



TRIBUTE TO LIBERTY

News

Commemorating the Victims of Communism

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Tribute to Liberty is a Canadian organization whose mission is to establish a memorial to the victims of Communism in the National Capital Region.

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Tribute to Liberty News is published four times a year. If you would like to add an email address to our subscriber list please email info@tributetoliberty.ca.

For more information about Tribute to Liberty visit: www.tributetoliberty.ca



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Tribute to Liberty Fundraising Dinner Hosted by Senator Linda Frum

Tribute to Liberty had its first fundraising dinner on Friday, December 7, 2012. I'm indebted to the Honourable Linda Frum and her husband Howard Sokolowski for inviting us to their beautiful home in Toronto. They were gracious and hospitable and made the event simply unforgettable. It should also be noted that Fred and Linda Waks were invaluable when it came to preparations and hosting the event. James Temerty and his wife Louisa were influential in selecting an exceptional group of strongly committed Canadians, all of who want the Memorial to the Victims of Communism built. The Honourable Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, was our special guest and as usual spoke eloquently about the victims of Communism and about why this memorial needs to be built in Canada. James Temerty spoke emotionally about why his family is dedicated to the project, and set an example by expressing his financial commitment.

I was given a tremendous opportunity to describe the details of the project—its vision, our dreams and the next steps that must be taken. I can't say enough about the support of Howard Sokolowski and Senator Frum who helped to open the gates, so to speak, for other donations to come in. We raised \$620,000 that evening. No, there is no typo here—we raised six hundred and twenty thousand dollars that night and that was followed by another \$100,000 donated the following Monday.

I hope you draw inspiration from this example to perhaps host a similar event at your home, community centre, etc. We were astonished with the amounts raised that evening, but any amount helps. I truly feel that we are on the right track now. We have been able to fundraise close to \$800,000 since my election in October. Thank you all for your generosity.

Yours Truly,
Ludwik Klimkowski
Chair, Tribute to Liberty



Fundraising Event in Ottawa



I would like to share some great news with you. On January 25, Mrs. Kania, one of our loyal supporters in Ottawa, organized a small fundraising event at her home. The premise was simple: she invited about 20 of her close friends and asked them to bring their cheque books. She promised a meaningful conversation about Tribute to Liberty—its goals, plans, dreams, and execution.

On a cold evening, about 14 people came; I also attended. In the end, we raised \$4,440. In addition to this, five of those who attended have committed to doing exactly the same type of evening at their homes with their groups of friends. I encourage all of you to host dinners/events in your homes, whether it be a small gathering of friends, or a large event that you organize, it all makes a difference.



The dinner in December that was so graciously hosted by Senator Frum raised \$720,000, but please do not let this figure intimidate you, every little bit counts. I cannot stress this enough. The Tribute to Liberty board promises to attend whenever we can. If only a small group of us were to repeat this a handful of times we would build the Memorial to the Victims of Communism in no time.

Yours,
Ludwik Klimkowski
Chair, Tribute to Liberty



Tribute to Liberty Welcomes New Board Members

It is my great honour to announce the names of the newly elected members of the Board of Directors of Tribute to Liberty. We are very excited to welcome Ivan Grbešić, Markus Hess and Paul Grod to the board, and we look forward to their leadership, commitment, and individual experience in fundraising and governance.

Ivan is a partner in the Toronto office of one of Canada's leading business law firms, Stikeman Elliott LLP; a member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce; and Chair of the



Endowment Council of the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund.

Markus is Chief Engineer at Berg Chilling Systems; Chairman of the Central and Eastern European Council; President of the Estonian Central Council in Canada; Founder of International Black Ribbon Day; and a member of the Board of Directors, Estonian World Congress.

Paul is President & CEO of Rodan Energy; President of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress; Vice President, Ukrainian World Congress; and a member of the Law Society of Upper Canada.

Sincerely,
Ludwik Klimkowski
Chair, Tribute to Liberty

Tribute to Liberty Participates in Vietnamese Lunar New Year

On January 19, Tribute to Liberty participated in the Tet celebration in Toronto. Tet, also known as the Vietnamese Lunar New Year, is the most important and celebrated holiday in the Vietnamese Community.



There was a Tribute to Liberty booth at the celebration, at which Alide Forstmanis and Ludwik Klimkowski met with members of the community and honoured guests.

New Documentary: *Martyred in the USSR*

Martyred in the USSR is a documentary about militant atheism in the former Soviet Union. It tells the personal, emotional and horrific story of what people went through simply because they chose to cling to their faith, even at the risk of death. It did not matter what religion you practiced, if you believed in God in the USSR you were

persecuted, and persecuted brutally. From 1917 to 1990 people of faith were shot, executed, thrown in the gulag and left to die because the Soviet Government hated religion. What makes this story extremely important is that the new generation in Russia knows nothing about their past and will deny that the brutality ever happened.

According to the documentary's website, "In total, the number of Christians who were martyred under the militant state atheism of the USSR is around 12 million."

For more information, visit the film's website:
www.martyredintheussr.com



History Unhidden: *Communism Destroys Hope and Family Life*

It must be told again and again...

I was fortunate enough to have my first Christmas memories in a "DP" camp in Germany in 1945 featured in the Christmas Eve edition of the *National Post*. The re-telling of such memories has prompted me to see the need for all Canadians to have a clearer understanding of why

thousands and thousands of their fellow Canadians fled Communism and took their chances on exile's road rather than staying in their native lands.

