



**Suffolk Center on the
Holocaust, Diversity and
Human Understanding, Inc.**

Media Release

**For Immediate Release
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**RARE HOLOCAUST BOOK
AND THE STORY OF ONE FAMILY**

Henia Lin, born in 1924 and raised in Grodno, Poland, was sent at age 14 to boarding school in Russia, just before Germany invaded Poland. Upon the end of the war and 20 years old, she returned to Poland and sought out family survivors, but found that her entire family, including her mother, father, two brothers, and two sisters, died in Auschwitz.

Alex Charych, born in 1914, survived the Pogroms in his hometown of Vilna, Lithuania, married and had three children. The Nazis sent him and his brother to Dachau, where he survived by claiming to be a skilled sheet metal worker. His brother was shot dead in front of him by Nazi guards three days before liberation during the march from Dachau as the Nazis were fleeing the liberating forces. Upon liberation he learned that only his sister survived, and his wife and children had perished.

Alex and Henia both ended up in Warsaw where they met and married, and they settled in Lodz, Poland. In December 1945, *Extermination of Polish Jews: A Picture Album* was published in Lodz. This book contained the first published photographic documentation of the Holocaust and it significantly affected the world's view of what transpired. The Charych family acquired this book which recorded what they had just been through.

In 1959 the Charych family emigrated to the United States with their two young sons aged 7 and 12 and settled in the New York metropolitan area. They carried to America this book that expressed their history, and left it for their children when they passed away. Their sons, Arthur, 61, and Harold, 57, now live in the Setauket area. A daughter named Deborah, born in the USA in 1964, lives in California.

The Suffolk Center on the Holocaust, Diversity & Human Understanding, Inc. (CHDHU) has created an exhibit based upon the historic book, *Extermination of Polish Jews*. The exhibit and the book will be on public display in the Flecker Memorial Art Gallery, Southampton Building, on the Ammerman Campus of Suffolk County Community College, from January 27 - February 27, 2009. A special event is scheduled for 5:30 pm on February 4 at the Gallery. Irving Roth, author, curator and Holocaust survivor from Poland, will be the guest speaker. The public is invited and there is no admission charge.

This exhibit is a timely reminder of the importance of respecting human dignity and the significant role of leadership in setting a moral standard. "It is essential to remember the events in Poland 70 years ago and learn the importance of peaceful coexistence. We seek, through programs like this one," said Steven Schrier, Executive Director of CHDHU, "to develop values in our community that support human rights and actively reject prejudice."

For further information on the exhibit or event or the Gallery hours, call 631-451-4700.