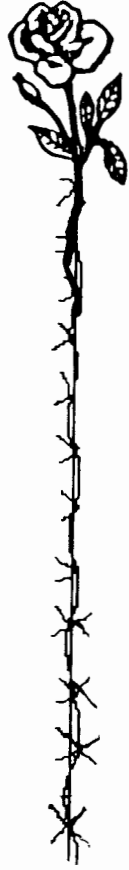


silent no more

Melbourne Child Survivors
Of The Holocaust

ANTHOLOGY

Compiled and Edited by Nina Stone



**This book is dedicated to the memory of all the children
who perished during the Holocaust, and as a legacy to our
children, grandchildren and future generations.**

FOREWORD

Writing one's most poignant and often unclear experiences is a great achievement, and can take a long time. To write an anthology as in this book, compiling a personal record of many such experiences is a unique achievement.

Even to know that one has painful experiences to tell, and that others may be interested to listen, may need to break through decades of previous silence. Sarah Moskowitz was one of two people who were interested to listen, discover and write about Survivors of the Holocaust. I was personally privileged to be discovered by her at a conference, when in a lift going to a workshop on Child Survivors. She asked me if I was a survivor. "No, my parents are." She persisted and concluded – "You are a Child Survivor." The workshop talked about my problems, I met other Child Survivors, I discovered a part of myself, and I wanted others to be able to share this experience. So the "Child Survivors of the Holocaust" group was formed in Melbourne.

Sarah Moskowitz was our guest at our own conference in Melbourne in 1993. The morning after the conference Nina Stone woke up with a poem in her mind, which she called "Legacy of War". She wrote it down and was amazed. She had never written before, she had not realised she could write. What's more, for the first time there was her experience in black and white, coherent, speaking to her and the world. She felt better, somehow relieved, more grounded, and her experience was more real. Nina also wanted others to share her experience, and she kept telling us in our group to write our experiences and gather them into a document. Kept telling us is right, because for five years she kept urging us. But we were only ready to join her this year, 1998.

Until September, we had only been telling our stories verbally within our group, though our testimonies were videoed and sent to Yad Vashem. Many of us had given our testimonies also for the Shoah Foundation. This year a film was shown about us, and some of us had written books about our experiences. So perhaps from a creative point of view our group was now ready for the next amazing event.

On the sixth of September, at our monthly meeting, we all spoke of our most poignant moments. People spoke simply and eloquently, as they always do when speaking from the heart. Then we all encouraged each other to write down what we had said. Never was there such a silence for so long at any of our meetings, only the scratching of pens and pencils busily writing. We all wrote, and Nina's experience was repeated manifold. We all had stories inside us to write, and those who had never written before, and a few who had never even spoken, wrote from the heart, and were amazed at the result.

Some of the stories you will read inside were written before this meeting, many during. They all tell from the silence of children's hearts and minds what they saw and experienced, from many different angles of the worst persecution in history. But the stories are not only vehicles for personal release. As well, they are a unique literary documentation, and a communal gift of hope and love. It is hoped that perhaps this book will help readers to integrate their own stories and encourage them to share and write about them. Perhaps, on a wider scale, creative sharing will help us to overcome the type of destructiveness that the stories relate.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Valent". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends across the width of the text.

DR. PAUL VALENT