While I cannot speak for our fellow refugees from South-East Asia, I can speak for refugees from Eastern Europe—from behind The Iron Curtain. During the past 62 years in Canada I have talked to fellow DPs from Eastern Europe which has led me to know that Communism *always* has the same results—the degradation of the individual and the corruption of generations.

The scars are evident even now, nearly 22 years after the collapse of the Soviet Union. The 50 years of Communism produced at least two generations of broken people. Once proud people of many nations, with old traditions, who under the common yoke turned to alcoholism, thievery, lying, and eventually the “selling out” of their fellow citizens, and even family members. And for what? To gain some imagined small advantage in the ant heap that was Communism.

The fact that the Soviet Union was one big “political theatre,” and not the “workers paradise” did not matter. The devastating effects were the same.

I remember, for instance, my older cousin Juris Brunovskis. He was three years older than me, and when I was a two-year old toddler he took great delight in pulling my tiny sled around the park. Juris and my aunt “Dada” stayed behind when we fled Latvia in the fall of 1944.

Under the Soviet system you enjoyed some advantages if you were an athlete of potentially Olympic calibre. Juris excelled at volleyball and in the summer months was sent to elite training camps around the Black Sea. And so for some years everything seemed promising. He even married.

But eventually the overwhelming degradation and immorality of the Communist system took its toll and prevailed. His wife started having affairs, a common occurrence under Communism. Juris started to drink heavily and was kicked off the Olympic hopefuls team. He drank more. He got a job as a taxi driver in Riga, the capital city of Latvia. He divorced his first wife and married again. The second marriage was no better. Indeed, a very common feature under Communism ensued—with a severe lack of housing he was forced to live with his second wife and first wife in their tiny apartment for several years!

By now he was also using drugs. My aunt, his mother, had just died, mostly because of a lack of adequate medicine. He had no moral compass and no real friends he could trust. He divorced his second wife.

The rest I only know from talking to my mother's childhood friends when I visited Latvia in the mid 90s.

He moved out of Riga since he had lost his taxi driver's

license and could no longer support himself or his drug habit. Some woman in a rural part of Latvia took him in. Together they subsisted by running an illegal alcohol still and selling it to local farmers, which were few and far between since the once prosperous farms of the 1920s and the 1930s had been “collectivized” under the Soviet regime.

Eventually he committed suicide, as had thousands of his fellow Latvians who had lost all hope and could not see a way out. That was Communism and the “workers paradise” in all its glory.

I laid flowers on his grave when I visited Riga. It was all that I could do for him.

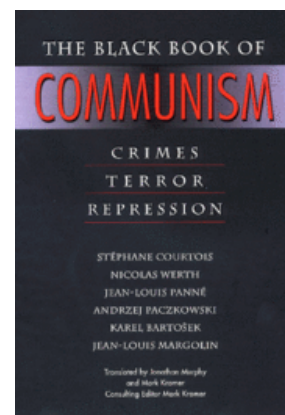
Submitted by Andy Neimers



Andy with his cousin Juris

Tribute to Liberty Website Resource Section

Don't forget to visit the [resource section](#) on Tribute to Liberty's website—it contains valuable resources for those interested in reading about the victims of Communism.



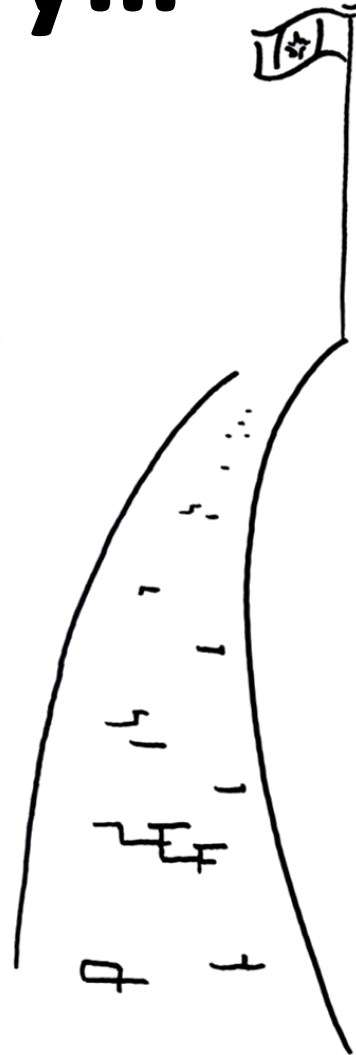
Tell Your Story...

And help build the Memorial to Victims of Communism in Ottawa.

A donation of \$200 buys a brick for the virtual Pathway to Liberty that leads to the Memorial.

Each brick can be donated with a story of a victim of Communism, a message or a dedication. Donate today at: tributetoliberty.ca.

For more information about Tribute to Liberty and the Memorial to Victims of Communism, visit tributetoliberty.ca.



Mail-in Contribution Form

**Don't forget to enclose your story,
message or dedication!**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Donation Amount: \$1000 _____ \$500 _____ \$100 _____ Other _____ I wish to remain anonymous: _____

Please make cheque payable to Tribute to Liberty and mail to:
Tribute to Liberty, P.O. Box 84558, 2336 Bloor St. West, Toronto, ON M6S 4Z7

Tribute to Liberty is a registered charity. Charitable Number: 814999660RR0001