

THE TERRACE HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS GROUP

Recovering

When I came to Canada, I bought chickens and bread,
Not just for the day—but as much as possible.
I couldn't stop eating, I just wanted more.
When I weighed one hundred and eighty pounds I stopped.
I had dreamed about chickens and bread for years.
And I thought I would never eat well again.
I thought that always I would be hungry.
I stopped worrying about hunger when I married,
When there was enough money for food.
I had no money,
So I worried for two years about food for my children.
Money and marriage,
Those were the hopes that could take away the hunger.
Soon hunger is part of the remembering,
Even then,
We all know that an empty heart sits on a full stomach.

This poem was created by the Holocaust Survivors' Group, a unique group of women, originating from a variety of different countries, cultures, and lifestyles. The Group's creative expression in the form of collectively-written poems are a tangible testament to the members' strengths and survival capacities, and the Group hopes that the collective nature of the poems will speak on behalf of other survivors unable to articulate their feelings. This poem has been reprinted from Collective Poems: The Terrace Holocaust Survivors Group, edited by Paula David (Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, Toronto).

WOMEN IN NEW ROLES

WOMEN IN NEW ROLES (WINR), an employment program of Jewish Vocational Service of Metropolitan Toronto services women receiving Employment Insurance (EI) or who have received EI in the past three years. WINR is designed to assist women to secure employment; women learn various employment and communication skills and receive short term computer training.

Three out of four WINR graduates are employed or in training.
If you would like more information, please contact our Intake Counsellor at (416) 661-3010.



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